

Application Weaknesses

Thoughts on DEIS Thrust

1

What have been ARC weaknesses relative to applications in the past and how can we avoid them in any future endeavor? ARC management needs to go over this list and see what has changed or can be changed to eliminate these weaknesses. If we can not have high confidence that these problems are understood and to be eliminated, I have little confidence of success and would not recommend proceeding.

1a

We have often launched things without having fully thought out possible future paths and resources needed to really pull them off. In other words we launch too fast, without enough thought.

1a1

We have tried to be too many things to too many people, we want to be the best documentation sys, the best dialog support sys, the best management sys, the best software engineering sys, NIO etc.

1a2

Poor liaison with clients and really understanding their problems.

1a3

Not getting adequate commitment from client or looked at another way picking clients not sufficiently motivated to really use us effectively and willing to assert themselves.

1a4

We have not fully realized that application of a technique in the real world requires many more resources, then prototype demonstration of an idea (a factor of from 2 to 10).

1a5

We tend to solve part of a problem and not get the many details needed to really make it useful in real environment.

1a5a

We tend to want to impose our whole world view and approach on others (at least we seem to #ive off this type of vibration) and not spend enough time understanding their problem and introducing things to them as they are needed.

1a6

We have 10 years experience and forget the gap that exists between us and our clients. We tend to ignore the needs of novice users.

1a7

We live in a much simpler world organizationally, or at least different then our clients and we tend to have a built in momentum to build things for ourselves and hope it will also be useful to our clients.

1a8

We tend to see things long term, but application clients are

Application Weaknesses

generally under short term constraints (6-12 month) for visible results.

1a9

Lack of computer capacity to support the application.

1a10

Application Weaknesses

(J21043) 20-DEC-73 15:04; Title: Author(s): Richard W. Watson/RWW;
Distribution: /DCE JCN MDK PR CHI; Sub-Collections: SRI-ARC; Clerk: RWW;

New TNLS thing not working

The TNLS address element for "jump to file return" -- .fr -- was not understood. I had to reload the file.

1

New TNLS thing not working

(J21144) 20-DEC-73 16:17; Title: Author(s): Jeanne M. Beck/JMB;
Distribution: /NEWNLS; Sub-Collections: SRI-ARC NEWNLS; Clerk: JMB;

New TNLS confusion

I was in TNLS in fixed recognition mode and assumed, wen prompted Y:/N:, that my input would be interpreted as any other command word in fixed mode, so I typed "no". It wouldn't take the "o" and didn't echo anything. Which way will Yes and No work when you fix them?

1

New TNLS confusion

(J21145) 20-DEC-73 16:31; Title: Author(s): Jeanne M. Beck/JMB;
Distribution: /NEWNLS; Sub-Collections: SRI-ARC NEWNLS; Clerk: JMB;

New Nls suggestion

In the new NLS the show file status command should print
"Try an Update File Compact command to improve % used"
instead of
"Try an Output File ..."

1

New Nls suggestion

(J21146) 20-DEC-73 17:50; Title: Author(s): Jeanne M. Beck/JMB;
Distribution: /NEWNLS; Sub-Collections: SRI-ARC NEWNLS; Clerk: JMB;

New TNLS error

I get an error message when I try to Show Disk space:
"Illegal String Designation"

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New TNLS error

(J21147) 20-DEC-73 17:52; Title: Author(s): Jeanne M. Beck/JMB;
Distribution: /NEWNLS; Sub-Collections: SRI-ARC NEWNLS; Clerk: JMB;

Another DAE failure

New TNLS does not recognize #marker
in an address expression

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Another DAE failure

(J21148) 20-DEC-73 17:53; Title: Author(s): Jeanne M. Beck/JMB;
Distribution: /NEWNLS; Sub-Collections: SRI-ARC NEWNLS; Clerk: JMB;

New TNLS confusion

1. I did Show File Marker list--
and got the info for default directory
 2. I then marked a character
 3. I repeated Show File Marker list--
and it showed my marker correctly
 4. I deleted the marker
 5. I did Show File Marker list--
and it still shows my marker
- (I can't tell if it really deleted it because the jump to marker DAE
element isn't working)

1

New TNLS confusion

(J21149) 20-DEC-73 18:00; Title: Author(s): Jeanne M. Beck/JMB;
Distribution: /NEWNLS; Sub-Collections: SRI-ARC NEWNLS; Clerk: JMB;

NLS Append Command Query

Mil:

A fairly quick question. I tried to use the Append command in NLS for the first time today. the command I used was

Append to A: .0 from A: (srw,Directives) d T: SP

It then gave me 'fst entry nonexistent' am I doing something wrong? Adding the same text as is in (srw,Directives) d using Insert Text gave no errors. The file I was inserting into is (uk-ics,post,)

Cheers .. Steve

1

NLS Append Command Query

(J21150) 21-DEC-73 00:30; Title: Author(s): Stephen R. Wilbur/SRW;
Distribution: /MEJ; Sub-Collections: NIC; Clerk: SRW;

INTERROGATE and <user-progs>

Dean:

Thanks for your very detailed answer to my queries. I hope the exams turn out ok. By the way "o/p" is an abbreviation I use regularly to mean "output".. funny how one takes such abbreviations as standard!

One problem really. In studying your answers I tried to access <user-progs>address.nls. This is not currently on-line, but what is worse, when I used INTERROGATE, it returned the EXEC prompt immediately the closing diamond bracket around the directory name had been typed. It was quite happy with the directory <journal> though.. is it that directory <user-progs> is locked from the general public in some way?

Another quick one on the same lines. Does <journal> embrace all the <ijournal>, <jjournal>, etc. directories, or is it still necessary to INTERROGATE each one in turn if you do not know which directory a particular item resides in?

I have not got round to experimenting with DEL as a control char but I will let you know the results when I do. Once again, Thanks very much for your help,

Cheers .. Steve

1

INTERROGATE and <user-progs>

(J21151) 21-DEC-73 02:20; Title: Author(s): Stephen R. Wilbur/SRW;
Distribution: /NDM; Sub-Collections: NIC; Clerk: SRW;

XMAS MESS TO IS

MERRY XMAS TO ALL FROM THE STAFF...

1

XMAS MESS TO IS

(J21152) 21-DEC-73 07:13; Title: Author(s): Roberta J. Carrier/RJC;
Distribution: /RADC; Sub-Collections: NIC RADC; Clerk: RJC;

21152 Distribution

1

Larry M. Lombardo, Anna A. Cafarelli, Roberta J. Carrier, Donna R. Robilotta, David L. Daughtry, Richard H. Thayer, Frank J. Tomaini, Mike A. Wingfield, Edmund J. Kennedy, Ray A. Liuzzi, John W. Johnson, Donald Van Alstine, Dean F. Bergstrom, William P. Bethke, Frank S. LaMonica, William E. Rzepka, Rocco F. Iuorno, Frank P. Sliwa, Thomas J. Bucciero, Robert E. Doane, David A. Luther, Roger B. Panara, John L. McNamara, Joe P. Cavano, Duane L. Stone, Marcelle D. Petell, Josephine R. Stellato, Robert K. Walker, Thomas F. Lawrence, James H. Bair,

1a

Status of CCL

Wayne, Ron, Ken--

Please advise me immediately, if not sooner, on the status of the work you have done (?) on the Net Common Command Language, so I can figure out how much time to allot to it, at the Jan meeting.

