

To: MTR Distribution

From: PDO Multics General Development Group
Gary C. Dixon, Recorder

Date: October 18, 1976

Subject: Status for September/October

MEETINGS

The Multics general Development Group (MGDS) met twice during the reporting period, one on September 30, 1976 and a second on October 14, 1976. Dennis Capps, Gary Dixon, Janice Phillipps, Roger Roach and Frank Smith attended both meetings.

PROJECT STATUS

The current status of projects underway is outlined below.

Tape Support

Janice reports that support of the `io_call` order for `tape_ansi_` and `tape_ibm_` is scheduled for installation in time for MR 5.0. The programs have been submitted, and will be installed after the new `decode_clock_value_` and `encode_clock_value_` subroutines which `tape_ansi_` calls to decode Julian dates.

Several bug fixes for `tape_ansi_` and `tape_ibm_` are underway, and MCRs have been submitted. Included is a fix for IBM VBS format write error, which attempts to write -3 characters onto the tape, producing a segment out-of-bounds.

PL/I Runoff

Dennis Capps is restructuring the PL/I version of runoff on Multics to make the transfer of changes from Multics to the IBM/370 OS version of runoff easier. This restructuring is almost complete, and Dennis hopes to have documentation for the transfer process finished by October 22. Integration of the recent runoff enhancements to the OS version should be completed

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during the first week of November.

There was some discussion of how the difference in handling tabs in the new version of runoff was affecting runoff users. The MPM people were surprised by the problem, and have gone back to the BCPL version of runoff to avoid having to convert their files. Conversion of the files is easy (via a `ted tabout` command on the runoff segment), but they wish to avoid this conversion now. Negotiations are underway to find a better solution to their problem. For example, we might write a special conversion program to convert runoff segments which have a tab incompatibility.

System Administration

Frank Smith has a new version of the `est_bill` command which will handle operator-defined shift changes, so long as the shift changes have been defined when `est_bill` is invoked. Also, bug in the `usage_and_revenue` report program has been found and fixed. New versions of these programs will be submitted for installation.

Date/Time Conversion

Gary Dixon has submitted the recoded version of `decode_clock_value_` and a new `encode_clock_value_` subroutine for installation. These subroutines will be used by the new `convert_date_to_binary_` subroutine, but are going in now for use by `tape_ansi_` in converting Julian dates to calendar dates.

FUTURE PLANS

Tape Support

Negotiations are underway with User Services to produce an IPC memo describing how tapes can be used on Multics. This memo will be written by Jan and by George Williams of the IPC User Services group, as time permits. Also planned is an MPM Reference Guide section describing use of tapes on Multics.

PL/I Runoff

Dennis asked the group to set some priorities for his work in the future. The group provided the following list.

HIGHEST Priority

Integrate latest enhancements into OS version
Plan, write MTNs for next enhancements
Upgrade OS & Multics documentation for latest enhancements
Consider affect on users of tab problem.

LOWEST Priority**System Administration**

Frank will be submitting MCRs to install recent bugs fixes in administrative programs. Fixed versions of these programs are currently installed and being used out of >udd>sa>lib.

Date/Time Conversion

Gary will complete convert_date_to_binary_ when time permits.

Version II APL

Honeywell has informed us of their plans to install an upgraded Version II APL at MIT by February or March. The upgrades may include: new operators currently supported by IBM APL; a file system facility; an IBM-to-Multics workspace conversion program.

Janice will act as liaison for the group with the Honeywell APL effort. She will run some functional and performance tests against the new version, and make sure it meets the needs of MIT users.

NEW MEETING TIME

MGDS meetings have been moved to 2:00 PM on alternate Thursdays.

MGDS Tasks

AREA

Subgroup

PROJECT Multics General Development

CHANGES-STATUS

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	START	FINISH	P-M	CHANGES-STATUS
Runoff: enhancements (#1)	Capps	04/19/76	08/06/76		DONE
Runoff: Transfer Enhancements #1 to OS	Capps Dempsey	02/22/76	11/05/76		Restructuring of Multics version almost done
Runoff: Performance Improvements	Capps				Postponed until needed more than enhancements
Runoff: enhancements (#2)	Capps				Planning underway
Investigate possibility for a Text Processing Subsystem					Will attempt to use LSS to determine usefulness
Tapes: Implement tape_list command	Phillipps	04/20/76	05/07/76	3.0M	DONE. MCR approved. Code submitted
Tapes: Aid in design of tape_loi_	CISL	January			Awaiting person power
Tapes: upgrade tape_ansi/ tape_ibm_ for rcp and tape_loi_	Phillipps				Postponed until rcp_ and tape_loi_ are installed
Tapes: Modify tape_ansi_ & tape_ibm_ to implement new status order request	Phillipps	08/02/76	08/05/76		DONE. Code submitted.
Tapes: tape_ansi_ Improvements as suggested by MPRFs	Phillipps	10/13/76			Started
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
Tapes: Document tape usage for Multics	Phillipps	continuing task		5%	Janice will spend about 5% effort on this task for a while

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	SIARI	FINISH	P-M	CHANGES-STATUS
Update from MOSN to Operators Handbook for Spooler	Phillipps				DONE. MOH Addendum B
Fix up resource_usage	Phillipps	7/17/76	7/30/76	2.0M	DONE. Being documented. MCR awaits documentation
Support development of V2APL	Phillipps				New task.
User Accounts Support: general	Smith		continuing task	0.1P	devising way of making crank more rerunable
User Accounts Support: clean up ACL's on prof_admin_seg, Install bug fixes	Smith	08/01/76	12/31/76		programs written and debugged, working on getting them installed
TICS Support	Smith			1.25P	Currently have working version
Modify estimate_bill for variable shifts	Smith	08/13/76	08/31/76	1.5	DONE
Install new general_ready	Anderson				About to be installed.
Install call command					Will do as personnel becomes available
Install RDMS type abbrev					Low priority
Install enter_output_request and cancel_output_request					Low Priority
Implement a print_mpm command	Dixon				New task
Install eval (replaces calc and decam)					Low priority

PROJECT Multics General Development Subgroup _____ AREA _____ MGDS Tasks _____

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	SIARI	FINISH	P-W	CHANGES-SIARIUS
Install convert_date_to_binary_					decode_clock_value_ and encode_clock_value_
Consolidate the memory/assoc/value command and active functions	Goldman				submitted Cleanup of memory's Interface in design stage
Profile Manager	Palter	09/07/76			MTB 40% Done.
Implement a consolidated search facility	Palter				Low priority