

Saltzer

TO: MTR Distribution
FROM: Roger A. Roach, recorder
DATE: May 4, 1976
SUBJECT: PDO Multics General Development Group Status Report

I. Significant Events

Runoff has been successfully implemented on the IBM 370/168 under MVT. It requires a rather large region to run in (TSO users must use the 300K region) and we expect reasonable use of the batch version by users using the smaller regions. We will probably not try to market runoff until MVS is installed which will provide a more hospitable environment for runoff. Therefore, Tim Dempsey will be returning to the RDMS Subgroup. Thanks for the help Tim.

Work has gone very well on improving the performance of the Multics version of runoff. It now usually costs less than the BCPL version (CPU is significantly less while memory units are slightly more). (For more information on runoff, see Task Status below.)

Gary Dixon will be leaving the General Development Subgroup to work in the Systems Assurance Subgroup. He will continue to work half time until July 1 with the MGDS to fulfill our obligations to the Consistent System. The installation of the library tools will be one of the first tasks that he will do in the Systems Assurance Group.

Tape_in/tape_out has been submitted for installation.

II. Task Status

1. Runoff

As mentioned above, work on the OS version and the performance improvements have been completed. We currently have only one problem to overcome before we can install runoff in the Multics IML to start getting wider user exposure. That is the hardware problem which causes substr's of index's to fail. This is currently felt to be the same as the "SCM" problem and a fix is known. Runoff currently has a trap for this problem, but we feel

Multics Project internal working documentation. Not to be reproduced or distributed outside of the Multics Project.

It is better to wait for the fix (a simple one "red" wire change) to be installed before installing runoff.

Work is proceeding on the task(s) of enhancing runoff. A consolidated list of all the suggestions that have been made over the years has been created and should be distributed as a draft to interested parties this week. Once we feel that we have a complete list, we will try to evaluate the suggestions and for those suggestions that are deemed desirable, we will try to assign priorities based upon need and difficulty.

2. Tapes

As mentioned above, `tape_in/tape_out` has been submitted for installation. It has been used by User Services for some time now and numerous bugs have been found and fixed, so we have high hopes that it has been pretty well shakened down. Janice will now start to work on a `tape_list` command that will list the contents of a `tape_ansi_` or `tape_ibm_` tape. This should not be a large task and barring unforeseen interrupts, it should be completed by the end of the month.

Janice has completed the documentation for the latest set of changes for `tape_ansi_` and `tape_ibm_` in time to go out with the other Release 4.0 documentation. She is now working on implementing those changes.

Larry Johnson has started to work on `tape_lol_` and is planning to have it released with Release 5.0 toward the end of this year. Janice is working with him and Bill Silver on the design and the MTB.

3. Consistent System Support

Gary has completed his work on `retrieve` and `display_common`. Txom is working on a generalized date/time conversion program much like `convert_date_to_binary_`.

4. User Accounts Support

Honeywell has taken over the project of providing user settable account funds low warning threshold so it is being taken off our list. This leaves the takes of installing the ACL cleanup programs and designing a method of reducing the user registration file (and PNT).

5. TICS Support

Most of Frank's time has been spent getting acquainted with TICS and fixing problems that were keeping it from running. We now have a running version and will be switching over to maintenance mode.

PROJECT Multics General Development Subgroup AREA MGDS Tasks

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	SIARI	FINISH	P-M	CHANGES-STATUS
Runoff: Initial version for Multics	Capps	06/03/74	01/03/75	6.0M	DONE, being used as a private command
Runoff: Initial version for OS	Capps Dempsey	01/06/75 03/17/75	03/03/75 04/16/76	3.0M 12M	DONE, submitted for installation under MVT
Runoff: performance improvements	Capps		04/16/76		DONE, Multics version slightly cheaper than BCPL version
Runoff: enhancements	Capps	04/19/76			Draft of list of suggestions almost ready
Investigate possibility for a Text Processing Subsystem					Will attempt to use LSS to determine usefulness
Tapes: Install tape_in/tape_out	Phillipps		04/23/76		DONE, submitted for installation in SSS
Tapes: upgrade tape_ansi/tape_ibm_ for R4.0	Phillipps Klinger		06/04/76 06/04/76		Documentation submitted
Tapes: Implement tape_list command	Phillipps	04/20/76	05/07/76	3.0M	late start due to work on tape_in/tape_out
Tapes: Aid in design of tape_loi_	Klinger Phillipps				Part of MTB writer, starting to work with Larry Johnson
Tapes: upgrade tape_ansi/tape_ibm_ for rcp and tape_loi_	Phillipps				Postponed until rcp_ and tape_loi_ are installed
Tapes: Install a tape_status command	Phillipps				Waiting for IO control order request in lo_call
Tapes: Design and Implement a tape_dump command	Phillipps				Must wait for tape_loi_
Tapes: Design and Implement a tape_archive command					CISL may do this

PROJECT Multics General Development Subgroup AREA MGDS Tasks

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	START	FINISH	P-W	CHANGES-SIAIUS
Tapes: Document tape usage for Multics	Phillips	continuing task	continuing task	5%	Janice will spend about 5% effort on this task for a while
Consistent System Support	Dixon McGary	continuing task	continuing task	1.0P 1.0P	Gary finished retrieve and display_common, Txom working on date conversion routines
User Accounts Support: general	Smith	continuing task	continuing task	0.1P 0.1P	devising way of making crank more rerunable
User Accounts Support: clean up AGL's on proj_admin_seg, etc.	Smith	08/01/76	12/31/76		programs written and debugged, working on getting them installed
User Accounts Support: flexible account funds low threshold	Smith				Apparently is being done by CISL
User Accounts Support: make project balance accessible	Smith				
TICS Support	Smith			25P	Currently have working version
Provide Autocall facility	Goldman Jordan				Installed. Working at CISL, being moved to MII
Install new general_ready				2.0H	Will do as personnel becomes available
Install call command					Will do as personnel becomes available
Install RDMS type abbrev					Low priority
Install enter_output_request cancel_output_request				2.0H	Low priority

PROJECT _____ Multics General Development Subgroup _____ AREA _____ MGDS Tasks _____

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	START	FINISH	P-M	CHANGES-STATUS
Install eval (replaces calc and decam)					Low priority
Install convert_date_to_binary_					Low priority
Install new library tools	Dixon				Task being transferred to Systems Assurance Subgroup
Consolidate the memory/assoc/value command and active functions					Low priority
Implement a consolidated search facility					Low priority