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NOTICE OF CHANGES TO THE SYSTEM

Kevin Matthews added a new origin type to the system. This rather drastic
action was taken in order to ensure that certain types of jobs, namely jobs
originating on the Cray-1, get the benefit of exit processing in special
situations. The jobs originate from the TEXT parameters on Cray DISPOSE
and ACQUIRE commands. If these jobs ever bomb without executing a CTASK
command, the station never cleans up the stream which results from the job
and the user thinks his job has disappeared. In particular, an erroneous
USER command can cause such a situation. This is because erroneous USER
commands do not get the benefit of exit processing. Hence, a new origin
type was invented. The origin is named FMOT or foreign machine origin type.
It differs from BCOT only in that all errors cause a search in 1AJ for an
EXIT command. Kevin also changed ODV so that output files for site 25 which
are longer than 200 PRU's are diverted to site 26.

Andy Hastings installed the following changes:
1) RUN,T was made to work correctly in the M77, MNF and PASCAL subsystems.
2) The BASIC subsystem use of the AS parameter after a CSET, ASCII command
    was corrected.
3) Various sundry errors in IAF related to the recent upgrade were corrected.
4) The rotary check was extended to 2550 ports under CCP.

Paul Thompson installed the following changes:
1) Paul repaired an error in his enhancements to GTR which caused GTR to
    fail when a selection directive of the form type 1/name1-type 2/name 2
    is used and the file has no directory.

2) Some small problems in the report produced by QUEUE were repaired.
3) UNBUSY was changed so that it can unbusy files which are not attached
   in write mode.
4) RELOAD was corrected to ensure that a user on the Cyber 74 family gets
   the correct data base. There is a separate data base for each family.

Don Mears contributed several modsets to IAF which correct critical errors
stemming from the upgrade. Don changed the algorithm for disk unit usage in
CPUMTR in the hopes of speeding up the system. Previously, CPUMTR assigned
files to devices if the unit is free and there is sufficient space and the
device is not restricted. Now, the device with a free channel will have
priority over a device which does not - all other things being equal.

Marshall Midden installed the first version of TIELINE, a package from CDC
which allows IBM machines to exchange jobs with CDC machines. This involves
establishing queue priorities for jobs bound for St. Paul or Health Sciences
as well as new MI options SP and HS on SUBMIT.

SYSTEM MAINTENANCE: People and Procedures

Last Weeks Systems Group Meeting - by T. W. Lanzatella

Dick Rubenstein's offer to maintain the VAX/VMS distribution files was discussed
and finally tabled until Marisa's meeting to discuss VAX/VMS system
maintenance.

Kevin Matthews' proposal to change the way the Cray AUDIT and PDSDUMP commands
search for files was accepted. (See DSN 9,20 p. 120).

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SCRIBE For Shepherd Lab VAX - by P. L. Jarvis

On 6 November, Renee Holoien and Steve Collins installed Scribe on the
Shepherd Lab VAX. It can be invoked with the command: SCRIBE. See HELP
SCRIBE for more information.

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Callprg and Library Tape News - by M. Riviere

On November 17th, the following changes took place within Callprg and
Library products:

The M77 compiler and its library M77LIB, were replaced by the future versions.
This change took place to correct some M77 standing problems and was implemented
in the system prior to November 17th at the request of Tony Gerber and Larry
Liddiard.

The system library SYSLIB was updated with the removal of two old record
manager routines: FILEAA and FILEXX. These routines belong to an older PSR
level of our compilers and were overlooked by the CDC installation procedures.
This change was also made on the system prior to November 17th at the request
of Steve Reisman.

Steve Reisman removed from the Library Tape several records which were unintentionally left after updating to the current PSR level of the compilers and removing of products no longer used at UCC. These records are COB5124, DL30104, CDCS2, DBMSTRD, DBRCUR and QU1052.

In addition to the Library Tape clean up, Steve also modified the Callprg index by removing entries for past or current versions of discontinued products (DDL, QU, AS2000) and a future entry for SORTMRG used to retreive the same version of the package now available as current on the system. Steve also introduced a renamed version of AD2000, CD2000, on the MERITTS Cyber index.

A new addition to Callprg, introduced by Steve Reisman, is the fetch type entry for DYNAMO, a dimulation package. This addition was made only to the Cybers 74 and 730 index.

