

MULTICS STAFF BULLETIN-38

TO: Distribution  
FROM: V. L. Voydock  
DATE: April 4, 1972  
SUBJECT: Standard Service System Task List

This document obsoletes MSB-33.



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> 4/5	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> 4/15	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> 4/15	Debugging in progress.

TASK AREA Short Range Tasks

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	START	FINISH	CHANGES/STATUS
Change various commands to call interim	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	Final draft submitted.
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	Final changes being made. Final documentation being prepared.
Investigate what must be done to implement "passive rings".	VLV RJF	3/1 3/22	3/30 4/17	
Convert non-hardcore system to version 2 PL/I.	CG			Inactive version 2 p01 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.
Evaluate command metering proposal.	VLV RJF	2/16	2/25	Second draft in progress.

TASK AREA Short Range Tasks

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	START	FINISH	CHANGES/STATUS
Make Final changes to coding standards document and publish as MSB.	VLV	3/16	4/5	
Search system for compatibility problems introduced by new access control. Document steps to be taken to minimize these.	RJF VLV	3/27	4/15	

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.	MBW	3/6 4/14	3/31	Slowed down. New person assigned to task must learn how binder works.
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 New Object Segment Tasks

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	START	FINISH	CHANGES/STATUS
Change info returned by object_info_.	MBW	3/28	4/7	
Change programs that call object_info_ to know about new info.	CB	4/10	4/12	
Learn structure of binder.	MBW	3/21	4/7	
Complete modifications to binder to accept new format as input.	MBW	4/10	4/14	

TASK AREA Design Tasks

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	START	FINISH	CHANGES/STATUS
Design overview of tape reel management (tape descriptor segments, etc.)	VLV RJF	4/17	5/4	A simplification of Spier's proposals.
Preliminary investigation of how to interface the file manager with the IO system.	VLV RJF	5/14	5/17	
Document reasons for needing a new inter-process communication mechanism.	RJF	4/20	4/27	
Document ideas for a new inter-process communication mechanism.	RJF VLV	5/17		
Specify new system control structure.	VLV RJF			Design overview document complete.
Specify the design of limited workspace asynchrony (needed for system control).	RJF VLV	5/18	5/26	
Design overview of interfacing the file manager with the IO system.	VLV RJF	5/29		



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

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	START	FINISH	CHANGES/STATUS
MPM - handling unusual occurrences.	RJF	3/29 3/20	4/5 3/24	Done.
MPM - constructing and interpreting names (old II.3.1).	RJF	5/5	5/12	
MPM - constructing commands and active functions.	VLV	4/24	5/8	
MPM - standard programming environment (includes creating a user environment).	VLV	4/3	4/24	
MPM - segment and directory attributes.	RJF	4/23	5/19	
MPM - access control.	RJF	3/22	4/12	
MPM - system programming standards.	VLV	5/8	5/22	
MPM - upgrade IO documents (e.g., explain status bits).	RJF	4/28	5/4	
MPM - absentee use of Multics.	EDS	10/1	10/20	

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 = .ppl".
Improved error and question handler.		/	/	e.g., have "query codes", allow user to tailor response to particular error in particular command.
Change quit mechanism to only allow certain commands to be typed after quit.		/	/	
Data base compiler.		/	/	
Expand help command to allow more selective printing of information.		/	/	
		/	/	