To: Distribution
From: Betsy
Date: April 21, 1976
Subject: MCR's

Attached are the MCR's which were approved from April 1 - 15, 1976.
MULTICS CHANGE REQUEST

TITLE: MCR for Changes in the
iss_login_responder_

AUTHOR: Lyman R. Hazelton, Jr.

Planned for System: not applicable
Fixes Bug Number(s): not applicable
Documented in MTB: not applicable
Incompatible Changes: no
User/Operations-visible Interface Changes: yes
Coded In: ( )PL/I ( )ALM ( )other-see below
Performance: ( )better ( )same ( )worse

DOCUMENTATION CHANGES (specify one or more)
MPM (vol,sect) SWG AK92 MPAM (sect)
MOSN (sect) MSAM (sect)
PLMs (AN#)
Info Segs
Other

Objections/Comments:

Headings are: SUMMARY, REASONS, IMPLICATIONS, DETAILED PROPOSAL (optional)

SUMMARY:
Modifications of iss_login_responder_ have been made so that it calls
listen_ correctly and allows the use of the "brief" option in the login, as
well as to invoke the start_up.ec if there is one in the user's home
directory and the user is allowed to have a start_up. These modifications
do not change the basic way that iss_login_responder_ works, but they do
make it operate as advertised and correctly, as well as making its use
easier and more convenient.

REASONS:
To make iss_login_responder_ more usable and desirable, as well as to
correct the problem with listen_ .

IMPLICATIONS:
These modifications only make the limited service subsystem more useful
and desirable to those who need such a system.

DETAILED PROPOSAL:
To re-install iss_login_responder_ as a part of the standard system.
SUMMARY:

Add the capability for the system to handle and run hardcore processes that require fewer resources than normal processes. The initial requirement is for a system logger HPROC (as they are called) for copying messages from the wired system buffer into the named system log.

REASONS:

The new reconfiguration code (proposed elsewhere) eliminates software interrupts from the system. For this reason, another mechanism is required to perform the copying that was triggered by the system log interrupt.

In addition, the concept of hardcore processes provides a simpler and cleaner way to implement several supervisor tasks.

IMPLICATIONS:

The system logger HPROC (and HPROCs in general) require resources in addition to what is otherwise required. In the current proposal, the system logger HPROC would take up 1 APT entry, and several AST entries even though no messages are being logged. When logging does happen, two pages are wired (the DSEG and PDS), i.e., the process is loaded, and several other per-process pages are needed (stack pages, code pages...). The current proposal does not allow for KSTs within HPROCs, thereby making most storage system functions out of the capabilities of HPROCs.
Add the program "create_hnroc", callable from ring 0, to the system. This program allocates an APT entry, creates the process's PDS, fills in per-process items in the PDS, creates a descriptor segment and places the process into the blocked state. The program requires, as input,

1. the process group id to use
2. pointer to the initial procedure
3. an "always loaded" flag.

It returns a pointer to the APT entry for the HPROC (from which one can get the process id, etc.) and a status code.

The always loaded flag is used if it is thought that the HPROC should always remain loaded. This might be the case if the process is required to give fast response to wakeups from the other processes in the system.

Most HPROCs will use the standard IPC block and wakeup primitives, probably using special channels. The processes are awakened when there is something for them to do, or possibly, when a timer they have set goes off. The HPROCs are allowed to block in ring zero since it is assumed that they can successfully manage the system data bases without fear of losing eligibility or being "stopped".

A new procedure, "destroy_hnroc", is also provided for cleaning up HPROCs. This program should be called prior to shutdown for all HPROCs. The HPROC destruction mechanism is similar to normal process destruction. However, it is much simpler in that no process directory is involved. There should probably be a special event channel for wakeups to be processed by an HPROC prior to being destroyed, so that they can clean up any data bases.
TITLE: NSS Bug Fixes, Round 2

AUTHOR: Bernard Greenberg

Planned for System: MR 4.0
Fixes Bug Number(s): not applicable
Documented in MTB: not applicable
Incompatible Change: no
User/Operations-visible Interface Change: no
Coded in: ( )PL/I ( )ALM ( )other-see below
Performance: ( )better ( )same ( )worse

DOCUMENTATION CHANGES (specify one or more)
MPM (vol,sect) MPAM (sect)
MOSN (sect) MSAM (sect)
PLMs (AN#) 61
Info Segs
Other

OBJECTIONS/COMMENTS:

SUMMARY: Fix small and medium bugs in New Storage System.

REASONS/IMPLICATIONS: Improved reliability.

DETAILED PROPOSAL: Fix the following bugs.

1. Directory quota is randomly enforced. page_fault should never check directory quota at all.

2. Certain cases of post-crash flushing of reconfigured paging devices fail, miscounting PD records.

3. The post-crash paging device unflushed record counter miscounts volumes: change its strategy to count more straightforwardly.

4. Segment_mover contains an optimization to avoid segment moving if a certain minimum number of pages can be reclaimed from the segment. This is useful for vfile_ random access files, for instance. There are bugs involved in the cleanup of SDws in this case.

5. Volumes other than the RPV (Root Physical Volume) are not marked as permanent in the PVT. Any volume containing a partition pointed to by a PART CONFIG card should be so marked.
MULTICS Change Request

**AUTHOR:** D. M. Wells

**SUMMARY:** A new TIP system has changed an interface to the Multics resetwrite system. This change causes a resetwrite function (which is done after every QUIT) to cause all output to be discarded until the connection is closed. Thus, the user can not get any output from his/her process.

**REASONS:**
This is an obvious imperfection in the user's communication with his/her process. Also, in this case, it seems easier to change Multics to not depend on this TIP feature(?) than to change the TIP system which has been released to appx. 30 TIPS.

