

MULTICS STAFF BULLETIN-33

TO: Distribution  
FROM: V. L. Voydock  
DATE: March 23, 1972  
SUBJECT: Standard Service System Task List



TASK AREA Short Range Tasks

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	START	FINISH	CHANGES/STATUS
Code ring 0 primitive "run_if" and simulate the alarm clock in software.	RJF	<del>6/29/71</del>	<del>8/1/71</del> 2/14/72	Done.
Implement new default handler mechanism	RJF	<del>11/2/71</del>	<del>2/7</del> 3/15	Done.
Implement interim tape facility.	MBW	<del>1/2</del>	<del>1/31</del> 3/16	Done.
Implement "tape_archive" command.	DW	<del>1/20</del>	<del>2/15</del> 3/20	Doug Wells is cleaning up his already existing command.
Implement interim command metering tools.	RJF	<del>3/7</del>	<del>3/10</del>	Done.
Change absentee to allow arbitrary number of args to be passed to absentee process.	DC	<del>2/18/71</del>	<del>2/28/72</del> 3/22	Debugging in progress.
Command processor fixes.	VLV	<del>10/1</del>	<del>3/15</del> 3/24	Debugging in progress.
Implement changes which allow dynamic assignment of error codes.	DPR	<del>3/15</del>	<del>3/15</del>	Coding in progress.
Change commands to use new cleanup proc mechanism.	ST	<del>1/20</del>	<del>2/22</del>	Done.
Design internal primitives which allow easier manipulation of multisegment files.	DB	<del>3/1</del>	<del>4/1</del>	Coding in progress.

TASK AREA Short Range Tasks

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	START	FINISH	CHANGES/STATUS
Change various commands to call interim command metering tools.	CG	3/10	3/15	Done.
Prepare SPS reference guide quality documentation of debug.	DPR	12/15	2/29	Done.
Prepare SPS reference guide quality documentation of DTSS environment.	PAK	10/1	2/29	Draft submitted.
Prepare design overview of new system control structure.	VLV RJF	1/15	2/4 2/4	Document ready for limited distribution.
Change gate format, so that entry is through the text section.				Inactive.
Evaluation of Cambridge Project area management subroutines.	VLV RJF	11/1	2/29 4/1	Final changes being made. Final document being prepared.
Investigate what must be done to implement "passive rings".	VLV RJF	3/1 3/22	3/30 4/10	
Convert non-hardcore system to version 2 PL/I.	CG			Inactive version 2 pgl not ready.
Fix backup_dump and default_error_handler so they will continue to work when default handlers are installed.	CG	2/16	2/21 3/1	Done.
Fix absentee so it will continue to work when default handlers are installed.	RJF	2/17	3/15 3/1	Done.

TASK AREA Short Range Tasks

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	START	FINISH	CHANGES/STATUS
Evaluate command metering proposal.	VLV RJF	2/16	2/25	Second draft in progress.
Make final changes to coding standards document and publish as MSB.	VLV	3/16	3/24	

TASK AREA New Object Segment Tasks

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	START	FINISH	CHANGES/STATUS
Code new tool object_info_ and change decode_object_ to call it.	MJS	2/9	2/11	Done.
Change decode_definition_ to know about new format.	MJS	2/9	2/11	Done.
Change pli and pbm to work with new format.	MJS	2/5	3/3 3/13	Done.
Change binder to accept new format as input.	MJS	2/3	2/28 2/29	Works with old format. Needs to be debugged when some translator produces new format.
Change translators (ALM, PL/I, FORTRAN) to generate new format.	RM BLW			
Change debug to work with new format (includes change to stu_ and writing of symbol block manipulation procedures.)	DPR	3/2	3/31	New subroutine being designed.
Change default_error_handler_ to work with new format.	MBW CG	2/21	2/25	At this point compilers which generate the new format can be installed.
Change binder to generate new format.	MJS	3/6 3/13	3/31	
Change all programs using old object segment tools to use new. (E.g., change linker to use object_info_.)				
Change debug and default_error_handler_ to take advantage of additional information in new format.	DPR MBW CG			

TASK AREA Design Tasks

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	START	FINISH	CHANGES/STATUS
Design overview of tape reel management (tape descriptor segments, etc.)	VLV R.JF	4/10	4/27	A simplification of Spier's proposals.
Preliminary investigation of how to interface the file manager with the IO system.	VLV R.JF	4/27	5/10	
Document reasons for needing a new inter-process communication mechanism.	R.JF	4/13	4/20	
Document ideas for a new inter-process communication mechanism.	R.JF VLV	5/11		
Specify new system control structure.	VLV R.JF			Design overview document complete.
Specify the design of limited workspace asynchronously (needed for system control).	R.JF VLV	5/11	5/19	
Design overview of interfacing the file manager with the IO system.	VLV R.JF	5/22		

TASK AREA Documentation Tasks (all dates are for first draft)

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	START	FINISH	CHANGES/STATUS
MPM - handling unusual occurrences.	RJF	3/29	4/5	Written. Needs to be modified to reflect dynamic assignment of error codes.
MPM - constructing and interpreting names (old II.3.1).	RJF	4/28	5/5	
MPM - constructing commands and active functions.	VLV	4/17	5/1	
MPM - standard programming environment (includes creating a user environment).	VLV	3/27	4/17	
MPM - segment and directory attributes.	RJF	4/16	4/12	
MPM - access control.	RJF	3/22	4/5	
MPM - system programming standards.	VLV	5/1	5/15	
MPM - upgrade IO documents (e.g. explain status bits).	RJF	4/21	4/27	
MPM - absentee use of Multics.	EDS	7/5	7/25	



TASK AREA Good Ideas

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	START	FINISH	CHANGES/STATUS
Offline segments.				
Tape drive management.				Includes reserving of drives.
A disassembler to produce superdooper PL/I listings.				
Program to itemize all external references of a program or set of programs.				
Make commands with single arguments accept the equals convention.				e.g., "delete a.list =.pl1".
Improved error and question handler.				e.g., have "query codes", allow user to tailor response to particular error in particular command.
Change quite mechanism to only allow certain commands to be typed after quit.				
Data base compiler.				
Expand help command to allow more selective printing of information.				

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