Thanks, Nancy

1

21153 Distribution

A. Wayne Hathaway, Ronald M. Stoughton, Kenneth L. Bowles,

1
1a

Status of CCL

(J21153) 21-DEC-73 07:33; Title: Author(s): Nancy J. Neigus/NJN;
Distribution: /AWH RMS KLB; Sub-Collections: NIC; Clerk: NJN;

Agenda for Jan 3-4

Dave--

Please rule on the agenda, which is in my directory
(bbn-net,agenda,1:), so I may send it to the USING group beginning of
next week. This is a backup note to my SNDMSG about same matter.

Nancy

1

21154 Distribution
David H. Crocker,

1
1a

Agenda for Jan 3-4

(J21154) 21-DEC-73 08:36; Title: Author(s): Nancy J. Neigus/NJN;
Distribution: /DHC; Sub-Collections: NIC; Clerk: NJN;

Holiday Season System Emergency Info

This is the emergency system backup info for the holiday season. It covers Christmas weekend (sat 12/22 - tue 12/25) and New Year's weekend (sat 12/29 - tue 1/1). Please don't call any of us over these weekends unless there is a really serious system problem. If there is a serious problem my (Jeff's) phone number is 341-9988. Smokey's is 327-8375. Call me first and not Smokey unless I'm unavailable. He's done his time in the war-zone. Happy holidays to everyone. Jeff

1

21155 Distribution

Donald C. (Smokey) Wallace, Richard W. Watson, Don I. Andrews,
James H. Bair, A. Jim Blum, Meredith (Reddy) E. Dively, Jeanne M.
Leavitt, Rodney A. Bondurant, Jeanne M. Beck, Mark Alexander Beach,
Judy D. Cooke, Marcia Lynn Keeney, Carol B. Guilbault, Susan R. Lee,
Elizabeth K. Michael, Charles F. Dornbush, Elizabeth J. (Jake)
Feinler, Kirk E. Kelley, N. Dean Meyer, James E. (Jim) White, Diane
S. Kaye, Paul Rech, Michael D. Kudlick, Ferg R. Ferguson, Douglas C.
Engelbart, Beauregard A. Hardeman, Martin E. Hardy, J. D. Hopper,
Charles H. Irby, Mil E. Jernigan, Harvey G. Lehtman, Jeanne B. North,
James C. Norton, Jeffrey C. Peters, Jake Ratliff, Edwin K. Van De
Riet, Dirk H. Van Nouhuys, Kenneth E. (Ken) Victor

1
1a
1b

Holiday Season System Emergency Info

(J21155) 21-DEC-73 09:03; Title: Author(s): Jeffrey C. Peters/JCP;
Distribution: /SRI-ARC; Sub-Collections: SRI-ARC; Clerk: JCP;

Instructions to PIs for Headings and Transmittal of IPT Papers

Paula-

The file which you can print out which contains the master headings for the PI's to use is in <north>ipt.

In the letter of instructions you send would you ask people to include the NIC number on the second page also.

Instructions to PI's for transmitting papers online to NIC:

Please use the heading form inclosed. Please put the NIC numbers on the second page also.

If additional papers are to be prepared, please call the NIC on (415) 329-0740 for additional numbers.

Send to SRI-ARC via FTP giving the paper the file name:

<pi>lastname.txt

Log in as user=GUEST, password=ARC, then use FTP.

-Jeanne

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4a

4b

4c

4cl

4d

4e

21156 Distribution

Paula Kazanjian, Michael D. Kudlick, Marcia Lynn Keeney, Douglas C. 1
Engelbart, 1a

Instructions to PIs for Headings and Transmittal of IPT Papers

(J21156) 21-DEC-73 09:33; Title: Author(s): Jeanne B. North/JBN;
Distribution: /PK2 MDK MLK DCE; Sub-Collections: SRIARC NIC ; Clerk:
JBN;
Origin: <NORTH>PIINSTRUC.NLS;2, 21-DEC-73 09:30 JBN ;

Critical IDENTFILE Need

Please read this. Concerns transition to Utility.

Critical IDENTFILE Need

Dick, Charles, Ferg ...

1

When the NIC (and I would think, also, all the other) users directories are moved to the Utility, we must have a one-time program run against the IDENTFILE to do this:

2

For those INDIVIDUALS whose organization is NOT SRI-ARC, and for whom Journal delivery is on-line, the "HOST" for on-line Journal delivery must be changed to "OFFICE-1".

2a

(This of course is far too big a task to do manually.)

2b

Just in case you haven't already thought of this, please consider this note as a request to have that program written and run at the appropriate time.

3

... Thanks, Mike

4

21157 Distribution

Richard W. Watson, Charles H. Irby, Ferg R. Ferguson,

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1a

Critical IDENTFILE Need

(J21157) 21-DEC-73 09:54; Title: Author(s): Michael D. Kudlick/MDK;
Distribution: /RWW CHI WRF; Sub-Collections: SRI-ARC; Clerk: MDK;

Good to hear from you. Right, lingo is lingo. Hear at ARC, I would have guessed "o/p" to mean Output Processor. I'm sorry address was not available. Can't imagine what the problem was with INTERROGATE. I will see that it is back online by the time you get this. Yes, specifying <journal> will search all the journal directories, as you guessed. That takes a lot of time, though, and may not be worth doing during the day when the load is high. Try using <USERGUIDES>ARCLOCATOR.NLS to find the proper journal index. That will tell you what directory to INTERROGATE. DEL is ASCII 177, and can be referred to in a program as 177B (the "B" stands for octal). I think it's the same as a RUBOUT. Good luck, and best wishes from all here for the holidays and new year. It's been a pleasure working with someone as capable as you. --Dean

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21158 Distribution
Stephen R. Wilbur,

1
la

(J21158) 21-DEC-73 10:20; Title: Author(s): N. Dean Meyer/NDM;
Distribution: /SRW; Sub-Collections: SRI-ARC; Clerk: NDM;

NIC User Directories for OFFICE-1

Request to Ferg to move NIC directories to OFFICE-1. A list of the directories to be moved is included in this note.

NIC User Directories for OFFICE-1

PLEASE MOVE THESE NIC USER DIRECTORIES FROM SRI-ARC TO OFFICE-1

Note: Included are individual NIC user directories; I do not wish to cause confusion among NIC users by deleting these at this time. We will handle these AFTER the transients of the transition to OFFICE-1 have settled down. ... Mike

AFDSC	1
ALOHA	2
AMES-ILLIAC	3
AMES-TIP	4
ANL	5
ARGONNE	6
ARPA	7
BBN-NET	8
BBN-TENEX	9
BCPL	10
CASE-10	11
CAT	12
CAT-PROGRAMS	13
CATALOG	14
CCA	15
CERL	16
CIRAD	17
CLEMENTS	18
CMU-10	19
COLES	20
	21

NIG User Directories for OFFICE-1

COWAN	22
ENERGY	23
ETAC	24
FIKES	25
FRALICK	26
GUEST (new directory: size = 50, and I WANT THE <GUEST> PASSWORD TO BE ANYTHING THE USER TYPES --- at least ARC and ARPA must both be valid!)	27
HARV-10	28
HELP	29
ILLINOIS	30
JPL	31
KELLEY (new directory: password = KK size = 100)	32
KREMERS	33
KUDLICK (new directory: password = MDK, size = 50)	34
LGHF	35
LL-TX2	36
MCKENZIE	37
MIT-AI	38
MIT-DMCG	39
MIT-MULTICS	40
MITRE-TIP	41
NBS-CCST	42
NBS-TIP	43
NETINFO (also want to have <NETINFO> at ARC as at present)	44
NEUMANN PGN	45

NIC User Directories for OFFICE-1

NIC	(also want to have <NIC> at ARC, as a log-in directory, password = NIC, size = 50)	46
NLMED		47
NORSAR-TIP		48
NSA		49
NSRDC		50
ONR		51
PARC-MAXC		52
PARC-VTS		53
PATRICK-TIP		54
PURDUE		55
RAND		56
RICHARDSON DTR		57
SCRL		58
SDAC-TIP		59
SDC-ADEPT		60
SIGART		61
SRI-AI		62
SRI-ARC	(new directory: password = ARC, size = 50)	63
SU-AI		64
SU-DSL		65
SU-HP		66
SU-MEX		67
TEALWING		68
TIPUG		69

NIC User Directories for OFFICE-1

UCLA-BC	70
UCLA-CCN	71
UCLA-NMC	72
UCSB	73
UCSD-CC	74
USC	75
UTAH-10	76

(Note: I have deliberately left UK-ICS off this list. Their time zone is not compatible with 5 AM to 9 PM; and their needs may be different from other NIC users. Therefore, I wish to keep them at SRI-ARC, until we can make definitive decisions.)

