

March 9, 1964

CTSS BULLETIN #11

New Commands: COMFIL, UPDATE, COPY

The commands mentioned above are described in Memo CC-222. All the principles enunciated are still up to date. The following is only a summary of formats and conventions required to use them properly. Also supplied are more details which are not specifically termed in Memo CC-222.

1. COMFIL n where n = 0, 1, 2, or 3

All subsequent commands will then refer to the file directory of the Common File n.

Common File 0 is the user himself.

N.B. Temporary files, (mode 0) created in a common file 1, 2, or 3 will be lost on switching back to the user, or to another common file.

2. UPDATE n a(1) b(1) a(2) ...a(n) b(n)

This command transfers the files a(1) b(1) from the user's directory to the specified Common File n.(1,2, or 3).

All files keep same names, and same mode.

Files in user's directory are unchanged.

All previous versions of a(i) b(i) in Common File n are deleted if possible. When the previous version is of R1 mode, the user is interrogated through the console, and may type YES, thus allowing the UPDATE command to delete the old version of the file being updated. R2 mode files in common files, cannot be updated, and a specific comment is printed on the console.

No file is deleted unless the updating has been successfully performed.

There is no restriction due to file size, except when the common file's track quota is exhausted.

3. COPY n a(1) b(1) a(2) b(2) . . . a(n) b(n)

This command transfers the files a(i) b(i) from Common File n, to the user's directory.

Files keep same names, but are always created in permanent mode. The same rules as for the UPDATE command apply for deleting old files, and no file is destroyed unless a new file has been successfully created.

There is no restriction due to file size, except user's track quota.

n = 1, 2, or 3 when specifying Common Files.

n = S allows copy from System files.

System file directory includes TSS Foreground library, and all SAVED versions of public commands.

N.B. Any user may copy from System files, but only M1416 users may update it, since it is their Common File 2.

4. WARNING

All through execution, UPDATE and COPY commands use CØMFIL to switch from users to common files, back and forth. After completion, switching is always restored to user's files. But there is no protection against a user's QUIT signal, or any unfortunate noisy signal on the line. Therefore, it may happen that the switching is still on a common file when the command is abruptly interrupted. In such circumstances it is recommended that users issue an appropriate CØMFIL command before going too far.