

To: MTB Distribution
From: E. J. Wallman
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Subject: A compose Feature to Print Only Modified Pages.

This MTB presents a proposal for a compose feature to assure the printing of modified pages.

During the life of a major document or manual, it may be described as being in one of three states: Draft, Preliminary, or Final. The Draft and Preliminary states, while important in the technical sense, are uninteresting in the documentation sense (at least for the purposes of this discussion) since they involve frequent and fairly extensive changes to the content, usually necessitating a new Draft or Preliminary edition. When the document achieves a Final state, it is released as Revision 0 and goes into maintenance mode. Some documents may never need any maintenance during their life, but these are the exception, not the rule.

The maintenance action for the vast majority of documents (including all the Multics manuals) consists of the preparation of Revisions and Addenda. Revisions are complete releases of the entire document and usually revert to the Preliminary state when they are first prepared. Addenda, however, contain corrections and additions (or deletions) of/to the information in the existing Re-

vision and must be very closely coordinated with the Revision to which they apply.

As an Addendum is prepared and text is changed, added, and deleted in the document, great care must be taken to assure that the original pagination of the document is not destroyed, since the Addendum will be released as individual leaves to be collated into the existing Revision.

There is no facility in Multics (other than private, post-processing tools) to perform either of these nontrivial tasks; assuring that all modified pages are printed and protecting the original pagination. The protection of pagination will be the subject of a future MTB.

The change bar and "dot page" features necessary for Addenda are already active within compose; hence, it is easy for the program to determine if a page should be printed based on these features. Moreover, compose already uses a special Addendum page footer for such pages. Basically, then, the feature requires only a new control argument to signal that only the pages so determined are to be printed.

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A complication enters due to the fact that the obverse page of a modified page must usually also be reissued even though no changes were made to it. This requires an extension to the page handling mechanism in compose in that it will have to determine the printing require-

ment for odd/even page pairs instead of single pages.

This feature is described by the following changes to the user documentation (AZ98, Rev 0). The change bars appearing here mark the actual changes and may or may not appear in the final Manual.

Add to "Usage", page 9-15, after -pages:

-pages_changed {p|s}, -pgc {p|s}
specifies that, of the pages selected for printing (either all pages or some subset of pages selected through use of the -pages, -from, and/or -to control arguments), only those pages containing text within the range of an active change-bar control or within the scope of the "dot page" feature will actually be printed. The base page of the dot page set (for example, page 3 of the set 3, 3.1, 3.2) is not considered part of the dot page set. (See "Page Numbers" in Section 5 for information on the dot page feature.) Pages with text changes will not be printed unless either the -change_bar or -change_bar_art control is also given. If the optional parameter is given as "p", then odd/even page pairs covering the changes will be printed. If the optional parameter is given as "s", then only single pages with changes will be printed. The default value for the optional parameter is "s".

This MTB done in "2 up" to demonstrate the ability of compose to switch into and out of multi-column mode. Also, note that hyphenation has been turned off for the insertion text as is normal practice in user documentation.