

MULTICS STAFF BULLETIN-18

TO: Distribution  
FROM: V. L. Voydock  
DATE: February 25, 1972  
SUBJECT: Standard Service Group 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> 3/15	Needs to be updated to page multi-level system.
Implement new default handler mechanism.	RJF	<del>11/2/71</del>	<del>2/7</del> 3/15	Compatibility problems being fixed.
Implement interim tape facility.	MBW	<del>1/2</del>	<del>1/31</del> 2/29	Work progressing well.
Implement "tape_archive" command.	DW	<del>1/20</del>	<del>2/15</del> 2/29	Doug Wells is cleaning up his already existing command.
Specify standard object segment format.	MJS			Done. Awaiting formal approval.
Change absentee to allow arbitrary number of args to be passed to absentee process.	DC	<del>12/18/71</del>	<del>2/28/71</del>	Debugging in progress.
Command processor fixes.	VLV	<del>10/1</del>	<del>3/15</del>	Includes accepting arbitrary number of args, arbitrary size input line.
Document changes which allow dynamic assignment of error codes.	DPR	<del>11/1</del>	<del>1/26</del>	Done. Document being distributed.
Change commands to use new cleanup proc mechanism.	ST	<del>1/20</del>	<del>2/22</del>	In progress.
Design internal primitives which allow easier manipulation of multisegment files	DB		<del>2/29</del>	Document in progress.

TASK AREA Short Range Tasks

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	START	FINISH	CHANGES/STATUS
Prepare SPS reference guide quality documentation of debug.	DPR	<del>12/15</del>	<del>2/29</del>	Draft submitted.
Prepare SPS reference guide quality documentation of DTSS environment.	PAK	<del>10/1</del>	<del>2/29</del>	Draft submitted.
Prepare design overview of new system control structure.	VLV RJF	<del>1/15</del>	<del>2/4</del> <del>2/4</del>	Document ready for limited distribution.
Change gate format, so that entry is through the text section.		<del></del>	<del></del>	Inactive.
Evaluation of Cambridge Project area management subroutines.	VLV RJF	<del>11/1</del>	<del>2/29</del>	Problems with multi-ring use made it necessary to devote large amounts of time to this task.
Investigate what must be done to implement "passive rings".	VLV RJF	<del>3/1</del>	<del>3/30</del>	
Convert non-hardcore system to version 2 PL/I.	CG	<del></del>	<del></del>	Inactive version 2 pl1 not ready.
Fix backup_dump and default_error_handler so they will continue to work when default handlers are installed.	CG	<del>2/16</del>	<del>2/21</del>	Unclaimed signal handlers work differently.
Fix absentee so it will continue to work when default handlers are installed.	RJF	<del>2/17</del>	<del>3/15</del>	
Evaluate command metering proposal.	VLV RJF	<del>2/16</del>	<del>2/25</del>	

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	
Change binder to accept new format as input.	MJS	2/3	2/28	
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			
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			
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 Long Range Tasks

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	START	FINISH	CHANGES/STATUS
Directory control changes.	RJF EDS AK	/	/	See Directory Reformatting task list for details.
Rest of tasks to be supplied.		/	/	
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TASK AREA Good Ideas

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	START	FINISH	CHANGES/STATUS
Data base compiler.				
Expand help command to allow more selective printing of information.				Perhaps use "peruse_text" command.
A disassembler to produce superdooper PL/I listings.				
Program to itemize all external references of a program or set of programs.				
Save/Resume facility.				
Make commands with single arguments				e.g., "delete a.list = .pgl".
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.				