**DETAILED PROPOSAL:**
Change the Multics Server TELNET (ntw_IOSIM) to flush the local buffers rather than ask the foreign system to flush the output at its end. (Note that this feature has only been broken with the "old" TELNET functionality.)

**NOTE:** TIP stands for "Terminal Interface message Processor" and is a local terminal interface placed at various nodes in the ARPANET. Via the TIP, users can use the ARPANET without the requirement of having a large host computer.

THIS IS AN EMERGENCY INSTALLATION!!
**TITLE:** Install Emergency Fix to PL/I Compiler

**AUTHOR:** R. Barnes

- **-Coded in (X) PL/I (XX) ALM ( ) other-
- Planned for System MR ( ) 4.0
- Fixes Bug Number(s) (X) 1479
- Documented in MTB ( ) 355
- User/Operations-visible Interface change? ( ) yes (XX) no
- Incompatible change? ( ) yes (XX) no
- Performance: ( ) Better (X) Same (XX) Worse
- Replaces MCR (XX)

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<td>Sys. Prog. Tools</td>
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**Objections/Comments:**

- Info Segs
- Other (Name)
- None (Reason) Bug Fix

**Summary:** Fix bug 1479

**Details:** Fix bug 1479 in which, under certain circumstances, bad code can be produced for the assignment of a pointer valued built-in reference (such as addr, addrel, etc.) to a based or nonlocal target. This bug was introduced in the recent PL/I installation.
Ver. 3
741022 MULTICS CHANGE REQUEST

TITLE: Add privileged operation to keep segments off the paging device.

AUTHOR: VanVieck

Planned for System: MR 4.0
Fixes Bug Number(s): not applicable
Documented in MTB: not applicable
Incompatible Change: no
User/Operations-visible Interface Change: no
Coded in: ( )PL/I ( )ALM ( )other-see below
Performance: ( )better ( )same ( )worse

DOCUMENTATION CHANGES (specify one or more)
MPH (vol, sect) MPAM (sect)
MOSN (sect) MSAM (sect)
PLHs (AN#) an61
Info Segs
Other

OBJECTIONS/COMMENTS:

Headings are: SUMMARY, REASONS, IMPLICATIONS, DETAILED PROPOSAL (optional)

SUMMARY:

Permit system administrators to call

```
phcs_$set_tpd (dn, en, sw, @, ec)
```

to make a segment "transparent to the paging device." This switch is a per-segment attribute stored in the branch. The standard dumper backs it up. If ON, the segment will never have any pages moved to the paging device. The fourth argument above is for later use of a "force" switch which can flush an active segment off the paging device is required; in the first implementation this argument must be zero.

REASONS:

Experience with large subsystems (ORAS at SM, in particular) suggests that some segments are moved to the PD and use many PD records but are accessed infrequently. This change allows the installation management to advise the system's memory management programs about the expected use of certain segments.

IMPLICATIONS:

This change should improve the PD hit ratio at GM; it is currently much lower than MIT's. The interface is put into phcs_ because casual use of it might not be appropriate.
DETAILED PROPOSAL:

A new ASTE bit, "always_gtpd," is defined. It is set from the branch at seg_fault time.

The current vtoce_gtpd switch is abandoned, and a new switch, entry_gtpd, is defined. Gate entries are provided to backup and reload it.
SUMMARY: Modify system administration tools so that the system administrator can charge for directory pages.

REASONS: This change avoids a user-visible decrease in storage charge.

IMPLICATIONS: Further improvements ought to be made here so that the installation can set different charges for segment pages and directory pages, since they represent resources of different scarcity. Such a change is being investigated.
Add two new privileged operations to the supervisor,

phcs_begindumping  
phcs_send_dumpling

and modify the dumper to call them.

If a segment is already in use by the dumper or is used by any other process these calls have no effect. But for segments which are only activated by the dumper for the purpose of dumping, begin_dumpling will prevent the segment from being put onto the paging device; and end dumping will cause the rapid deactivation of the segment.

REASONS:

Some of the pressure on the AST lock can be alleviated by preventing the dumper from flushing the paging device and the AST.

IMPLICATIONS:

We estimate that keeping segments dumped by the dumper off the paging device should gain about 3-600 pages of paging device. The forced deactivation should decrease segment faults by about 7-10%, which in turn should decrease RMS traffic.
Bits in the ASTE and KSTE are required to show that the segment is activated by the dumper. The ASTE bit is unset if any non-dumper process uses the segment. If the bit is on the segment is kept off the paging device and the end_dumping call causes deactivation.
TITLE: Fix bug in syserr_log_man

AUTHOR: Lee Scheffler

- Coded in: XPL/I □ AIM □ other
- Planned for System MR 4.0
- Fixes Bug Number(s): unreported
- Documented in MTB: 355
- User/Operations-visible Interface change? □ yes □ no
- Incompatible change? □ yes □ no
- Performance: □ Better □ Same □ Worse
- Replaces MCR

Category (Check One): Lib. Maint. Tools
Sys. Anal. Tools
Sys. Prog. Tools

Expires: 04/26/76

DOCUMENTATION CHANGES

- Lib. Maint. Tools
- Sys. Anal. Tools
- Sys. Prog. Tools

Document Specify One or More

Objections/Comments:

Use these headings: Summary of Proposal, Reasons for Proposal, Implications, Detailed Proposal.

Summary: Change syserr_log_man to open >scl>perm_syserr_log for update (instead of input) as the first step in initialization and log copying.

Reasons: vfile openings for update fix inconsistencies in a file (such as lock left locked due to a crash). Openings for input do not.

