

MULTICS STAFF BULLETIN-57

TO: Distribution

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SUBJECT: Standard Service System Group Task List



TASK AREA Short Range Tasks

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	START	FINISH	CHANGES/STATUS
Implement "tape_archive" command.	DW	1/20	2/15 4/30	Awaiting action by higher management.
Change absentee to allow arbitrary number of args to be passed to absentee process.	DC	2/18/71	2/28/72 3/22	Done.
Command processor fixes.	VLV	10/1	3/15 5/10	Done.
Design internal primitives which allow easier manipulation of multisegment files.	DB	3/1	4/1 6/30	Submitted for code review.
Change gate format, so that entry is through the text section.				Inactive.
Evaluation of Cambridge Project area management subroutines.	VLV R.JF	11/1	2/29 5/15	Inactive by mutual consent.
Investigate which must be done to implement "passive rings".	VLV R.JF	3/1 3/22	3/30 5/15	Slipped due to work on access control compatibility.
Convert non-hardcore system to version 2 PL/I.	CG	6/15		Just starting.

TASK AREA New Object Segment Tasks

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	START	FINISH	CHANGES/STATUS
Code new 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			alm being debugged.
Change debug to work with new format (includes change to stu_ and writing of symbol block manipulation procedures.)	DPR	3/2	3/31 6/27	
Change binder to generate new format.	MBW	3/6 6/19	3/31 7/20	Slowed down. New person assigned to task must learn how binder works.
Change all programs using decode_object_ to use object_info_	CG			Inactive.
Change debug and default_error_handler_ to take advantage of additional information in new format.	DPR MBW CG			
Change info returned by object_info_	MBW	3/28	4/10 4/24	Done.

TASK AREA New Object Segment Tasks

TASK DESCRIPTION	PERSONNEL	START	FINISH	CHANGES/STATUS
Change programs that call object_info_ to know about new info.	CG MBW	4/10 4/24	4/12 5/3	Done.
Learn structure of binder.	MBW	3/21	4/7 3/31	Done.
Complete modifications to binder to accept new format as input.	MBW	4/10 4/28	4/14 6/19	Delayed due to lack to test input.
Finish documenting object segment manipulation tools.	MBW	5/1	5/3	

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	5/15	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	5/18	5/26	
Design overview of interfacing the file manager with the IO system.	VLV	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).	RFJ	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	First draft complete. Revisions being made.
MPM - access control.	RJF	3/22	4/12	First draft complete. Revisions being made.
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.				Needed to avoid need of always generating listing segment during compilation.
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.				