

Saltzer

file -

Multics User
Community

TO: Administrative Distribution
FROM: J. M. Grochow
DATE: December 3, 1969
SUBJECT: User Questions

The following is being distributed as a sampling of user problems about Multics that have been brought to the PAI Office. (They are generally reproduced verbatim).

November 26, 1969

1. What way is there to input BCD and EBCDIC card decks into Multics in such a way that they become ascii segments?
2. User wants to know if there is any documentation on "runoff" for Multics. He is debating whether he should move his text-editing to Multics.

November 19, 1969

1. How does one meter cpu time used within a PL/I program - not including I/O waiting, etc? (hcs_\$usage_values is an internal interface)
2. How does one find the total number of times a program has been called? Barry Wolman has a program. Maybe should be in SSS.

November 3, 1969

1. Students and/or others who are using a different login responder and/or operating within a Multics subsystem should be discouraged from seeking 'PAI' office assistance or documentation and a method of escape to full 'Multics' operation should be made available to PAI office personnel.

2. Questions concerning 'language' problems, as opposed to command language should be referable to someone else other than PAI office personnel.
3. It must be vigorously pointed out to all subsystem designers that the speed of response and ease of use reflect on Multics as a whole and not just on the subsystem. This was pointed out, in no uncertain terms, to me by two students who, attempting to login to the PAL subsystem, commented on the extreme slowness of Multics, wherein the real trouble was the PAL login responder which took three times as long as the normal Multics one. Of course, they could not know this and thus I would assume that all 6-231 students feel that Multics is a rather slow non-responsive system.

November 17, 1969

1. What about conventions for ring structures in PL/I?
2. What happens if, when using a pointer one references (or tries to write into) a portion of a segment whose relative address would be >64K? (caller referred to make_ptr)
Ans: out_of_bounds err
3. Are "fib-jobs" available?
4. Will there be some way for a program to find out how much time/money a person has used (total).
5. Can exec_com handle conditional statements? (Branches and conditional branches within file itself (using supplied variables (args)).
(as in EXEC in CP-67/CMS user's guide).