Saltzer

MULTICS TASK REPORT   MTR-121

To: Distribution

From: D. R. Vinograd

Date: March 10, 1976

Subject: Design Discussion of MTB-233

On 3/5/76 a design discussion of MTB-233, "New Storage System Backup" was held. The turnout was more than expected and while the meeting was relatively short, some important points were discussed. In the first half of the meeting, I presented an overview of the dumping and recovery design and the user and operator visible interfaces. I also discussed the goals and intent of design and emphasized that the design was not intended to replace all of the uses of the present backup system. I also described the one major design change since the publication of the MTB, that of using a bit map instead of threaded vtoces for the dumper driving function.

In the second half of the meeting the following major points were raised about the design as described in the MTB and the first half of the meeting:

    -What access was required to request a retrieval.

    -Could the dumper print the physical volume name of each physical volume as dumped.

    -Would segments inferior to pdd be dumped.

    -Could the number of tape cycles maintained in the log be site selectable.

    -That the forthcoming documentation emphasize what functions of the old
     backup system would not be replaced.

    -Would subsystems that create recreatable segments be modified to accept
     control arguments to specify if the created segments should be dumped or not.

The overall reaction was, I judged, favorable but with some reservations until the user/operators interfaces are both more fully defined and used experimentally for a few months.