76a

YOU SHOULD DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH THE FOLLOWING DIRECTORIES, BASED ON ARC STAFF NEEDS (i.e., either move them, or leave them at SRI-ARC):

COSELL	bbn-tenex	77
DEUTSCH	parc-maxc	77a
GESCHKE	parc-maxc	77b
GILBERT	???	77c
MCCREIGHT	parc-maxc	77d
META	???	77e
METCALFE	parc-maxc	77f
MITCHELL	parc-maxc	77g
MURPHY	dec	77h
NIC-NLS	nls staff ?	77i
PLUMMER	bbn-tenex	77j
PORGEN	???	77k
		77l

NIC User Directories for OFFICE-1

SATTERTHWAITE	parc-maxc	77m
STEFFE	???	77n
SWEET	parc-maxc	77o
THOMAS	bbn-tenex	77p
TOMLINSON	bbn-tenex	77q
XPORGEN	???	77r

21159 Distribution

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Richard W. Watson, James C. Norton, Ferg R. Ferguson, James E. (Jim)
White, Elizabeth J. (Jake) Feinler, Kirk E. Kelley, Jeanne B. North,
Marcia Lynn Keeney,

1a

NIC User Directories for OFFICE-1

(J21159) 21-DEC-73 10:38; Title: Author(s): Michael D. Kudlick/MDK;
Distribution: /RWW JCN WRF JEW JAKE KIRK JBN MLK; Sub-Collections:
SRI-ARC; Clerk: MDK;
Origin: <KUDLICK>NICUTIL.NLS;4, 21-DEC-73 10:31 MDK ;

I sent this to Watson, Irby, and Ferguson. Concerns NIC users and on-line Journal delivery. You need not take any action.

21-DEC-73 1000-PST KUDLICK: Critical Iddentfile Need
cc: watson, irby, ferguson
Received 21-DEC-73 10:00:11

1

Dick, Charles, Ferg ... When the NIC (and I would think, also, all the other) users directories are moved to the Utility, we must have a one-time program run against the IDENTFILE to do this: For those INDIVIDUALS whose organization is NOT SRI-ARC, and for whom Journal delivery is on-line, the "HOST" for on-line Journal delivery must be changed to "OFFICE-1". (Note: There will probably be exceptions to the "NOT SRI-ARC" rule; for example, Xerox people, and UK-ICS people.) Just in case you haven't already thought of this, please consider this note as a request to have that program written and run at the appropriate time. (This of course is far too big a task to do manually.) ... Thanks, Mike

1a

21160 Distribution
Marcia Lynn Keeney,

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1a

(J21160) 21-DEC-73 10:43; Title: Author(s): Michael D. Kudlick/MDK;
Distribution: /MLK; Sub-Collections: SRI-ARC; Clerk: MDK;

New Content Analyzer program in User Programs Library: SRIFORM

Run it as a Content Analyzer program on all statements in file,
including origin.

New Content Analyzer program in User Programs Library: SRIFORM

It puts in leading spaces and directives to meet the requirements of
SRI's standard format.

1

21161 Distribution

Donald C. (Smokey) Wallace, Richard W. Watson, Don I. Andrews, 1
Stanford Research Institute , 1a
James H. Bair, A. Jim Blum, Meredith (Reddy) E. Dively, Jeanne M.
Leavitt, Rodney A. Bondurant, Jeanne M. Beck, Mark Alexander Beach,
Judy D. Cooke, Marcia Lynn Keeney, Carol B. Guilbault, Susan R. Lee,
Elizabeth K. Michael, Charles F. Dornbush, Elizabeth J. (Jake)
Feinler, Kirk E. Kelley, N. Dean Meyer, James E. (Jim) White, Diane
S. Kaye, Paul Rech, Michael D. Kudlick, Ferg R. Ferguson, Douglas C.
Engelbart, Beauregard A. Hardeman, Martin E. Hardy, J. D. Hopper,
Charles H. Irby, Mil E. Jernigan, Harvey G. Lehtman, Jeanne B. North,
James C. Norton, Jeffrey C. Peters, Jake Ratliff, Edwin K. Van De
Riet, Dirk H. Van Nounhuys, Kenneth E. (Ken) Victor 1b

New Content Analyzer program in User Programs Library: SRIFORM

(J21161) 21-DEC-73 11:49; Title: Author(s): N. Dean Meyer/NDM;
Distribution: /SRI-ARC SRI-AI; Sub-Collections: SRI-ARC SRI-AI; Clerk:
NDM;

Greeting

Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year from the Kennedys

1

21162 Distribution

1

Larry M. Lombardo, Anna A. Cafarelli, Roberta J. Carrier, Donna R. Robilotta, David L. Daughtry, Richard H. Thayer, Frank J. Tomaini, Mike A. Wingfield, Edmund J. Kennedy, Ray A. Liuzzi, John W. Johnson, Donald Van Alstine, Dean F. Bergstrom, William P. Bethke, Frank S. LaMonica, William E. Rzepka, Rocco F. Iuorno, Frank P. Sliwa, Thomas J. Bucciero, Robert E. Doane, David A. Luther, Roger B. Panara, John L. McNamara, Joe P. Cavano, Duane L. Stone, Marcelle D. Petell, Josephine R. Stellato, Robert K. Walker, Thomas F. Lawrence, James H. Bair, Joe P. Cavano, David L. Daughtry,

1a

Greeting

(J21162) 21-DEC-73 13:24; Title: Author(s): Edmund J. Kennedy/EJK;
Distribution: /RADC JPC(Thanks Joe) DLD2(Thanks a lot Dave for the
kind words); Sub-Collections: RADC; Clerk: EJK;

● Response to Peter Kirstein's questions about TYMSHARE availability.

Peter ... In response to your note of 18-Dec, here is the current status of the TYMSHARE PDP-10 machine and the plan for its availability on the Network, and in particular to UK.

1

It is expected that the TYMSHARE "OFFICE-1" facility will be operational within the next two weeks (sometime around the beginning of January). The full NLS facilities (including the NIC Journal and relevant features of TENEX) will be available on that system to subscribers of the SRI-ARC "Utility". A subset of these facilities will be available to NIC users, through four ports reserved for that purpose.

2

The contract with TYMSHARE requires that the OFFICE-1 system will be running six days a week, from 5 AM to 9 PM Pacific Time. As you know, these are the hours that our U.S. users will find most useful, and that is why we initially set it up that way. It may be that the OFFICE-1 system will be up for longer hours than that, but at the present time we cannot guarantee that.

3

To accommodate the UK users, we will continue for the short-term future to offer services to UK on the SRI-ARC system, as at present. But after the first of the year we will be discussing with you what alternatives there are, and will pursue these with you.

4

We (and other research groups in the U.S.) are under increasing funding pressure, and we need to find more direct ways of supporting the services we provide. So we really must explore with you the alternatives, and find some mutually acceptable way to accommodate your interests and needs.