Implications: Syserr logging will be more reliable.
TITLE: Change operation of nd_handler

AUTHOR: Steve Herbst

Coded in: [X]PL/I [ ] AIM [ ] other
- explain in DETAILED PROPOSAL

Planned for System MR

Fixes Bug Number(s)

Documented in MTB

User/Operations-visible
- Interface change? [X] yes [ ] no
- Incompatible change? [X] yes [ ] no

- Performance: [ ] Better [X] Same
- Replaces MCR

Objections/Comments:

Use these headings: Summary of Proposal, Reasons for Proposal, Implications, Detailed Proposal.

Summary:

Change nd_handler:
1. To query "Do you want to delete the old directory foo?" as it does for links and segments, instead of saying "Directory foo not deleted."
2. To print the full pathname of the old duplicate entry in its query.

Implication: Number 1 is an incompatible change because commands running with a "yes" handler will delete directories that they did not delete before.
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<th>TITLE: Fix bug in add_search_rules</th>
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<tr>
<td>AUTHOR: Steve Herbst</td>
<td>Written</td>
<td>3/21/76</td>
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<td>Category (Check One)</td>
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Objections/Comments:

- Info Segs
- Other (Name)
- None (Reason) doc ok

Use these headings: Summary of Proposal, Reasons for Proposal, Implications, Detailed Proposal.

Summary: Fix bug in add_search_rules that does not allow a directory to be added to the search rules if the user does not have status on its parent.

Detailed Proposal: Suppress uniqueness check by uid in this case.
**Title:** Implement `&&` feature in `exec_com

**Author:** Steve Herbst

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**Reason:** Currently there is no way to specify the literal string "&l" in an `exec_com`, useful for calling `do` from within the `exec_com`.

**Summary:** Add mechanism to replace the string `&&` in `exec_com`s with a single `&`, as done currently by the `do` command.
Argument Substitution

Strings of the form &i in the exec_com segment are interpreted as dummy arguments and are replaced by the corresponding argument to the exec_com command. For instance, optional_arg1 is substituted for the string &1 and optional_arg10 is substituted for &10.

The character & should be followed by a number, i., or by the string ec_name. If no corresponding optional_arg is provided, &i is replaced by the null string. The string &ec_name is replaced by the entryname portion of the exec_com pathname without the ec suffix. The string &O is replaced by the pathname argument to exec_com, just as it was given to the command.

Finally, the string & is replaced by a single &.

Argument substitution can take place in command lines, input lines or in control statements, since the replacement of arguments is done before the check for a control statement.

Control Statements

Control statements permit more variety and control in the execution of the command sequences. Currently the control statements are: &label, &goto, &attach, &detach, &input_line, &command_line, &ready, &print, &quit, &if, &then, and &else.

Control statements generally must start at the beginning of a line with no leading blanks. Exceptions to this rule are the &then and &else statements, that can appear elsewhere. Also when a control statement is part of a THEN_CLAUSE or an ELSE_CLAUSE, it does not have to start at the beginning of a line.

1. &label and &goto

These statements permit the transfer of control within an exec_com segment.

&label location identifies the place to which a goto control statement transfers control. location is any string of 32 or fewer characters identifying the label.

&goto location causes control to be transferred to the place in the exec_com segment specified by the label location. Execution then continues at the line immediately following the label.
TITLE: Fix bug in cancel_abs_request
AUTHOR: Steve Herbst

Objections/Comments:

Use these headings: Summary of Proposal, Reasons for Proposal, Implications, Detailed Proposal.

Summary: Fix bug in cancel_abs_request causing it to refuse to delete a request if the parent directory of the absin segment has been deleted.
**Title:** Fix bug in index_set

**Author:** Steve Herbst

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**Status:** A 04/06/76

**Expires:** 10/06/76

**Document:** Specify One or More

**Explain in DETAILED PROPOSAL:**

**Planned for System MR:**

**Fixes Bug Number(s):**

**Documented in MB:**

**User/Operations-visible Interface change?**

- Yes
- No

**Incompatible change?**

- Yes
- No

**Performance:**

- Better
- Same
- Worse

**Replaces MCR:**

**Objections/Comments:**

- Info Segs
- Other (Name)

**Use these headings:**

- Summary of Proposal
- Reasons for Proposal
- Implications
- Detailed Proposal

**Summary:**

Fix bug in the index_set active function that prevents it from working as a command.
TITLE: move get_temp_segments_ to stand alone
AUTHOR: in >sss Susan Barr  JWG

-Coded in: [ ] FL/I [ ] AIM [ ] other-
-explain in DETAILED PROPOSAL
-Planned for System MR 3.1
-Fixes Bug Number(s) -
-Documented in MTB 355
-User/Operations-visible
-Interface change? [ ] yes [X] no
-Incompatible change? [ ] yes [X] no
-Performance: [ ] Better [X] Same
-Replacing MCR

Objections/Comments:

Use these headings: Summary of Proposal, Reasons for Proposal, Implications, Detailed Proposal.

Reason:

bound_fast_ is currently installed in >sss. Since FAST will be unbundled, bound_fast_ should be moved to >unb. It currently contains one procedure, get_temp_segments_ that should stay in >sss.

Proposal:

1) Have get_temp_segments_ stand alone in >sss with the additional names: list_temp_segments and release_temp_segments_

2) Delete >sss>bound_fast_
MULTICS CHANGE REQUEST

TITLE: Install BOSTAP BOS Command

AUTHOR: Bernard Greenberg

Planned for System: 4
Fixes Bug Number(s): not applicable
Documented in MTB: not applicable
Incompatible Change: no
User/Operations-visible Interface Change: no
Coded in: ( )PL/I ( )ALM ( )other-see below

DOCUMENTATION CHANGES (specify one or more)
MPM (vol,sect) MPAM (sect)
MGSN (sect) MSAM (sect)
PLMs (AN#)
Info Segs MOH Sec 4
Other

OBJECTIONS/COMMENTS:

SUMMARY: Install BOSTAP Command in BOS. This command gives the BOS environment the ability to produce a new BOS tape, which incorporates all changes to the BOS environment which have been made since BOS was loaded.

