

TO: Distribution
FROM: Roger A. Roach
DATE: February 11, 1974
SUBJECT: Misc. Multics/PDO Task Report

I. Significant Events

Design reviews have been held on the process metering (snoop) proposal and the command name metering (cuc) proposal. At the process metering review additional monitoring or metering (such as page faults) was discussed, but it was decided to install it as is (except for a name change) in the tools library. At the design review for the command name monitor an alternate proposal was put forth which would involve installing write-arounds for the command being monitored. Although this would not be as easy to control, it would be cheaper for those commands which were not being monitored. It was decided to leave the judgment up to the MCRB to evaluate whether the new proposal should be implemented instead of the present one. Work on the present one has been completed (except for making a development machine run) and is currently being used by several members of the staff.

II. Task Status

Work on estimate_bill has been postponed to allow for a new task. Frank Smith is developing a set of test programs to check Multics PL/1 I/O. In addition to testing new versions of the compiler, his work should provide a basis for re-education of our staffs and users to help them utilize PL/1 I/O instead of calling special system routines.

Another new task, converting the metering tools to call ring_zero_peek_, has been added to the list at a lower priority. Once this project is completed, we will be able to allow all users to access the metering tools and the access to phcs_ can be removed for most of the present list (about 100 programmers currently have access to phcs_ and thus provide a security risk which many of our users would probably wish was not present).

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Ross has completed his work on improving the speed of his new sort_file and is now ready for the design review (currently scheduled for 02/24/74). The new sort_file is faster than the installed version for all except for the smaller files (due to the setup necessary for the extra features).

III. Work planned for the next reporting period

During the next month, we are planning to complete the installation of sort_file, the command name monitoring code and the "snoop" procedures. It is planned to have the PL/1 I/O test programs ready before the installation of the next compiler (they are actually being used on the experimental compiler now and all "problems" are being investigated for possible bugs). One problem which we are having here is obtaining knowledge of exactly what is supposed to be working and until the new PL/1 manual is available, we have to rely on verbal discussions with Honeywell for information.

If the MCRB approves Robert Mabee's latest proposal for making the metering information available to users, we will probably begin the conversion. If this task is completed (and no more higher priority tasks are undertaken), we will hopefully have a design for estimate bill by the end of the next reporting period. We also hope to have the new printer dim installed before Tom VanVleck leaves for his month in Brazil. The editor for the "Black and White" chart will probably have to wait for his return. Such an editor already exists, but since we might also want to avoid the "end of the month white space" and since it is of low priority, it will probably not get installed.

PROJECT Development Support AREA Miscellaneous Tasks

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	START	FINISH	M-W	CHANGES-STATUS
sort_file enhancements (MCR 107)	Klinger	09/24/73 09/24/73	11/05/73 02/20/74	4.0 3.0	Design review to be held on 02/14/74.
Process Execution Metering (for the initializer)	Klinger, VanVleck	10/09/73 10/09/73	10/31/73 11/19/73	3.0 3.0	Design review held on 01/23/74.
Incorporate new basic into SBS	Smith	10/29/73 10/25/73	12/03/73 12/03/73	4.0	Almost done. Work awaits installation of new basic
Generalized Command Name Monitoring (MCR 104)	Kayden	10/15/73 10/15/73	11/19/73 02/19/74	4.0	Coding done. Design review held 02/06/74.
Generate PL/1 I/O Test Programs	Smith	01/28/74 01/28/74	02/22/74 02/22/74	3.0	Currently developing knowledge of PL/1 I/O.
Convert metering tools to call ring_zero_peek	Smith			1.5	Awaiting approval of MCR
Copyright Program Enhancements				3.0	Requirements being determined
Printer Enhancements (MCR 031)	VanVleck	09/25/73 09/25/73			MCR Approved. Work almost completed.
Punch Dim Enhancements				4.0	Requested by JRS, awaiting manpower
Create a estimate_bill command				8.0	Final design awaiting manpower
Create a tape_archive command					Design necessary
Enhance iocall for tapes					Design necessary
Install editor for Black/White Chart	VanVleck				Low priority task, No MTB or MCR submitted

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PROJECT Development Support AREA Miscellaneous Tasks

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	START	FINISH	M-W	CHANGES-STATUS
Install new Dartmouth library	Roach				Will work with SIPB people
Document MPRF procedures	Roach			0.5	
Document Backup procedures	Roach			1.0	
Document Error Recovery Procedures	Roach			2.0	