

TO: F. J. Corbato et al

FROM: J. H. Saltzer

SUBJ: Multics User Interface Problems

- 1. "Delete \*" casually deletes all files in the user's directory. It should ask for verification.

- 2. One cannot delete or rename files which have 2 successive dots in their name.

- 3. Subroutine cv\_dec returns a fixed result, but the PL/I default return value for its name is floating. This represents a Multics tunnel into a PL/I trap. Its name should start with i,j,k,l,m,n/ or n. (also cv\_dec, stack frame size)

- 4. The user cannot build a personal (or group-wide) library of subroutines which will be automatically searched.

- 5. System does not say "Multics not in operation" when it goes down or when the user dials up at down time.

- 6. Bad telephone lines are ignored rather than busted. The result is no answer--rings and rings.

- 7. Input analogue to ina\_ is not yet implemented.

- 8. loa\_"d" conversion does not recognize negative numbers.

- 9. loa\_ does not handle floating point output conversion.

- 10. Logout command aborts output stream: it cannot be stacked after a command which prints output.

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11. The addname command will cheerfully add names which delname cannot remove. (E.g., "addname a.b.c \*.\*.d" puts the name \*.\*.d on the file; the \* convention prevents removal later.)

12. The initial link to a known segment fails. As a result the user must rename his source before compilation rather than just renaming the object after compilation of a routine already used in his process.

13. Response to a trivial (editing or decam) command is intolerably slow during the day when 20 or more users are on the system. At all times, the response variation is intolerable.

14. Diagnostic for a missing entry point name is identical to the diagnostic for a missing segment name. ("x not found.")

15. Most commands give a diagnostic including their own name. Unfortunately, the name they give is their abbreviation; the casual user finds the result rather cryptic.

16. Logout does not print on the user's console his time and console hours used.

17. PL/I programs cannot call to ring zero.

18. No way to diagnose a terminated process.

xc: Grochow  
Daley  
Clingen