REASONS: CONFIG deck and runcom maintenance are very difficult at sites with no card readers. Even at sites with card readers, the use of punched cards is messy and error prone. The BOSTAP command allows BOS tapes, which now contain runcoms, CONFIG decks, and firmware, to be updated and corrected from the BOS environment. Combined with LOADDMM and the recently approved excerpt_mst, this is a very powerful tool for BOS tape creation and maintenance.

IMPLICATIONS: Greater ease in maintaining BOS variable data (runcoms and CONFIG decks) at sites. On the other hand, the ability to produce BOS tapes of no traceable origin, with no source information, is introduced. The use of this tool needs to be administratively controlled to prevent chaos. As with all powerful things, its misuse is a danger.

DETAILED PROPOSAL: See attached documentation.
BOSTAP -control args-

The BOSTAP command generates a new BOS tape, which can be bootloaded or read by LOADDM as any other BOS tape. This tape contains all commands, runcoms, and CONFIG decks which have been loaded into the current BOS environment. All editing changes of SAVE'd CONFIG decks will appear on the new tape. All new versions of commands, etc., which may have been read in via LOADDM, or modified via PATCH, will appear that way on the new tape. If the RUNCOM control argument is given, only runcoms and CONFIG decks are written on the tape. A summary of what is being written and its length in words is written on the operator's console. If the BRIEF control argument is given, this summary is not printed.

Usage:

BOSTAP n -BRIEF- -RUNCOM-

n specifies a tape drive. If n is not supplied, drive 1 is assumed.

BRIEF suppresses the tape listing, typed on the operator's console by default.

RUNCOM causes only runcoms and CONFIG decks to be written.
**MULTICS CHANGE REQUEST**

**TITLE:** Change I/O interfacer to usurp disk channels dynamically

**AUTHOR:** Bernard Greenberg

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**NIM**

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**Planned for System:** MR 4.0

**Fixes Bug Number(s):** not applicable

**Documented in MTB:** not applicable

**Incompatible Change:** no

**User/Operations-visible Interface Change:** no

**Coded in:** (Y)PL/I ( )ALM ( )other-see below

**Performance:** (Y)better ( )same ( )worse

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**DOCUMENTATION CHANGES**

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**OBJECTIONS/COMMENTS:**

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**SUMMARY:** The I/O interfacer currently usurps disk channels from page control at system initialization time for the purpose of removable "I/O" disk packs. This is done only if user-removable packs are specified as being available on a configuration card. Change the I/O interfacer to usurp these channels for only that amount of time that "I/O" disks are actually attached.

**REASONS:** The new Storage System needs to perform I/O operations on Storage System packs outside of page control, such as unloading demountable packs. In order to use the I/O interfacer for this, disk channels usurped for "I/O" use must be available whether or not user-removable "I/O" packs are supported at a site. Rather than usurp these channels at initialization time, so that page control may never use them, the proposal is to usurp them only when "I/O" packs are actually attached (or the Storage System is treating a Storage System pack as such) so that page control (and VTOC management) can benefit from all the channels they can get.

**IMPLICATIONS:** Improved performance at sites with "I/O" disks. Improved operator interface and subsequent reliability due to the Operating System being able to manage demounting by itself.

**DETAILED PROPOSAL:** Change the I/O interfacer initialization procedures (rccp_init_disk_sharing) not to usurp disk channels. Change the I/O interfacer assignment procedures to usurp disk channels from page control at the time a disk device is attached, if no channels have already been usurped for that subsystem. Hand the channels back at such time that no more I01 attachments to the disk subsystem are outstanding.
**TITLE:** Fix bug in 7punch card DIM

**AUTHOR:** Noel I. Morris

- **Category (Check One):**
  - Lib. Maint. Tools
  - Sys. Anal. Tools
  - Sys. Prog. Tools

- **Document in MTB:**
  - 355

- **Fixes Bug Number(s):**
  - 750508

- **User/Operations-visible:**
  - Yes

- **Incompatible change:**
  - Yes

- **Performance:**
  - Better

- **Replaces MCR:**
  - 0

**Objections/Comments:**

Use these headings: Summary of Proposal, Reasons for Proposal, Implications, Detailed Proposal.

**Reasons:**

A bug in viipunch_dim causes an infinite loop when certain data is punched.

**Proposal:**

Repair the bug.
TITLE: Change configuration card for disk subsystems

AUTHOR: Noel I. Morris

Use these headings: Summary of Proposal, Reasons for Proposal, Implications, Detailed Proposal.

Summary:
The config card currently used to describe a disk subsystem is of the following format:

```
DISK DSKn
```

where \( n \) is a letter designating the name of the disk subsystem. A new card is proposed:

```
PRPH DSKn
```

This card, except for its name, is to be identical to the currently used DISK card. A new card, the UDSK card, will be used in the future to describe parameters relating to the non-hardcore usage of a disk subsystem. This will be described in another MCR.

Reasons:
This change provides for a better uniformity of config. cards and will allow an easier implementation of I/O disks in the future.

Implications:
This is an incompatible change. It should be done in four steps:

1. Install new config cards in the BOS config deck. Deck will then contain DISK DSKn cards and corresponding PRPH DSKn cards.
2 & 3. Install new BOS and new Multics (in either order).
4. Remove obsolete DISK DSKn cards.

Note: The format of the PRPH card for disk subsystems is slightly different from the format of other PRPH cards in that the `nchan` and `model` are interchanged.
TITLE: Make direct calls to process overseer work correctly in all cases.

