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Send all comments, criticisms and contributions to the editor  
T. W. Lanzatella

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## NEW SYSTEM INSTALLATION

Due to the hiatus surrounding the ACM conference and the installation of binary versions of the PSR 404 tape drivers, the deadstart tape which was to have been installed on 23 October will not be installed until Tuesday, 28 October. Modifications for the next deadstart tape are due on 3 November and the next tape will be installed on 13 November. Dates for modification deadlines, DSN publication dates and DST installation dates for the next three months are listed below.

MODS	DSN	DST
75/11/03	75/11/11	75/11/13
75/11/17	75/11/25	75/11/27
75/12/01	75/12/09	75/12/11
75/12/15	75/12/23	75/12/25
76/01/05	76/01/13	76/01/15
76/01/19	76/01/27	76/01/29

## NOTICE OF CHANGES TO THE OPERATING SYSTEM

N. L. Reddy supplied a correction to 1PQ (the status plotter driver) which enables it to run without the DDP.

Stuart Lenz fixed several small bugs in MF501.

- a. repair E option processing.
- b. repair tape request processing.
- c. update EREXIT table.

E. J. Mundstock fixed BATCHER so that it can be purged from the queue without performing a normal deadstart.

Tim Salo added a modification to PFCAT which enables PFCAT to list the number of unused catalog entries on each catalog track of a permanent file device. This will give an indication of whether the catalog tracks are excessively long and need to be packed.

Tim also installed the NL parameter in QLOAD. This parameter indicates that queue files loaded from the queue file archive tape are to be loaded as local files, but not released to the queue.

Alan Johnston supplied a new source for the program DTT (dump terminal table) which has been substantially modified. Alan also supplied a handy modification to DSD which enhances the T display to indicate which terminals have had the warning message issued to them. The period next to the "status" field changes to an astrisk if the warning has been sent to the terminal. Alan also discovered why PSR 393 TELEX seems to gobble up central memory - aborted log-ins left POT's hanging around. This has now been fixed.

T. W. Lanzatella changed the service parameters in the IPRDECK to allow TELEX origin jobs up to 70K of central memory. This change was installed to accommodate timesharing usage of S2K.

#### PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE OPERATING SYSTEM

Regarding the dayfile time and date controversy - this is only natural for RTIME not CTIME

A. B. Mickel

Bill Wells proposes that CPM function 45 (read control point word) be modified to allow, optionally, multiple word reads.

The following proposal is submitted jointly by R. T. Franta and T. W. Lanzatella.

On 18 June 1975 (DSN 1, 4 p.3), T. W. Lanzatella changed the program MODVAL so that a user could not execute a PASSWOR command unless the user number which password was to be changed had password change permission. This modification was to prevent malicious users from logging in under a user number which had password change permission and changing the password of a user number which did not have password change permission.

This has proven to be too restrictive to people who must manage large numbers of student user numbers. We propose that the original capability be restored in the following limited way. The same hierarchy used by PFM in determining permanent file access permission (KRONOS 2.1 TIMESHARING USERS REFERENCE MANUAL p. 5 - 1) should be used to determine password changing permission. This would involve a simple change to the program MODVAL. No new security problems would be introduced by this change since we never grant astrisk user numbers to users who are not responsible.

#### SYSTEM MAINTENANCE: PEOPLE AND PROCEDURES

I would like to point out that the Systems Group has made good on several promises - a tape use document and a permanent file guide - both extensive and nearly complete now exist. Also a SYSMODS file has been created and work is being contemplated on the KRONOS 2.1 REFERENCE MANUAL/TIMESHARING USERS REFERENCE MANUAL differences document. In addition the User's Manual is grinding slowly along.

However, I still would like to see, as I requested earlier, a summary of all the changes that have been made to KRONOS since last year (e.g., Reddy's infamous TXOT symbol change) and adequate notice on other recent changes which never made it to the DSN or the Xerox machine (e.g., three new CPU error exits). I disagree with Tim Salo that I (a language processor person) "should read SYSTEXT each week."

Andrew Mickel  
75/10/10

CODE REVIEW COMMITTEE - T. W. Lanzatella

An old problem of trashy, undocumented code in the operating system is again becoming a problem. The problem is partially prompted by my lenience regarding modifications submitted late and a general lax attitude among system staff members concerning proposals and documentation. To stem the problem we are going to try a new approach. Henceforth, each Tuesday following the Monday deadline for modifications, a Code Review Committee will convene at 12:30 p.m. in the Lauderdale conference room. This committee shall have the option of rejecting or accepting a modification based on any fact or quality related to good coding practice, good documentation practice and particularly necessity. The Monday modification deadline will now be strictly enforced. No modifications will be installed in the operating system unless they are first scrutinized by the Code Review Committee. This does not mean that proposals submitted well in advance of code development are no longer required. Modifications will be scrutinized in the light of their accompanying proposal.

Initially, the committee will have no standing membership except the chairman, T. W. Lanzatella. Also initially, the committee will be open to all staff members but this may change if attendance becomes too popular. I do not believe a large committee of this nature can be productive. If nobody chooses to attend, then I will conservatively pass judgment on all modifications. A listing of all modifications to be considered by the committee will be supplied at the time of the meeting. The first meeting will be held on 4 November.