

October 17, 1963

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SUBJECT: Specification of Request for a Listing File
and of External Macro-definitions in the Fap
Command

The new fap command (with MacroFap) will have the for
form

fap α (list)

where (list) may be omitted. If (list) is present, a
BCD file called α ,bcd will be created, consisting of
the assembly listing. All fatal errors will cause
the pertinent card image to be typed on the console. The
listing file, if requested, will be written as variable-
length lines.

These features will be implemented in the forthcoming
version of the fap command.

The following is proposed as a future modification
to the fap command.

When symbolic programs originate in the form of
punched cards, the inconvenience of having to repeat
standard macro-definitions in each subprogram that uses them
is minimized by the fact that standard definitions may
be reproduced from a master deck and inserted in each
subprogram. A similar procedure with console input would
require one or more combin commands to make up a Fap
program. In order to do this efficiently, each definition
would probably be kept in a separate file, which would be
uneconomical.

It is proposed that the fap command have the form

fap α (list) β_1 β_2 ... β_n

where files β_i , fap are sets of symbolic macro-definitions.
The argument (list) could be omitted, since it would not
be confused with a file name.

A new pseudo-operation would be defined, EXTMAC, used to
specify externally defined macros. The format would be

EXTMAC MAC1, MAC2, ..., MAC n

where MAC i are macro-names which are defined in the β files.
When the EXTMAC pseudo-op is encountered, the specified
files will be searched in order for the macro-definitions
named in the variable field. In case of duplicate names
the first macro-definition encountered will have priority.
If the variable field is blank, all the macro-definitions
in the β files will be read into the macro-table in order.

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