5

The main alternative we see at the present is for UK and SRI-ARC to agree to a contract, in which some or all of the services of the Network Information Center and SRI-ARC are packaged and made available to suit UK's needs. We would hope that such a contract could be developed with you in the near future.

6

Please feel free to contact Doug Engelbart or me if you have further

questions at this time. I will be away for the period 22-Dec through 1-Jan, and will look forward to renewing our correspondence after that time.

7

... Mike Kudlick

8

21163 Distribution

Peter Kirstein, Douglas C. Engelbart, Richard W. Watson, James C.
Norton,

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1a

(J21163) 21-DEC-73 17:40; Title: Author(s): Michael D. Kudlick/MDK;
Distribution: /PK DCE RWW JCN; Sub-Collections: SRI-ARC; Clerk: MDK;
Origin: <KUDLICK>KK.NLS;6, 21-DEC-73 17:34 MDK ;

Brief reply to Steve Wilbur (U. of London) on his file space needs.
For background, see (mjournal,20923,1:wy).

Steve ...

Sorry for the delay in responding to your request for ways to alleviate your file space problems.

I haven't yet a long term solution to offer (though I'm as desirous of one as you are), so I hope you are willing to try a short term one for a while: I've had the file space allocation for directory <UK-ICS> increased to 200 pages. This should be done by 26-Dec at the latest, due to holidays here.

I hope you will not take our inability to come forth immediately with the appropriate resources as any indication whatever of our lack of desire to cooperate and collaborate with you. To the contrary. Doug and the rest of us here would rather have you as a customer because of our mutual interests. So we are hoping that we can work something out to our mutual benefits.

I'll be in touch with you shortly after the first of January (till then, I'll be away on a short vacation), and will be better able at that time to discuss other alternatives on the file space problem. Meanwhile, I hope the extra space will relieve some of the tightness you've been experiencing.

Best regards ... Mike Kudlick

21164 Distribution

Stephen R. Wilbur, Douglas C. Engelbart, James C. Norton, Richard W.
Watson,

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1a

(J21164) 21-DEC-73 18:12; Title: Author(s): Michael D. Kudlick/MDK;
Distribution: /SRW DCE JCN RWW; Sub-Collections: SRI-ARC; Clerk: MDK;
Origin: <KUDLICK>WILBUR.NLS;2, 21-DEC-73 18:10 MDK ;

POST - A British Mail System

Stephen R Wilbur

Dept. of Statistics and Computer Science

University College, London

POST - A British Mail System

Introduction

1

Because the British node of the Arpa network is so distant from the main computing power of the network, good communications facilities are vital. British users, at present, have not had wide experience of the network and so few have their own accounts, since they are unaware of which machines they would want them on. Consequently, the only account which all British users have access to is UK at USC-ISI, and with potentially in excess of twenty users, the problems of securing mail against accidental deletion are vast if only RD were available. Thus, a system somewhat akin to the NLS Journal ident system has been embodied within RD to form the subsystem called POST.

1a

POST has mnemonic identifiers within it for most of the UK users and some of the UCL staff, in the present version. In the case of mail addressed to staff of UCL, their mail is appended to ident files in the KIRSTEIN account at ISI. Mail sent to the KIRSTEIN account at BBN can also have identifiers included within it, but only UCL staff idents are recognised, since general UK users do not have access to this account.

1b

Mail can be addressed to one, several or all users of a particular account. The last case is for broadcast mail which is dealt with specially, and is particularly useful for warning of changes to features of general interest, such as London TIP availability.

1c

POST Facilities

2

Since POST is based on RD, most of the RD mail reading facilities still exist. The characteristics of M@, MH, MK and MY have changed, and a number of additions have been made. Apart from the obvious message handling macros, MG and M1 are macros for dumping out the macros to file and reading them back in again, respectively. Since the complete macros now amount to about 6,000 characters, some formalised means of setting up the program was necessary, and MG and M1 provide this. Including new user idents is described later.

2a

When POST is entered it first reads in the message file. This file is then searched for a line containing the word Attn or ATTN. If found, such a line is extracted and repeatedly searched for all the known idents. A copy of the current message is appended to each user's file whose ident was found and the message is deleted from the buffer. If no idents were matched, or there was no attn line, the message is appended to

the GENERAL.MSG file. This procedure is repeated for each message in the buffer.

2b

Broadcast messages are addressed to ALL. Once the message file has been sorted a summary of the messages in ALL.MSG is output, and the user can type out any of these which he has not seen, using the MT command.

2c

As soon as sorting is complete the user's ident is requested, after which he would typically call MY to read in his personal mail and list it, ie. present a one line summary of each item. From here on all the normal RD facilities can be used, eg. items may be read and put into the ACTION or FILE files, or they may be written out to a temporary file for other processing. In addition POST allows items to be selectively deleted.

2d

When all messages have been dealt with, MX is called and any items not deleted from the buffer are saved back in the user's personal file and POST exits to Exec level.

2e

A slightly different pattern is likely to occur if the user gives his ident as being 'general'. GENERAL.MSG is where all undirected messages go, so that normal practice is to give ones ident as being general, and to use the MI command to reroute messages from that file to their proper recipients. The messages can then be deleted and POST called again to look at personal mail in the normal manner. Obviously, once correspondents become aware of POST and include idents in messages this practice will be less necessary.

2f

Idents are usually from two to four character mnemonics, and some idents have synonyms. This only applies to UCL staff at present, where the synonyms relate to the person's function, eg. SK or ADV would refer to Sylvia Kenney dealing with advisory matters. To cause a message to be directed to someone the word Attn or ATTN followed on the same line by their ident in capital letters must be included in the message. It is preferable, but not essential, that this line be the first of the message body.

2g

Scenario

3

The following scenario illustrates the POST system being used to look at a broadcast message, redirect mail from the general file, deleting messages, and looking at ones own personal mail. Note that the character \$ means ESC, and that after the MI and MK commands are obeyed the message being referred to is

displayed in summary. The MK command affects the numbering of messages, so beware

3a

BBN-TENEX 1.31.92, BBN-SYSTEM-A EXEC 1.51.19

@LOGI KIRSTEIN

JOB 46 ON TTY102 22-DEC-73 05:38

YOU HAVE A MESSAGE

@NO R

@post

TECO 1.28

POST: 20 Dec 73 -- Sort bug cured, MX changed, Broadcast file changed

590 CHARS

Sorting Mail ... Sorted

** Broadcast Mail **

1 10-DEC-73 KIRSTEIN POST: To read this type 1MT[ESC]

2 20-DEC-73 KIRSTEIN at BBN-TENEX POST Sort Bug Cured

MY[ESC] lists personal mail

MH[ESC] or MF[ESC] for help

Ident: general\$

*2mt\$

Net mail from site BBN-TENEX rcvd at 20-DEC-73 01:01:47

Date: 20-DEC-73 0404-EST

From: KIRSTEIN at BBN-TENEX

Re: POST Sort Bug Cured

cc: kirstein at USC-ISI

Attn: ALL

There was a bug in POST which caused general messages on occasion to be sent to an arbitrary recipient. This has been cured. At the same time the file used to hold broadcast messages has been changed, and a confirmatory message is given when MX is obeyed, indicating whether your message file has been updated or not.