The MPKLIB library was added to the Library Tape. This library, installed at the request of J. Wang, consists of a mathematical package from the Argone Laboratories. In addition to installing the library on the Library Tape, James provided Callprg index FETCH type entries to devine it as a user library. Although MPKLIB is compatible with all the compilers, James installed entries for MNF, FTN, M77 and FTN5. The MPKLIB was placed on the Library Tape of the three Cybers. However, the Callprg index entries were added only on the Cyber 74 and 730 index.

An entry for a future version of BASIC was added at the request of Bill Sackett and Susan Steffen on the three Cybers Callprg indices. This version of BASIC will be replacing the current one very soon.

There are no modifications scheduled for December 1st. The next set of Callprg and Library Tape changes will take place on December 4th by noon.

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Shepherd Lab VAX News - by M. Riviere

Our last Shepherd Lab VAX system installation meeting, which took place on October 23rd in the Experimental Engineering conference room, produced some results after two hours of general confusion.

The meeting expanded into thoughts of who should be invested with final authority to request system changes and additions, without being subjected to any questioning about those requests (such as a DSN proposal publication and general approval) and how this authority could be delegated in ways such that our typical UCC software proliferation and upgrading could be positively changed. These issues, although related with the products to be offered on the Shepherd Lab VAX, are far from being restricted to the scope of that specific system and they should be addressed as a completely separate item of general concern.

Although it was hard to restrain the meeting level to the basic technical installation considerations, we finally arrived at the following conclusion:

1. The control statement callable immages added to the system will be defined on the SYSDEF file. This file will be executed as part of the system SYSLOGIN file.

2. The packages defined on SYSDEF will have on line documentation entries on the default VMS help library.

3. A DSN announcement will be required in order to install product definitions on SYSDEF.

4. A special command should be created to define products not included on SYSDEF. It will be optional to the users to utilize the command to set up definitions needed for their specific jobs. We did not fully agree on the command name, but the verb FETCH seemed to be accepted.

5. Whatever its name, this verb will be used as a command which becomes a combination of the original ACCESS command suggested by J. Mulhern and my originally suggested ENVIRONMENT statement. The command, when invoked, should execute a procedure from a system directory. This procedure can define a synbol, set up several definitions, or do any combination of both tasks. No technical considerations were made about how this command will be implemented.

6. About these procedures, we decided that:
   a. The procedures should be proposed and accepted through a DSN announcement before they are installed on the system directory.
   b. The products which these procedures define should be documented on the default HELP library as subordinated entries of the command used to invoke them.
   c. A certain amount of freedom could be given to some of these system procedures to execute other procedures from non-system directories. The function of this kind of flexible maintenance procedures set-up will have to be justified, however, when the procedures are proposed. Installation stability and possible security problems should be analyzed at that time.

7. Group subdivisions and corrdiantion were postponed to be considered with more detail in the future. Initial group definitions and environments could be made through the system procedures described above. This subject does not need an immediate resolution.

8. No final decision was made for on-line documentation of products offered to users before they are proposed and approved. (As a similarity with the Cyber systems, these products are equivalent to FETCH type Cyber products which could be cocumented through WRITEUP but are not included on CONTROL.) We agree, however, that since part of the general VMS system charm is the on-line user information we should try to follow that line. As for the groups subject, this documentation question does not need to be solved now.

In addition, during the last 15 minutes of the meeting, we tried to cover all the rest of the proposed agenda: PDP/11 packages conversion and device drivers development. Joel Neisen is working on the PDP/11 conversion and Steve Reisman will prepare a detailed report on the technical aspects of the conversion including a completion timetable. Keven McMahon, John Mulhern

and Stuart Levy are working on a Dicomed driver. Kevin may be arranging for a meeting to discuss in technical details of the driver status. In addition to the agenda, we considered the buying of the new release of EUNICE which will be available late in November. Related with EUNICE, I announced a report on EUNICE installation to be available. This report is complemented with a list of EUNICE encountered problems, where the ones presumably fixed on the new release are noted, and a list of local modifications made by Stuart Levy in order to adapt EUNICE to our needs.

The attendance at the meeting was quite large. This shows us that, although it was not easy to arrive at a common agreement, a lot of people are concerned about keeping communication open on subjects which may concern us all. I greatly appreciated the participation of everyone. We did not make arrangements for a new meeting but I will arrange for others when needed.

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