

TO: Distribution
FROM: Gary C. Dixon
DATE: September 9, 1974
SUBJECT: ANSI Standard Tape I/O Module - Project Status

I. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Coding and testing of Version Two of the ANSI Standard Tape I/O Module has been completed, and preparations are underway for the installation of this I/O module into the Installation-Maintained Library. From this library, it will be available for trial use by interested people, and for use in several planned and existing subsystems.

Although much work was done, we were unable to complete Version One of the IBM Standard Tape I/O Module in conjunction with the ANSI Tape Module. Because there is much work ahead in preparing Version Three of the ANSI Tape Module for installation in the Multics product (Release 2), we have decided to forgo the completion of Version One of the IBM Tape Module in favor of work on the ANSI Tape Module. We do intend to install a version of the IBM Tape Module, in Multics Release 2 if development time permits, or in a later release.

II. TASK STATUS

With work on the Version Two ANSI Tape Module complete, Jan Phillipps will be leaving the ANSI Tape Project to work on one of the planned subsystems which will use the ANSI Tape Module. Jan will be implementing a Tape I/O SysDaemon facility, which will help to balance the printing capacity between MITs Multics and IBM M168 Job Processing Systems. When the Multics I/O queues are backlogged (due to printer failure or to a high rate of print submissions), the Tape I/O SysDaemon will be invoked to spool the print segments onto tape. This tape will then be printed on the Job Processing System, using a new Princeton Preferred Print Train (PPPT) which includes the full ASCII character set.

Ross Klinger will begin work on Version Three of the ANSI Tape Module, as described in MTR-090. Work will begin by solving some known deficiencies in Version Two of the ANSI Tape Module. Then the attachment/detachment sections of the code will be

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rewritten to support the iox_ I/O interfaces. Support will be provided for multi-volume files, and for multi-volume multi-file sets (many files on more than one volume). If this work is completed before the submission deadline of Multics - Release 2, support will be provided for Version Two of the IBM Tape Module, as documented in MTB-096. Finally, if there is still time before the submission deadline, support will be provided for ANSI user labels. Contrary to MTB-090, we have decided not to support the reading and writing of ANSI block prefixes. The ANSI Standard deems such support optional. We will continue to skip any block prefixes encountered while reading a tape.

PROJECT ANSI Standard Tape I/O Module _____ AREA _____ ANSI Tape Module: Version Three _____

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	START	FINISH	M-W	CHANGES-SIAIUS
ANSI Tape Module: correct Version	Klinger	10/11/74	10/16/74	5.2	
Two deficiencies		09/11/74			
ANSI Tape Module: convert to iox_ interfaces	Klinger	10/17/74	10/28/74	1.6	excludes support of iox_\$position entry point
iox_ support use of iox_ versions of ANSI Tape Module thru iox_	Klinger				
Tape Mount simulator: support volume switching	Klinger	10/29/74	10/30/74	2	
ANSI Tape Module: support multi-volume files	Klinger	10/31/74	11/06/74	1	
ANSI Tape Module: support iox_\$position entry point					
ANSI Tape Module: support processing of ERCDIC data in tape files					
ANSI Tape Module: support reading/writing of user file labels					

PROJECT ANST Standard Tape I/O Module _____ AREA _____ IBM Tape Module _____

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	SIARI	FINISH	M-W	CHANGES-SIARIUS
IBM Tape Module: support IBM Standard Labeled Tapes	Klinger				
IBM Tape Module: allow attach options to supply information from a MISSING HDR2 label					must be able to supply missing HDR2 label information thru attachment options
IBM Tape Module: support DOS tape formats					must be able to supply missing label information thru attachment options
IBM Tape Module: support non-labelled tapes					
IBM Tape Module: support processing of ASCII data in tape files					

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PROJECT _____ ANSI Standardo Tape I/O Module _____ AREA _____ Documentation _____

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	START	FINISH	M-W	CHANGES-SIAIUS
ANSI I/O Module: provide MPM documentation	Phillipps Klinger	08/19/74 08/19/74			Documentation for Version Two complete
IBM I/O Module: provide MPM documentation	Klinger Phillipps	08/19/74 08/26/74			Documentation for Version One almost complete
ANSI/IBM I/O Modules: provide PLM documentation for I/O Modules	Klinger				

