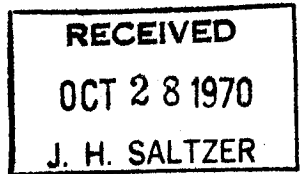


MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
PROJECT MAC



Reply to: Project MAC
545 Technology Square
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Telephone: (617) 864-6900 x6201

October 27, 1970

Mr. T. H. VanVleck
Manager, Planning and Systems Analysis
Information Processing Center
39-513

Dear Tom:

I am not quite sure whether you are the right person to write this letter to but I wanted to get these thoughts down on paper for the record. I assume you will pass it on to whoever the appropriate person is.

The topic is the edm command on Multics. In most respects I find it a good command and more flexible than the equivalent editing commands on CTSS. However, there are a few minor things that constantly irritate me when I use it.

1. The fact that a change request is global within a line is very irritating. Either it should be changed back to the way it used to be on CTSS, e.g. only the first instance on the line is changed unless you specify global or else a special change command should be implemented with this feature.
2. The next command should not automatically print nor should the reverse next (even when in verify mode). What you really want are four sets of commands such as u(up), d(down), -- and n where u and d are effectively the same as -- and n except they do not print.
3. When you forget to prefix a control character at the beginning of a line in edit mode the system should ask you what to do with the

line rather than forcing you to type it over again. (I most often make the mistake when I intend to insert the line but forget to prefix the letter i.)

These are the main features that annoy me and in talking to others around Project MAC I find that I am not alone with regard to these points. I sincerely hope that edm can be changed to modify these points.

Sincerely,



Malcolm M. Jones
Assistant Director

MMJ:em

cc: F. J. Corbató
J. H. Saltzer✓
R. C. Daley