Steve Wilbur

*my\$

1 22-DEC-73 UK-ICS at SRI-ARC Redirect to PLH and SRW

*1mi\$

1 22-DEC-73 UK-ICS at SRI-ARC Redirect to PLH and SRW

Ident: plh,Ident: srw\$

*1mkmx\$

1 22-DEC-73 UK-ICS at SRI-ARC Redirect to PLH and SRW

Clear File? [CR=yes]:

Msg File Updated

@post

TECO 1.28

POST: 20 Dec 73 -- Sort bug cured, MX changed, Broadcast file
 changed

290 CHARS

Sorting Mail ... Sorted

** Broadcast Mail **

1 10-DEC-73 KIRSTEIN POST: To read this type 1MT[ESC]
 2 20-DEC-73 KIRSTEIN at BBN-TENEX POST Sort Bug Cured

MY[ESC] lists personal mail

MH[ESC] or MF[ESC] for help

Ident: srw\$

*my\$

1 22-DEC-73 UK-ICS at SRI-ARC For Steve Wilbur Only

2 22-DEC-73 UK-ICS at SRI-ARC Redirect to PLH and SRW

*1mt2mt\$

Net mail from site SRI-ARC rcvd at 22-DEC-73 05:38:08

 Date: 22-DEC-73 0235-PST

From: UK-ICS at SRI-ARC

Re: For Steve Wilbur Only

Attn: SRW

This message only goes to SRW since it has the proper Attn
 line in it. Note that only the first such line is acted upon.

 Net mail from site SRI-ARC rcvd at 22-DEC-73 05:36:33

Attn: PLH,SRW

Date: 22-DEC-73 0233-PST
 From: UK-ICS at SRI-ARC
 Re: Redirect to PLH and SRW
 - - - -

This message will have to be redirected
 using MI, because it has no idents after
 the word ATTN.

*1mk1mkmx\$

1 22-DEC-73 UK-ICS at SRI-ARC For Steve Wilbur Only
 1 22-DEC-73 UK-ICS at SRI-ARC Redirect to PLH and SRW

Clear File? [CR=yes]:

Msg File Updated

@logo

KILLED JOB 46, USER KIRSTEIN, ACCT 117372, TTY 102, AT
 12/22/73 0543

USED 0:0:9 IN 0:4:30

Summary of Commands

4

This section describes the commands available at a user level.
 Those with an asterisk are either new or have been modified
 from RD. # represents an integer, usually a message number.

4a

M@ * Does initial sorting of message file, types out the
 initial blurb, a summary of broadcast messages and reads
 in the user's ident. This is automatic on initial entry
 to POST.

4b

#MA Appends the message quoted to the currently open file.
 A file must have been previously opened for appending,
 using EA.

4c

MF * Types out a short help message.

4d

MH * Types out the comprehensive help message.

4e

#MI * This causes a copy of the named message to be sent to a
 particular user. A list of idents is asked for, the
 last of which must be terminated by ESC, the others by
 any of CR, SP or comma.

4f

#MJ Jump to the message whose number is quoted. A one line
 summary is typed out.

4g

#MK * Delete the quoted message from the buffer. The message

- will be deleted from the user's ident file when he exits using MX. 4h
- ML Gives a brief summary of all messages in the buffer, together with their sequence numbers for reference. 4i
- MN Types out the next message on the console. 4j
- #MO Open one of the files for appending. There are two special files: ACTION.MSG and FILE.MSG. They have code numbers of 1 and 2 respectively. Thus 1MO would open the action file. 4k
- #MR Open special file for reading only. A summary of the messages is output on the console. 4l
- #MS Appends (saves) current message to one of the special files. A copy of the message is still left in the buffer after this operation. MS opens, appends and closes the special file requested. 4m
- #MT Types out the quoted message on the console. 4n
- MU * Types out the ident list file, (see section 5). This gives user name, ident file and ident for all users to whom messages may be rerouted. 4o
- #MV Creates a new version of one of the special files, ie. 1 = action, 2 = file. 4p
- MX * Close ident file, writing out the buffer contents to it. If the buffer is empty confirmation is requested. 4q
- MY * Open personal file of user for reading. Also, a summary of the messages in that file is given. 4r

Identifiers

5

Below is listed the current IDENT.POST file for account UK at ISI. The first column represents the ident, the second the file to which messages are appended, and the remainder is a plain language description of the person or body represented by the ident. 5a

PTK	<KIRSTEIN>PTK	Prof PT Kirstein, UCL
PK	<KIRSTEIN>PTK	
HRG	<KIRSTEIN>HRG	Hugh Gamble, UCL
ENG	<KIRSTEIN>HRG	

POST - A British Mail System

PLH	<KIRSTEIN>PLH	Peter Higginson, UCL
PDP	<KIRSTEIN>PLH	
SK	<KIRSTEIN>SK	Sylvia Kenney, UCL
ADV	<KIRSTEIN>SK	
AVS	<KIRSTEIN>AVS	Adrian Stokes, UCL
360	<KIRSTEIN>AVS	
SRW	<KIRSTEIN>SRW	Stephen Wilbur, UCL
DOC	<KIRSTEIN>SRW	
UCL	<KIRSTEIN>GENERAL	General mail for UCL
BRE	<UK>BRE	Blacknest Research Est.
BL	<UK>BL	British Library, Lending Div.
BPO	<UK>BPO	British Post Office
CADC	<UK>CADC	Computer Aided Design Centre
CLRU	<UK>CLRU	Cambridge Language Research Unit
CUCL	<UK>CUCL	Cambridge University Computer Lab.
ERA	<UK>ERA	Electrical Research Association
ESX	<UK>ESX	University of Essex
GILL	<UK>GILL	Dr S Gill
IC	<UK>IC	Imperial College, London
NPL	<UK>NPL	National Physical Laboratory
PCL	<UK>PCL	Polytechnic of Central London
QMC	<UK>QMC	Queen Mary College, London
RHEL	<UK>RHEL	Rutherford High Energy Laboratory
ALL	<UK>ALL	Broadcast Mail

Broadcast Mail

6

Broadcast mail is in most respects no different from personal mail. It is addressed to all the users within one account by including the line Attn ALL within the message concerned. Since it goes only to all users within an account, this means that both UK and KIRSTEIN at ISI must be addressed using SNDMSG if the news pertains to all UK users.

6a

The only respect in which such mail does differ from personal mail is that when the normal mail has been sorted, the file ALL.MSG is read and if it is not empty a list of broadcast messages is typed for the user. At this point he can use the MT command (after giving his ident), to obtain the full messages.

6b

Since ALL is an identifier just like others, broadcast messages can be deleted and rerouted by giving the ident ALL. Rerouting of such messages is not of much value, though.

6c

Files Used by POST

7

Since POST is written in Teco macros, there is very little

file control in the system. This means that when POST tries to access a file it MUST exist. This section outlines the files which POST needs in addition to the users' ident files.

7a

GENERAL.MSG

7b

This file is used to hold all undirected mail. It is normally created with protection status 770000, since it is not needed from outside the user's account.

ALL.MSG

7c

This file is used to keep broadcast messages in. Like GENERAL.MSG it is never used between accounts and can have protection 770000.

Ident.MSG

7d

For each user defined in the IDENT.POST file there must exist a file called Ident.MSG, where Ident is the filename given in IDENT.POST. These files need not be in the same account as the IDENT.POST file since the directory is quoted. However, if Ident.MSG is in another account it must have append status by the general public, ie. a protection code of 770404.

IDENT.POST

7e

This file contains the idents, filenames and descriptions of users. The format is shown in section 5, and the layout is not critical. Important points to note are that each line must terminate in a CR, ie. especially the last line. The ident and filename fields MUST be terminated by at least one space, those with no user names attached do have a space after the filename. The filename must include the directory in all cases and each entry must not be more than one line long. Note also that ALL must be included although GENERAL need not.