AUTHOR: T. Casey

Objections/Comments:

Use these headings: Summary of Proposal, Reasons for Proposal, Implications, Detailed Proposal.

Summary: Fix interface problem between answering service and ring zero, so that direct calls to the process overseer will work whether specified on the login line or in the PDT. Also, accept relative process overseer pathnames.

Reasons: Direct calls specified in the PDT do not work now, because init_proc does not do the right thing.

Implications: Bug will be fixed, and typing of pathnames will be more convenient.

Detailed Proposal:

This fix must be installed in three stages:

1) install init_proc that always checks the switch, pit.dont_call_init_admin, and also looks for and discards the string ";direct" if it is in the process overseer pathname.

2) install an answering service that checks for ";direct" and upon finding it, turns on the above switch and eliminates that string from the pathname.

3) remove the check for ";direct" from init_proc.

Step 1 fixes the bug; steps 2 and 3 clean up the code.

If the argument to the -po control arg contains either a ">" or a "<" the argument is treated as a (possibly relative) pathname. Otherwise, it is treated as a reference name.
**Summary:**

In pc cleanup, called at deactivation time, meter the number of RWS's generated as closely as possible, and the amount of real time required.

**Reasons:**

It is suspected that the fact that the AST is locked while the RWS's are completing leads to a significant fraction of AST lock contention.

**Implications:**

Currently the AST is locked about 40% of the time on a loaded system. If RWSing accounts for more than one-quarter of this time, then an attempt should be made to avoid deactivating segments with pages on the Bulk Store.

The command fsm will be modified to print this out.
TITLE: Fix bug in init_proc

AUTHOR: T. Casey

SUMMARY: Fix bug which causes init_proc to call the wrong initial procedure in some cases.
**SUMMARY:** Install the if command/active function in the standard system. Un-document the current keywords (documented now in Tools PLM) in favor of the new keywords "true" and "false", as returned by active functions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current keyword</th>
<th>Active function replacement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>arg x</td>
<td>[exists argument x]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>noarg x</td>
<td>[not [exists argument x]]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>is path</td>
<td>[exists branch path]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>isnt path</td>
<td>[not [exists branch path]]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>isdir path</td>
<td>[exists directory path]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>islink path</td>
<td>[exists link path]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>isfile path</td>
<td>[exists file path]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>isnzbf path</td>
<td>[if [exists file path] -then [greater [status bc path] 0] -else false]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>day xxx</td>
<td>[or [equal xxx [day]]]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>argeq xxx yyy</td>
<td>[equal xxx [day_name]]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ask query_string</td>
<td>[equal xxx yyy]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[query query_string]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REASON:** Increased generality.

**IMPLICATION:** The replacement for isnzbf above uses if as an active function and also uses the status active function, described in MCR 1768.
Name: if

This command provides conditional execution of a command line.

Usage:

```
if expression -then cl --else c2-
```

where:

1. `expression` is "true" or "false". Usually, `expression` is an active string that the command processor evaluates to either "true" or "false".

2. `cl` is a command line to be executed if `expression` is "true". If the command line contains blanks, it must be enclosed in quotes.

3. `c2` is an optional command line to be executed if `expression` is "false". If the command line contains blanks, it must be enclosed in quotes.

Note:

If `-else` and `c2` are omitted, no action is taken if `expression` is "false". If `expression` is neither "true" nor "false", no action is taken.

Example:

The following command line finds a segment foo under the directory dir:

```
find foo dir
```

where `find` is an abbreviation for:

```
do "ws &2 ""if [exists segment &l} -then pwd"" -bf"
```
Name: if

This active function returns one of several values depending on the value of a boolean expression.

Usage: if expression -then r1 --else r2-

where:

1. expression evaluates to "true" or "false". Usually, expression is an active string.

2. r1 is the value to be returned if expression is "true".

3. r2 is an optional value to be returned if expression is "false".

Note:

If no return value is appropriate, the null string "" is returned.
SUMMARY: Install fix to PL/I bug 1481.

DETAILED PROPOSAL:

In bug 1481 storage allocation can fail for a quick procedure that is owned by (uses the stack frame of) a non-ancestor block that follows it in the program. This bug was introduced in the 4.0 compiler.
TITLE: Log MOS memory EDAC errors

AUTHOR: Larry Johnson

Planned for System: MK 4.0
Fixes Bug Number(s): not applicable
Documented in MTB: not applicable
Incompatible Change: no
User/Operations-visible Interface Change: no
Coded in: ( )PL/I ( )ALM ( )other-see below
Performance: ( )better ( )same ( )worse

DOCUMENTATION CHANGES (specify one or more)

NPM (vol, sect)        MPAM (sect)
NOSN (sect)            MSAM (sect)
PLMs (AN#)             Info Segs
Other                  Hardware diagnostic aids

HEADINGS ARE: SUMMARY, REASONS, IMPLICATIONS, DETAILED PROPOSAL (optional)

Summary

Periodically, the maintenance register of MOS memories should be interrogated to see if errors have occurred. If so, they will be logged in the syserr log.

Reasons

The information will be required for HEALS.

Detailed Proposal

The traffic controller will be modified to periodically call a new module that will check for, and log, MOS memory errors. A privileged gate entry will be provided that will do the same thing, and return the maintenance register contents. The interval between traffic controller calls will be self-adjusting, becoming more frequent if errors are found, and less frequent if they are not. A highly privileged gate entry will be provided to set the intervals, or turn off this feature entirely.

