

INTERDEPARTMENTAL

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from the office of

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SUBJECT: Multics Graphics documentation

The following strategy for documentation of Multics Graphics seems to be taking shape: parts of the strategy have been discussed with various subgroups of the above distribution list.

1. The MPM will have a reference data section giving a brief overview of the full graphics capability of Multics, and the various levels of interfaces available. The first two chapters of the MPM, when revised, should tie in the graphics capability.
2. A very few of the highest level graphic subroutine packages, which can be used directly by a PL/I programmer with little graphics expertise, will appear in the MPM subroutine write-ups. Currently, only "plot_" falls in this category.
3. A separate manual in the format and style of the MPM, entitled the "Graphics Supplement" will be created. About 100 pages of material which have already been written would go into this manual, in the form of overview and subroutine writeups. This manual will be referred to in all MPM sections touching on Graphics, and also added to the Multics bibliography of publicly available documents.

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This overall strategy seems to satisfy the following goals:

1. Need to make certain that the reader of the MPM realizes that graphics are an integral, supported part of Multics.
2. Desire to avoid burdening the 800 present MPM holders with 100 or more additional pages of material which only a small group will care about.
3. Ability to maintain a distribution list for the Graphics User's Supplement, to keep track of who is interested in the topic, and how large will be the impact of changes.

If you have any suggestions or objections to this strategy, please let me know fairly soon since the pressure for graphics documentation is growing rapidly.