Creating a New Version of POST

8

A new version of POST can be easily created from the file of Teco macros as shown below. These macros are normally kept at BBN in account KIRSTEIN, but they may be readily dumped out from POST itself by the MG command. This command creates a macro file called POST.MAC which is in a form ready to be read in as shown below.

8a

If changes are to be made to POST, then they should be made in the POST.MAC file. New macros may be added, provided the same format is adhered to as for the other macros; however, there is little room left for new macros.

8b

Once a version of POST.MAC is in a suitable form it must be read into Teco as shown, the M1 command must be obeyed and the core image saved using SSAVE. When this core image is reentered it starts at the macro in Q-register @.

8c

ISI-TENEX 1.31.65, ISI-TENEX EXEC 1.51.2

@LOGI UK 1

JOB 6 ON TTY41 23-DEC-73 07:16

@NO RAISE

@prot post.sav 777752

@teco

*;y\$

INPUT FILE: post.mac;1 [Confirm]

6127 CHARS

*3sREADY\$2lb,.xlm1\$

READY

*†C

@memSTAT

16 PAGES, ENTRY VECTOR LOC 6000 LEN 3

0-3 PRIVATE R, W, E

6-15 <SUBSYS>TECO.SAV;4 2-11 R, CW, E

20-23 PRIVATE R, W, E

@ssave 0 3, 6 15, 20 23 post.sav [New version]

@prot post.sav 525252

@logo

KILLED JOB 6, USER UK, ACCT 1, TTY 41, AT 12/23/73 0718

USED 0:0:5 IN 0:2:8

Adding New Identifiers

9

In order to add a new user ident into the system the IDENT.POST file has to be updated and a personal message file has to be created. IDENT.POST is generally kept with read-only protection on it so the scenario below shows this being changed, the new ident being added, and protection being put back on. The old ident file is not deleted in the

example, but would obviously be so in practice. In the example below, the user (Fred Smith) is given two idents, FRED and SMITH, but all his mail will go to file SMITH. Thus, to read his mail he gives his ident as SMITH, but correspondents may address him as either FRED or SMITH.

9a

The personal file is given protection status 770404, which allows him to read or write the file from account UK, and to have messages appended from other accounts. If passing of messages were not necessary a protection of 770000 would be used.

9b

ISI-TENEX 1.31.65, ISI-TENEX EXEC 1.51.2

@LOGI UK 1

JOB 6 ON TTY41 23-DEC-73 06:49

@NO RAISE

@prot ident.post 770000

@teco

*;y\$

INPUT FILE: ident.pOST;1 [Confirm]
1167 CHARS

*sALL\$0lt\$

ALL <UK>ALL Broadcast Mail

*iFRED <UK>SMITH Fred Smith ** Sample **

SMITH <UK>SMITH

\$-3tt\$

RHEL <UK>RHEL Rutherford High Energy Laboratory

FRED <UK>SMITH Fred Smith ** Sample **

SMITH <UK>SMITH

ALL <UK>ALL Broadcast Mail

*;u\$

OUTPUT FILE: ident.pOST;2 [New version]

*hk;u\$

OUTPUT FILE: smith.msg;p770404 [New file]

*;h\$

@prot ident.post 420000

@logo

KILLED JOB 6, USER UK, ACCT 1, TTY 41, AT 12/23/73 0652

USED 0:0:3 IN 0:3:31

Errors

10

A number of error messages do exist within the Teco macros for POST. These deal with the user selecting a message which does not exist and similar errors. The other errors likely to be met all are filing errors which POST cannot deal with since it cannot interrogate the filing system to find whether files exist, or there is enough space, etc.

10a

Filing Errors

10b

Two common causes of filing error occur. The first is when a message arrives for an ident for which there is no personal file set up, and the second when the system runs out of disc space.

If a message exists for a particular user, with an accepted ident, but no file set up, then the message

?OUTPUT ERROR

?13

abc.MSG\$

is likely to occur. The characters 'abc' should give a clue as to which file is missing, and it can then be set up and POST run again. The message is not lost in this process.

Quite often at ISI, the disc reserve falls below the 1000 page level and no new files are allowed to be created. A similar message to the above may occur in this case. In such cases, one has just to wait until the free disc space shown in a DSKSTAT goes above the threshold.

Filing Conflicts

10c

Since files are referenced across account boundaries within POST, and also on some machines more than one person may be logged into the same account, there is a real risk that file accessing conflicts may occur.

In order to minimise the effect of these, since nothing appears possible at the Teco file handling level, the following strategy has been employed. When a file which may be updated is first read in, the number of characters in it is stored (Q5). Just before the modifications are due to be written out the file is reread and the first Q5 characters are deleted. This takes care of any messages

which have arrived whilst processing was in progress. The file is re-written with the new version inserted at the beginning. Whilst this is not completely foolproof, it does only allow conflicts to cause lost messages for only a very brief time.

Conclusions

11

One limitation of the present version is that since Tecu has no command to delete files (that I know of), version 1 of the personal file is overwritten when it is updated. On a Tenex this has the annoying characteristic that the length of the file is the maximum length that file was ever extended to, not the current size.

11a

If files are kept fairly clear, this maximum stabilises at about three pages, but even this can be excessive if several users share the file space. To overcome this, it is necessary periodically to delete the personal files, expunge and re-create them (when they are empty). Ways of improving this situation are being investigated.

11b

POST, on the whole, is now robust and easy to update. It exists both at ISI and BBN, but users at ISI must call it by <UK>POST unless they are using account UK. Our early use of it has shown it to be very valuable where a number of people share an account, and the version presented here has most of the early criticisms dealt with.

11c

APPENDIX 1

Q Registers Used

12

This section describes the Teco Q registers which are used by POST. A number are only scantily dealt with since they were taken from RD and have not be changed or even referred to in POST.

12a

Q@ - Initial Entry

12b

This register has been radically altered from its function in RD., and it now reads in the message file, sorts it, lists broadcast messages, and reads in the user's ident.

The method employed is as follows. The message file is read, and if it contains messages a search macro is made up from the IDENT.POST file and put in Q4. An attn line is searched for, and if not found in the first message, the message is appended to GENERAL.MSG. If the attn line is in the first message then the line is extracted (q6), searched repeatedly using q4 and the message appended to the appropriate file(s). When all messages have been sorted in this way the MESSAGE.TXT file is re-read, Q5 characters are deleted and the file is re-written. ALL.MSG is then read in and if it contains messages these are listed. Finally, the user's ident is read in and the flag Q5 is set to -1.

It uses the following registers directly:

- E to read in user ident
- 0 to store user's ident (capital letters)
- 2 save filename for setting up search macro
- 3 save ident for setting up search macro
- 4 search macro
- 5 character count
- 6 save attention line
- 8 workspace
- 9 marker for search (0 = no idents found)

QA - Append Message to Current File

12c

This has not been altered from RD. It uses the following Q registers:

- B points to beginning of current message
- J macro to jump to cited message
- Z points to end of current message

QB - Pointer 12d

Register B is set up by various search macros to point to the beginning of the current message.

QC - Counter 12e

This register contains the number of the current message. It is updated by searches.

QD - Type Current Message 12f

This register contains a macro which types the current message, after stripping off the first line. It is unchanged from RD, and uses the following registers:

- B points to beginning of curr msg
- Z points to end of curr msg

QE - Read in User Ident 12g

This macro reads in the user's ident to the current position in the text buffer. In the process, lower case letters are converted to upper case, and ^A is treated as a delete character. A variety of delimiters may be used; these are space, comma, carriage return, alt mode and escape. Register used:
8 temporary storage

QF - Fast Help File 12h

This is a new macro which types out a brief summary of the commands available in POST. It does not use any Q registers.