Implications

Until MK4.1, only the first memory on each SCU can be checked. A better way of implementing this would be a HEALS hproc. This will be investigated for MK4.1.
TITLE: Improve I/O error logging

AUTHOR: Larry Johnson

Planned for System: Mr 4.0
Fixes Bug Number(s): not applicable
Documented in MIB: not applicable
Incompatible Change: yes
User/Operations-visible Interface Change: no
Coded in: (S)PL/I ( )ALM ( )other-see below

Performance: ( )better ( )same ( )worse

DOCUMENTATION CHANGES (specify one or more)

MPM (vol,sect) MPAM (sect)
MSN (sect) MSAM (sect)
PLs (AN#)
Info Segs

OBJECTIONS/COMMENTS:

headings are: SUMMARY, REASONS, IMPLICATIONS, DETAILED PROPOSAL (optional)

Summary

Make logging of I/O errors for HEALS more complete and uniform.

Detailed Proposal

1. Log more information. The device and channel commands causing the error are required.

2. Provide a replication count for duplicate errors. An error often results in a burst of identical messages as the program tries to recover. A count of duplicate messages will save space in the log and reduce syserr overhead.

3. Greater selectivity over what errors are logged. Currently rcp specifies to ioi_ what major status are to be logged. This is not sufficient. With the next ioi_installation, ring 0 will have the device type in the ioi data base. Using this, ioi_interrupt will examine the major and minor status to determine which status are to be logged.

4. Have the disk DIM and ocdcm write messages in the same format.

Implications

Item 3 puts knowledge of specific devices back in ring 0, which is probably bad, but no other method yet proposed is as efficient for getting the right data logged.
The trim_syserr_log command deletes old syserr messages from the permanent syserr log. All messages older than a specified number of days are deleted. The program, however, will break the log at an arbitrary point and may leave the first message in the log as an "-" message. It should not do this.

Reasons

No program will ever know what the message is.

Detailed proposal

Have trim_syserr_log not leave an "-" message as the first message in the log.

Implications

trim_syserr_log may delete slightly fewer messages than expected, but it is unlikely that the discrepancy will be more than a few minutes.
TITLE: Fix bug in daily_syserr_process

AUTHOR: Larry Johnson

Planned for System: MB 4.0
Fixes bug Number(s): not applicable
Documented in MTb: not applicable
Incompatible Change: no
User/Operations-visible Interface Change: no
Coded in: (W)PL/I ( )ALG ( )other-see below
Performance: ( )better (W)same ( )worse

DOCUMENTATION CHANGES (specify one or more)
MPM (vol,sect) MPAM (sect)
MOSA (sect) MSAM (sect)
PLMs (AW#)
Info Segs
Other

DOCUMENTATION CHANGES (specify one or more)

OBJECTIONS/COMMENTS:

Headings are: SUMMARY, REASONS, IMPLICATIONS, DETAILED PROPOSAL (optional)

Summary

If the first message daily_syserr_process encounters is an "=" message, it does not know the true text of the message and all message selection options work improperly.

Detailed Proposal

If daily_syserr_process should find an "=" as the first message it positions to, it will read backwards through the log until a non "=" message is found, so that the text of the first message is known. It will then re-position back to the first message, and continue normally. The print_syserr_log program already does this.
**Summary**

syserr_logger can encounter a mylock error if the initializer process attempts to handle a syserr_log interrupt while the answering service has the log locked doing a log copy operation.

**Detailed Proposal**

Have syserr_logger check for a mylock error, and ignore the interrupt. Many interrupts are lost anyway, so losing one more does not create a problem.

**Implications**

This is only an interim fix. It will not be required once syserr_log interrupts are replaced by an hproc to perform the function.
**TITLE:** Add ordered field sort to sort_seg

**AUTHOR:** Mike Grady

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category (Check One)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lib. Maint. Tools</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sys. Anal. Tools</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sys. Prog. Tools</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

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**STATUS**

<table>
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<th>1/2/76</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**DATE**

| Expires | 10/3/76 |

---

**DOCUMENTATION CHANGES**

- **Document**
  - Specify One or More

---

**OTHER**

**User/Operations-visible Interface change?**

- Yes [x] No [ ]

**Incompatible change?**

- Yes [x] No [ ]

**Performance:**

- [x] Better [ ] Same [ ]

- [ ] Worse

---

**Use these headings:**

- Summary of Proposal
- Reasons for Proposal
- Implications
- Detailed Proposal

**Summary:**

Add the ability to specify independent sort order (i.e., ascending or descending) for each field in the sort.

Also add a faster sort to sort_items_indirect_.

---

**Reasons:**

These features and improvements were required for the USGS benchmark and have been used by others since then. It is an obvious extension to the sort_seg routine.

---

**Implications:**

The improved sort algorithm is not going to be put into sort_items_, since its low usage does not seem to warrant the additional work required.

---

**Detailed proposal:**

See the attached MPM documentation to be added to sort_seg.
MPM Commands - sort_seg

-ordered_field field_spec
-ofl field_spec

specifies a sort with independent ordering of the fields, i.e., mixed ascending and descending fields. Use of this control argument is incompatible with either the -ascending or -descending control arguments. The field specifications are as follows:

\[ S_1 \ L_1 \ O_1 \ S_2 \ L_2 \ O_2 \ldots \ S_n \ L_n \ O_n \]

where \( S_i \) and \( L_i \) are as in -field above, and \( O_i \) can be either "asc" to indicate an ascending field or "dsc" to indicate a descending filed. Note that the arguments to -oof always come in triples.
Title: Log MPC Statistics in syserr_log

Author: Larry Johnson

Planned for System: MR 4.0
Fixes bug Number(s): not applicable
Documented in MTB: not applicable
Incompatible Change: no
User/Operations-visible Interface Change: no
Coded in: ( )PL/1 ( )ALM ( )other-see below
Performance: ( )better (x)same ( )worse

DOCUMENTATION CHANGES (specify one or more)
MPH (vol,sect) MPAM (sect)
HOSN (sect) HSAI (sect)
PLHS (AN#)
Info Segs
Other
None (reason)

OBJECTIONS/COMMENTS:

Summary
The answering service will periodically scan MPCs connected to the system and record statistics from them in the syserr log.

