

To: Distribution
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Subject: tape_mult_ I/O Module

INTRODUCTION

This document contains draft MPM documentation of the tape_mult_ I/O module. This document will describe only those features of tape_mult_ that will be available in the initial version.

I/O MODULE

Name: tape_mult_

This I/O module supports I/O to and from Multics standard tapes. (See MPM part II Reference Guide to Multics section 5.3 Multics Standard Magnetic Tape Format.)

Attach Description

The attach description has the following form:

```
tape_mult_ reelid -opt1 ... -optn
```

1. reelid - The name of the tape reel to be mounted for this attachment.
2. opti - One of the following options.

{-comment ; -com} comment_string This option is used to specify a comment string that will be displayed to the operator. It can be used to give the operator any special instructions that are relevant to this attachment. The comment string must be within quotes if it contains blanks or other spacing characters.

{-density ; -den} n This option specifies the density setting of the attached tape drive. n may be either "800" or "1600". The default will be "800". When opened for reading the specified density will be used only as a first guess. If the tape cannot be read at that density then tape_mult_ will try the other density.

{-track ; -tk} *n* This option specifies the track type of the tape drive that is to be attached. *n* may be either "9" or "7". The default is "9".

{-write ; -wrt} This option specifies that the tape reel is to be mounted with a write ring. The default is to mount the tape reel without a write ring.

Opening

The opening modes supported by `tape_mult_` are `stream_input` and `stream_output`. The `extend` option is not allowed. If the opening mode is `stream_output` the attach description must have specified the `-write` option.

Control Operation

`tape_mult_` supports the control operation with one order.

"error_count" This order is supported only for the `stream_output` opening mode. It will cause all output currently buffered to be written. An up-to-date error count will be returned in the variable referenced by the `info_ptr` argument.

Operations Not Supported

`tape_mult_` does not support the following operations:

- get_line
- position
- modes