

TO: Distribution  
FROM: Gary C. Dixon  
DATE: January 7, 1974  
SUBJECT: ANSI Standard Tape DIM Status

### I. Significant Events

Frank Canall has finally begun work on the asynchronous tape IO package after completing his work on APL/TSO (OS/370).

Ross Klinger has completed coding the logical record blocking and deblocking subroutines of the ANSI DIM read/write entries.

### II. Task Status

Frank Canall is examining `tdcm`, `tape_`, and `nstd_` to learn how tape IO is currently handled on Multics, prior to designing an asynchronous interface to `tdcm` which can be used by all DIMs, by tape mount, etc to access records on tape.

Ross Klinger is debugging the logical record blocking/deblocking package of the ANSI DIM read/write entries, using a `file_` simulator in place of actual tape IO.

I have outlined an MTB describing the installation plan for the ANSI Standard Tape DIM (`astd_`), and the features and restrictions which will be present at each phase of the installation. This MTB is being reviewed by members of the group prior to publication.

### III. Work Planned

Frank will create a preliminary design for the asynchronous tape IO interface which will be formalized during discussions with Ross, Dennis Capps, Janice Phillipps, and I.

Ross will continue testing his logical record read/write package using an `nstd_` simulator for the asynchronous tape IO package. Then he will interface his code with a nearly-complete command (`ostape`) which reads and writes tapes on Multics in an OS/370-compatible format.

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After checkout of blocking/deblocking using ostape, Ross will integrate the logical record read/write package into the ANSI Standard Tape DIM and perform final checking. At this point, read/write requests will still be performed through the nstd\_ simulator because the asynchronous interface to tdcn will not have been completed. We may install this slow performing version of astd\_ to make an ANSI DIM available to users. However, as soon as Frank completes the asynchronous interface to tdcn, the read/write interface of astd\_ will be modified to use this high-performance asynchronous interface.

I will complete the MTB describing the installation plan for the ANSI Standard Tape DIM, and the MCR proposing its installation into the system.

PROJECT \_\_\_\_\_ ANSI Standard Tape DIM \_\_\_\_\_ AREA \_\_\_\_\_ Read/Write Interface

TASK DESCRIPTION

irec_io_	PERSONNEL	START	FINISH	M-W	CHANGES-STATUS
ANSI Standard Tape DIM read/write interface for U, F, D, V, and S record formats	Klinger	12/10/73	12/18/73	1.4	None
file_DIM simulator for asynchronous tape io	Klinger	12/19/73	12/21/73	.5	None
testing with file_DIM	Klinger	12/26/73	01/09/74	1.4	U, F, FR, D, DB, V, VB, and S tested. VBS remains.
nstd_simulator for asynchronous tape io	Klinger	01/10/74	01/14/74	.5	
testing with nstd_	Klinger	01/15/74	01/23/74	1.0	
extension of ostape to handle U, V, VB, and VBS formats	Klinger	01/24/74	01/30/74	1.0	
testing of ostape with tapes prepared by nstd_simulator and OS/370 Documentation	Klinger	01/31/74	02/11/74	1.5	
Inclusion of irec_io_ in ANSI DIM	Klinger				ongoing task
testing with asynchronous tape io package	Klinger				when work on non-read/write interfaces of ANSI DIM is complete
					when asynchronous tape io package becomes AVAILABLE

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PROJECT \_\_\_\_\_ ANSI Standard Tape DIM \_\_\_\_\_ AREA \_\_\_\_\_ Asynchronous Tape I/O \_\_\_\_\_

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	START	FINISH	M-W	CHANGES-STATUS
Preliminary design of asynchronous	Canali	12/25/73	01/14/74	1.5	
tape I/O interfaces		12/25/73			