Reasons
This information is useful to HEALS reporting.

Detailed Proposal
A new parameter will be added to installation_parms, mpc_scan_time (mpc_), which will control how often MPCs are to be scanned. The default of 0 implies never. A subroutine interface will be added to the dump_mpc command that can be called by the answering service to read statistics. A new entry will be added to initializer_gate_ ($syserr) to allow the answering service to log the statistics in the syserr log.
SUMMARY:

Upgrade form_link_info_ and interpret_link_ for *system links. These subroutines should be changed to decode *system links so that print_link_info will reflect them.

REASONS:

New feature (*system links) will be better supported.
TITLE: Fix bug in link_unsnap_ which does not unsnap links into separate static.

AUTHOR: Steve Webber

Planned for System: MR 4.0
Fixes Bug Number(s): not applicable
Documented in MTB: not applicable
Incompatible Change: no
User/Operations-visible Interface Change: no
Coded in: (x)PL/I ( )ALM ( )other-see below
Performance: ( )better ( )same (x)worse

DOCUMENTATION CHANGES (specify one or more)
MPM (vol,sect) MPAM (sect)
MOSN (sect) MSAM (sect)
Info Segs
Other
None (reason) no change

OBJECTIONS/COMMENTS:

SUMMARY:

Fix a bug in link_unsnap_ so that links snapped into the static of a program will be unsnapped when the segment is terminated. This does not currently work if the program has separate static.

REASONS:

Bug fix.

DETAILED PROPOSAL:

Each snapped link that is looked at when determining which links to unsnap must also be checked to see if it points into the static for the program being terminated. This is a slight performance loss in the case of separate static programs.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Headings are: SUMMARY, REASONS, IMPLICATIONS, DETAILED PROPOSAL (optional)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUMMARY:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add a new program, find_parm, to the system for reading PARM (parameter) configuration cards. The parm cards are intended to replace several other configuration cards including:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>utbl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>debg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REASONS:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The use of multiple configuration cards is impinging on the current limit (64) of configuration cards allowed. The new proposal would allow multiple system parameters to be placed on a single card as is currently done with the DEBG card. Since the facility is becoming more general, the DEBG card is renamed PARM.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DETAILED PROPOSAL:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The new routine is called as follows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>call find_parm (name, p);</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

where name is char (4) aligned and specifies the parameter desired. p is returned pointing to the place in the 'card' where the name was found. This allows several pseudo-cards to be place on one physical 'card'. The routine returns a pointer to the first occurrence of the name in any of the PARM cards. There may be several PARM cards in the deck.
IMPLICATIONS:

The DEBG (and other) cards will have to be updated when the system is released. Due to the current proposed design, care must be taken to make sure that an argument to a parameter on a PARM card not appear to be another parameter.
MULTICS CHANGE REQUEST

TITLE: Install several area management utility routines.

AUTHOR: Steve Webber

Planned for System: MR 4.0
Fixes Bug Number(s): not applicable
Documented in MTB: not applicable
Incompatible Change: no

User/Operations-visible Interface Change: yes
Coded in: ( )PL/I ( )ALM ( )other-see below
Performance: ( )better ( )same ( )worse

DOCUMENTATION CHANGES (specify one or more)

MPM (vol,sect) MPAM (sect)
MOSN (sect) MSAM (sect)
PLMs (AN#) AN51
Info Segs
Other

OBJECTIONS/COMMENTS:

SUMMARY:
Install the following area management utility routines. The features of the area management mechanism have already been approved.

define_area_ for creating/initializing an area
area_info_ for getting information about an area
release_area_ for cleaning up a "defined" area
area_status a command for status of areas

REASONS:
Useful interfaces for manipulating areas. There is currently no accepted way to enable many of the features of the new area mechanism.

DETAILED PROPOSAL:
Simple implementation of the routines described with the attached documentation.
Name: define_area_

This subroutine is used to initialize a region of storage as an area and to enable special area management features as well. The region being initialized may or may not consist of an entire segment or may not even be specified at all in which case a segment is acquired (from the free pool of temporary segments) for the caller.

Usage

declare define_area_ entry (ptr, fixed bin (35));
call define_area_ (infop, code);

where:

1. infop points to the information structure described below. (Input)

2. code is a returned status code. (Output)

The structure pointed to by infop is the standard area_info structure used by the various area management routines and is described by the following PL/I declaration:

dcl 1 area_info aligned based,
  2 version fixed bin,
  2 control,
    3 extend bit (1) unaligned,
    3 zero_on_alloc bit (1) unaligned,
    3 zero_on_free bit (1) unaligned,
    3 dont_free bit (1) unaligned,
    3 no_freeing bit (1) unaligned,
    3 pad bit (31) unaligned,
  2 owner char (32) unaligned,
  2 n_components fixed bin,
  2 size fixed bin (18),
  2 version_of_area fixed bin,
  2 areap ptr,
  2 allocated_blocks fixed bin,
  2 free_blocks fixed bin,
  2 allocated_words fixed bin (30),
  2 free_words fixed bin (30);
define_area_

where:

1. version is to be filled in by the caller and should be 1.

2. control are control flags for enabling or disabling features of the area management mechanism.

3. extend if ON indicates the area should be set up so that it is extensible. This feature should only be used for perprocess, temporary areas.

4. zero_on_alloc instructs the area management mechanism to clear blocks at allocation time.

5. zero_on_free instructs the area management mechanism to clear blocks at free time.