QG - Dump Macros 12i

This macro causes all macros to be dumped out on to file POST.MAC in a form suitable for editing or making a new version of POST.SAV as described above. The buffer is cleared before dumping. No Q registers are used.

QH - Normal Help File 12j

This is a modified version of the original RD macro, and it results in the full help messages being output to the console.

QI - Redirect Message

12k

This macro allows a copy of a message to be redirected to other users. The method used is first to jump to the cited message and then read in the idents. An attention line is inserted in the message and the message is appended to MESSAGE.TXT. Registers used are:

- B beginning of message pointer
- C curr msg number
- E to read in ident
- J To jump to message
- Z end of message pointer
- 2 to hold old message char count
- 3 to store posn before char count in msg
- 7 temp storage of new idents
- 8 parameter/terminator of ident
- 9 end of buffer pointer

QJ - Jump to Cited Message

12l

This is unchanged from RD. The cited message is searched for, and a one line summary of the message is typed out. Uses:

- B beginning of curr msg
- C curr msg number
- M macro to move to next msg
- P macro to print msg summary
- Z end of curr msg
- 8 parameter

QK - Delete Message from Buffer

12m

Macro to delete the cited message from the buffer. When the next MX command is obeyed the ident file of the user is updated, and the message will have been deleted. Uses the registers:

- B beginning of curr msg
- C curr msg number
- J jump to cited msg
- Z end of curr msg

QL - List of Messages in Buffer

12n

This macro is unchanged from RD. It uses registers:

- B beginning of curr msg
- C curr msg number
- M macro to move to next msg

P macro to print one line summary

Z end of curr msg

QM - Move to Next Message

12o

This is unchanged from RD. It searches for the next message in the buffer and updates registers B, Z and C appropriately. Apart from these the other register used is:

9 char count

QN - Type Next Message

12p

Unchanged from RD. Uses macros in registers M and D to find the next message and then type it out.

QO - Open Special File for Appending

12q

Depending on the numeric parameter quoted, one of the files ACTION.MSG or FILE.MSG is opened for appending messages to from the current buffer. It uses the register:

8 parameter

QP - Print Summary of Message

12r

Unchanged from RD. This macro prints a one line summary of the current message, containing the message number, date, author, and title. It uses registers:

B beginning of msg pointer

Q macro to print msg number

7 line char count

9 temp storage

QQ - Type Current Message Number

12s

This macro types out the number in register C, followed by one space. Registers used are:

C curr msg number

1 char count, see macro P

8 temp storage

9 temp storage

QR - Open Special File for Reading

12t

Unchanged from RD. Opens ACTION or FILE file. Uses registers:

L to give summary of messages

8 for parameter

QS - Save Message in Special File

12u

Unchanged from RD. Saves copy of current message in the specified special file. Uses registers:

- B pointer to beginning of curr msg
- O macro to open special file
- Q to write out number of msg saved
- Z end of curr msg pointer

QT - Type Specified Message

12v

Types out the specified message. Registers B, C, and Z are used in the normal way. Other registers used are:

- D type out curr msg
- M find next msg
- 8 parameter

QU - List of Users

12w

Types out a list of idents to which messages may be re-routed, together with the owners name. Uses:

- 9 end of buffer marker

QV - Open New Version of Special File

12x

As for RD. Q8 is used to hold the parameter specifying which file is to be opened.

QW - Writes Message to Temporary File

12y

This function is not publicised in the help messages for POST, since it is envisaged that it may need to be withdrawn when new facilities demand further registers.

Registers used are:

- B beginning of curr msg pointer
- J macro to jump to specified msg
- Z end of msg pointer

QX - Exit to Exec

12z

This macro potentially updates the personal file of the user. Two special cases leave the file intact. These are when the personal file has not been read and when it has been read but not updated, ie. no MK commands have been used. If it has to be re-written the buffer is first saved in Q4, the ident file is read in, the first Q5 chars are deleted and the buffer is re-inserted at the beginning. The whole buffer is then output. A suitable message is

output to indicate whether the file has been updated.

Registers used are:

- 0 for user ident
- 2 for open file to read macro
- 3 for open file to write macro
- 5 message char count.

QY - Read and Summarise Ident File

12a@

Reads in the ident file of the current user and gives a summary of the messages within it. It uses registers:

- L for summary
- 3 for temp macro to open file

QZ - Pointer

12aa

This register is used to hold the end of the current message pointer.

Q0 - User Ident

12ab

The user's ident in upper case letters is held in register 0. It has no terminating carriage return, escape, or colon stored with it.

Q1 - Restore Macros

12ac

The macro in register 1 is used to set up the Q registers before making a SAV file of the system. Instructions for use are given above.

Q2 - Workspace

12ad

Q3 - Workspace

12ae

Q4 - Workspace

12af

Q5 - Message Character Count

12ag

Q6 - Workspace

12ah

Q7 - Workspace

12ai

Q8 - Parameter/Workspace

12aj

Q9 - Workspace

12ak

Abstract

This note describes a mail reading system based on the RD system found on many Tenex installations on the Arpa network. Both RD and this system (POST) use Teco macros to give the mail recipient easy access to his mail. POST differs from RD in that it sorts mail from the basic message file and drops it into individual files if a certain identifying sequence is present in the message. Any messages which do not have such a sequence fall into the GENERAL.MSG file. From here they can be manually readdressed.

21165 Distribution
Stephen R. Wilbur,

1
1a

POST - A British Mail System

SRW 29-DEC-73 00:13 21165

NIC 21165

INDRA Note 330

(J21165) 29-DEC-73 00:13; Title: Author(s): Stephen R. Wilbur/SRW;
Distribution: /SRW; Sub-Collections: NIC; Clerk: SRW;
Origin: <UK-ICS>POST.NLS;12, 28-DEC-73 23:49 SRW ;

File access/storage bug

I just tried to use the Nic locator. The statment referred to by
(nic,locator,2e2e) is not online.

1

21166 Distribution

Bgs Bugs, Diane S. Kaye, Harvey G. Lehtman, Charles H. Irby,

1
1a

File access/storage bug

(J21166) 22-DEC-73 01:37; Title: Author(s): David H. Crocker/DHC;
Distribution: /BUGS; Sub-Collections: NIC BUGS; Clerk: DHC;

News Mini-Help Notice

Mike, I took the message you sent and modified it as in the following. You may not have known that the updates are assembled into the following months issue, so I changed that statement. Also, I indicated other alternatives for item submission. Otherwise, I like the idea...Thanks Mike.

1

The ARPANET News is published monthly and distributed by mail to all individuals who request distribution from the Network Information Center. Updates to the News are made available on-line at the NIC, and are assembled in the following months hardcopy issue.

The News is sponsored by the Information Processing Techniques Office of ARPA (ARPA/IPT). Contributions should be sent to Jean Iseli (iseli@USC-ISI; or help@NIC; or JI through NIC Journal System), or to Mil Jernigan (jernigan@NIC, or MEJ through NIC Journal System).

To read the ARPANET News on-line at the NIC, follow this scenario (the symbol "<cr>" means "carriage return"):

@NIC <cr>

Type NIC followed by <cr> to select the QUERY system
(you will receive QUERY's greeting message here).

-A <cr>

Type A followed by <cr> to select the ARPANET News

Then follow QUERY's instructions to select articles you wish to see.

