

To: PDO & Multics Staffs
From: Dennis Capps
Date: February 28, 1974
Subject: Tape Mount Package Progress Report

All programming which I previously described as necessary for the initial version of the tape mount package has been completed.

However, there have been new developments since my last progress report. An effort is under way on the PDO side of the street to produce a new buffered I/O package for tapes (tapeio). One of the goals of this project is to isolate the user from tseg.

Such a plan interacts strongly with the tape mount package. For a brief moment it was suggested that the tape mount package might be delayed until it could be made to use the new buffering package and that they and the ANSI DIM would all be installed on the same glorious day.

Advantage:

Users would need to make only one change to their DIMs. However, the tape mount package can be installed without requiring users to use it. If desired, this requirement can be delayed until tapeio is installed.

Disadvantages:

1. A feature which already has taken too long to implement would be hung up waiting for a project which is still being designed, whose goals were only recently solidified, and which has not yet been generally discussed by the Multics staff.
2. I would be left in limbo longer than I care for. (It's a nice place to visit...)

I did agree that it would be useful and easy to eliminate a dependence on tseg from the calling sequences to trm_. This will be done by changing the name and meaning of the parameter tsegp (MTB-034) and by adding parameters for values previously returned in tseg. The parameter tsegp will become dimdatap. It will be passed to DIM_labeler_ as was r4tsegp, but the tape mount package will no longer presume to know what it points at. Its purpose will be communication between a DIM and its labeler.