6. dont_free is used during debugging to disable the free mechanism thereby not allowing reuse of storage within the area.

7. no_freeing instructs the area management mechanism that no free requests will ever be made for the area and that, hence, a faster allocation strategy can be used.

8. owner is the name of the program that is requesting the area be defined. This is used for extensible areas only and is needed by the temporary segment manager.

9. n_components is the number of components in the area. (This item is not used by the define_area_subroutine).

10. size is the size, in words, of the area being defined.

11. version_of_area is 1 for current areas and 0 for old-style areas. (This item is not used by the define_area_subroutine).

12. areap is a pointer to the region to be initialized as an area. If this pointer is null, a temporary segment is acquired for the area and areap is set as a returned value. If areap is initiallynonnull, it must point to a 0 mod 2 address.
13. allocated_blocks is the number of allocated blocks in the entire area. (This item is not used by the define_area subroutine.)

14. free_blocks is the number of free blocks in the entire area (not counting virgin storage). (This item is not used by the define_area subroutine.)

15. allocated_words is the number of allocated words in the entire area. (This item is not used by the define_area subroutine).

16. free_words is the number of free words in the entire area. (This item is not used by the define_area subroutine).

The above structure is defined by the system include file, area_info.incl.pl1.

Notes

See the writeup of release_area in this manual for a description of how to free up segments acquired via this interface.
Name: release_area_

This subroutine is used to clean up an area after it is no longer needed. If the area is a segment acquired via define_area_ then the segment is released to the free pool via the temporary segment manager. If the area was not acquired (only initialized) via define_area_ then the area itself is reinitialized to the empty state. In any case, segments acquired to extend the area are released to the free pool of temporary segments.

usage

declare release_area_ entry (ptr);

call release_area_ (areap);

where:

1. areap points to the area to be released. (Input)
area_info_

Name: area_info_

This subroutine returns information about an area.

Usage

declare area_info_ entry (ptr, fixed bin (35));
call area_info_ (infop, code);

where:

1. infop points to the structure described below. (Input)
2. code is a returned status code. (Output)

Notes

The structure pointed to by infop is described by the following PL/I declaration:

dcl 1 area_info aligned based,  
   2 version fixed bin,  
   2 control,  
      3 extend bit (1) unaligned,  
      3 zero_on_alloc bit (1) unaligned,  
      3 zero_on_free bit (1) unaligned,  
      3 dont_free bit (1) unaligned,  
      3 no_freeing bit (1) unaligned,  
      3 mbz bit (31) unaligned,  
   2 owner char (32) aligned,  
   2 n_components fixed bin,  
   2 size fixed bin (30),  
   2 version_of_area fixed bin,  
   2 areap ptr,  
   2 allocated_blocks fixed bin,  
   2 free_blocks fixed bin,  
   2 allocated_words fixed bin (30),  
   2 free_words fixed bin (30);
where:

1. version is set by the caller and should be 1.
2. control are control bits describing the format and type of the area.
3. extend is ON if the area is extensible.
4. zero_on_alloc is ON if blocks are cleared at allocation time.
5. zero_on_free is ON if blocks are cleared at free time.
6. dont_free is ON if free requests are disabled (for debugging).
7. no_freeing is ON if the allocation method assumes no freeing will be done.
8. owner is the name of the program which created the area if the area is extensible.
9. n_components is the number of components in the area.
10. size is the total number of words in the area.
11. version_of_area is 0 for (old) buddy system areas and 1 for standard areas.
12. areap is filled in by the caller and can point to any component of the area.
13. allocated_blocks is the number of allocated blocks in the area.
14. free_blocks is the number of free blocks in the area (not including virgin storage within components).
15. allocated_words is the number of allocated words in the area.
16. free_words is the number of free words in the area not counting virgin storage.

DRAFT: MAY BE CHANGED -2 04/05/76 AN51
No information is returned about version 0 areas except the version number.

If the "no_freeing" feature is enabled, the counts of free and allocated blocks are returned as 0.
Name: area_status

The area_status command is used to display certain information about an area.

Usage

area_status area_name -control_args-

where:

1. **area_name** is either a pathname or a segment number specifying the segment containing the area to be looked at.

2. **control_args** are optional and may be selected from the following:
   - **-trace** requests that a trace of all free and used blocks in the area be displayed.
   - **-offset n** specifies that the area begins at offset n (octal) in the given segment.
   - **-long (-lg)** specifies that the contents of each block be dumped in both octal and ASCII format.

Notes

If the area has internal format errors, these are reported. The command does not report anything about (old) buddy system areas except that they are old areas.
**Title:** Move get_definition to >sss  

**Author:** M. Weaver  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>Explain in DETAILED PROPOSAL</td>
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<td>Fixes Bug Number(s)</td>
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**DOCUMENTATION CHANGES**  

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<td>MSAM (Sect.)</td>
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**Objections/Comments:**  

Use these headings: SUMMARY, REASONS, IMPLICATIONS, DETAILED PROPOSAL (Optional)

**SUMMARY:** Move get_definition from bound_prelinker to bound_segment_info.

**REASONS:**

It is used by FAST runtime, but a prelinked FAST process doesn't want the rest of bound_prelinker static around.
**TITLE:** Retain entry `full_command_processor_$return_val`

**AUTHOR:** Steve Herbst

<table>
<thead>
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<td>Document</td>
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<tr>
<td>Specify One or More</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incompatible change?</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance:</th>
<th>Better</th>
<th>Same</th>
<th>Worse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Replaces MCR</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objections/Comments:**

- `doc ok`

**Use these headings:** SUMMARY, REASONS, IMPLICATIONS, DETAILED PROPOSAL (Optional)

**SUMMARY:** Retain the entry point `full_command_processor_$return_val`, which is documented in the Tools PLM.