2

21167 Distribution

Michael D. Kudlick, Mil E. Jernigan, David H. Crocker,

1
1a

News Mini-Help Notice

(J21167) 22-DEC-73 11:46; Title: Author(s): Jean Iseli/JI;
Distribution: /MDK MEJ DHC; Keywords: help-news-notice; Sub-Collections:
MITRE-TIP NIC; Clerk: JI;
Origin: <HELP>KULICK.NLS;1, 22-DEC-73 11:27 JI ;

DML News Article

Abhay:

The circumstances surrounding the article for the News are understood. Please do not feel badly about it....Maybe we could do it for February? If not, then maybe you can say when? I understand very well the possibility that the article you wrote may require modification and we will be very happy to publish an article whenever it is possible for you.

Incidentally, I would also like to take this occasion to thank you for your fine collaboration on our behalf and to wish you a fine new year full of health and prosperity.

Jean

1

21168 Distribution
Abhay K. Bhushan, Mil E. Jernigan,

1
1a

DML News Article

(J21168) 22-DEC-73 16:00; Title: Author(s): Jean Iseli/JI;
Distribution: /AKB MEJ; Keywords: mit-news-article; Sub-Collections:
MITRE-TIP NIC; Clerk: JI;

News January SU-AI Article

Les:

I have taken the liberty of writting the enclosed article about SU-AI.....By accident, I ran accross your Bureau program and found it a fine model deserving of Network visibility. I hope you do not mind my publishing this in the ARPANews, which you may view at NIC by typing the sequence:

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@NIC<CR>
-A/rpanews/<CR>
-s/how/ su-ai<CR>
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I would very much appreciate any other items that you deem newsworthy and would like to extend my sincere appreciation for the many wonderful moments spent at your site, just browsing, and being delighted by what seredipitously was found.....Jean

Encl:

(su-ai) A New Accounting Capability at SAIL

A new accounting capability has been introduced at SAIL, SU-AI [Host 11], by L. Earnest. The program is invoked by typing: R BUREAU<CR>, and instructions may be found by typing: TYPE BUREAU.LES/up,doc/.

For readers who have not tried the Stanford University Artificial Intelligence machine, it is host 11 and can be entered, during off-hours, with the login: L NET/GUE<CR>.

Trail usage of the program was suggestive of a fine capability; enabling users to retrieve, with a great deal of flexibility, attributes of their computer usage.

News January SU-AI Article

(J21169) 23-DEC-73 02:01; Title: Author(s): Jean Iseli/JI;
Distribution: /LDE MEJ(a little seredipity, eh?); Keywords:
News-su-ai-january-article; Sub-Collections: MITRE-TIP NIC; Clerk: JI;
Origin: <HELP>LDE.NLS;1, 23-DEC-73 01:51 JI ;

21169 Distribution
Lester D. Earnest, Mil E. Jernigan,

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Note to NMRO re DEIS and ARC participation level

Eric and Dave: Just a note to let you know that we at ARC are moving ahead, to be maximally ready to respond if/when agreements are reached. Quickly available terminals, with the range of characteristics likely to be useful, high-speed modems, special support crews from ARC to serve as "startup teams" for a quick-start Center, etc. Looking into availability, costs, etc., and how we might organize ourselves to provide transiently heavy startup-crew staffing.

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As I mentioned on the phone, there are two recent Journal memos that provide relevant background: From me to SRI management, outlining my special view of the DEIS Project, and of the two ways in which ARC should connect (one, the new way, being this of directly contacting you to arrange with you as buyer for exploratory use of our Knowledge-Workshop services in relevant applications of your choosing, see -- 20940,), and the other memo being from me to John Perry, telling him of the foregoing move, and of my intentions to approach you (also listing a number of special "virtues" that we see in giving you and your DEIS activity specially concentrated help -- 21034,).

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After our phone talk on Fri., I've been giving some thought to your remark, Eric, about there being only until July to learn about all of the things that will mean so much. Would it seem out of line to you fellows to consider ARC turning almost all of its ARPA-supported resources (the trained staff, operational facilities) into a maximum effort to help in the best possible way in the DEIS activity?

2

In the past, we have mustered our forces several times behind unusual events that proved to be highly rewarding experiences -- a real shakedown of our knowledge and capabilities (and of team spirit): in '68 when we put on a live, online demo, projection-TV and all, at the FJCC; in '69 when we did a repeat for the ASIS (both presentations before large audiences in San Francisco, remote operations); and in '72 for the ICCO (much work for months, helping pull together scenarios and documents from Net resources, and having 12 people in Washington for six days working night and day).

2a

My intuition says that we could do a lot for "the cause." Maybe 25 to 30 people at peak times (not quite sure yet what our minimum level of services to NIC etc. would require, from our total staff of around 35). We can help in many ways besides just the NLS Workshop stuff (in which we could make a significantly larger, quicker impact with full firepower turned on it) -- but also in hitting hard on the analysis, trial design, experimentation that could be involved in assessing other Network-resource integration into a coordinated system.

2b

Note to NMRO re DEIS and ARC participation level

The idea has a certain strong appeal to me. My people would really like to get their teeth into something real and coherent, and to test where we are and what we've got. Take this as a serious suggestion from me.

2c

How much can IPTO "give" to you? (Something like loaning you a medium-sized airplane for six months?) There would be extra costs, in terminals and travel.

2d

Also been thinking of other ways to increase the level of relevant exploratory experience, of manpower to help in various important ways. For instance, there are quite a number of DoD agencies that have needs for which some of their people are very much interested in the ARPANET and Knowledge Workshop potential, and where there is high interest in some individuals in getting a chance to learn how to use NLS, in demonstrating then to their own people. They can't quite swing enough support (some seem to be, though) to buy a \$40 K/yr minimal-module of our AKW Utility service so that they can bring the service into their shop, learn to use it, and show their people. I have a feeling that they could, however, get permission to go away from home for a period of training and experience, where they could work in the NLS environment, in the midst of a serious, operational activity, rolling up their sleeves and pitching right into the middle of it.

3

Anyway, not to crowd too much on you before we even discuss things enough to see how much effort you think you could harness -- but my head is really ticking about all of this. Sort of messing up my Christmas shopping, so it helped to sit down and dash this off.

4

Be looking forward to hearing from you. Will be looking out for mail (SNDMSG o.k.); don't quite know how much you might be puffing away at this stuff over the holidays, but I wouldn't mind a bit being called at home if you want to talk. Home phone is (415) 322-9087.

5

And Merry Christmas. Doug

6

21170 Distribution

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James C. Norton, Richard W. Watson, Paul Rech, Michael D. Kudlick,
Bonnar Cox, David R. Brown, Eric H. Willis, David C. Russell, John S.
Perry, J. C. R. Licklider, Allan G. Blue,

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Note to NMRO re DEIS and ARC participation level

(J21170) 22-DEC-73 22:39; Title: Author(s): Douglas C.
Engelbart/DCE; Distribution: /JCN RWW PR MDK BC DRB EHW DCR2 JSP JCRL
AGB; sub-Collections: SRI-ARC; Clerk: DCE;

Re: (8220,)

If what you suggest is true, we should form our own Local of the Afl-Cio.

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21171 Distribution
Dirk H. Van Nouhuys,

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Re: (8220,)

(J21171) 23-DEC-73 16:53; Title: Author(s): David H. Crocker/DHC;
Distribution: /DVN; Sub-Collections: NIC; Clerk: DHC;

Minor suggestions for Pocket OP Card

Dean and Dirk -- I think Lmbase and Plev might be good to include.
Not sure about Hjournal. I suggest DATE & TIME instead of SPECIAL
TEXT; and POSITION of TEXT instead of simply POSITION

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21172 Distribution

N. Dean Meyer, Dirk H. Van Nouhuys,

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Minor suggestions for Pocket OP Card

(J21172) 23-DEC-73 19:04; Title: Author(s): David H. Crocker/DHC;
Distribution: /NDM DVN; Sub-Collections: NIC; Clerk: DHC;