

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

J. Gintell ✓  
Corby ✓  
Voydock  
Clingen  
Sallge?

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

4-213

May 20, 1971

Mr. J. R. Steinberg  
Director of User Services  
I. P. C.

Dear Dick:

As Multics service continues to improve, we of the EEAdmin project would like to see the following additions/changes made:

1. The 'dprint' commands should be changed soon to handle the standard system "star" conventions.
2. The archive command should be changed to accept "star" laden component names, as well as "star" laden archive segment names.
3. In crash.info, the length of time the system was not in operation should be included with time of crash and cause.
4. Current SSS commands such as 'dd', 'rn', 'dn', and 'an' produce excessively verbose messages. These could, and should, be made more brief. The same is true of the error messages produced by the PL/1 compiler.
5. In the MPM, each subroutine write-up should include a list of error codes which may be returned, and under what conditions they are returned.
6. The segment 'free' in the user's process directory should be left entirely alone by 'ls', 'lt', 'ln', and other non-user written programs. 'free' belongs to the user for his problems; any system commands requiring allocations (which the user is not aware of) should provide their own PL/1 areas and Multics segments for this purpose.

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7. The Multics card input facilities should be considerably upgraded. Parity errors and card reader checks have made input of large decks very difficult for our group.
8. A 'good' option for the 'dp' command should be provided to allow offline printing (ostensibly from a tape) to occur on the higher quality printers located in Building 39.
9. Any commands that ask the user a "yes" or "no" question, (e.g. "copy: Name duplication. do you want the old segment deleted?") should accept only "yes" or "no".

We feel that these changes/additions to Multics service would benefit the user community.

Yours truly,

*Al Kraning*

*Alan Lehotsky*

*Jay Goldman*  
*John Mason*

*Dan Michaels*

Al Kraning  
Al Lehotsky  
Jay Goldman  
John Mason  
Dan Michaels

AK:et

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From: Hatvany.ALP 07/31/71 2158.0

Charles Hatvany 6611  
E53-314

I still think that the Multics canonicalization stinks. A number character after spaces should not delete all of them!!!!!!! Tab oriented devices and time saving?!? Hell I have wasted more time correcting this kind of errors than I would save by a month of using tabs.

Urgency: There isn't any  
n

RECEIVED  
AUG 4 1971  
J. H. SALTZER

Console output( ) and/or listings( ) are attached to this report. The following segments may be helpful in debugging this problem (path names):

(It is recommended that the user set the ACL for these segments, as well as the ACL of the directory in which they reside, to "re" for "\*.\*. \*"; if there are many segments, the CACL or the ACLs. Please be sure to include source-program segment names if applicable.)

Can the reply be to your Multics mailbox? Urgency

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Response: *Since we've been over this ground before, there seems to be no reason to forward this to Jerry Saltzer again.*

*Canonical form is defined, it is in the manual, and it is not likely to be changed.*

*Since facilities exist for getting at the data in a "raw" form, you can splice in a program that will, at your own risk, canonicalize in whatever way you like, at your own risk.*

Ref 2529

signed: Garman

date: 8-2-71

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Transmitted to:

Date:

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mar. 29, 71

Xerox a copy  
for [signature]

Cosby:

Last summer, the Cambr. Proj. decided to use Multics for about a year to get acquainted with it and then to make decisions re a "permanent" facility. The present schedule calls for the review of the facilities problem to begin 1 June 71 and for a decision re "permanent" facility to be made late in Aug.

The main problems or difficulties in Multics, <sup>as seen by</sup> for the Cambr. Proj., are

1. Disk file space is limited
2. " " charges are high
3. Back-up tape is hard to get at
4. Connection arrangements for graphics displays and system support thereof are limited.

<sup>not timed for heavy work</sup>  
This is just to keep you posted.

Lick