CPCMS.TXT by Emmanuel ROCHE

The origin of CP/M's name

Success!

At last!!!

While reading the 1973 "Guide to PL/M programming"
(dealing with the Intel 8008 version of PL/M),
I finally found mention of one of the only Operating
System names having ever started with "CP/".

As previously published in the comp.os.cpm Newsgroup,
I already knew that CP/M's commands were patterned
after the commands used on the DECsystem-10 (also
known as "PDP-10"), that was used inside Intel, but
from where was coming the name "CP/M" itself?

Personally, I never saw any mentions of any
explanation of its name's origin.

Since I started programming doing COBOL on
IBM mainframes, I knew that one of their
Operating System was named "CP/67".

I also knew, from one of the papers of
Gary Kildall, that he was thanking "the
operators of the S/360 at the Naval Postgraduate
School, of Monterey, Californa".

But the S/360 was THE IBM Mainframe. Everything
was tried with it. The hardware was not the problem:
the problem was the name of the Operating System
that the NPS was using when Gary Kildall was
teaching Computer Science (in particular: compilers)
in 1972.

So, imagine my joy when I finally found the following
"Figure" in the 1973 "Guide to PL/M Programming"
(page 56).

Pass-1 file definitions

```
               PDP-10
     Input              Output


Num   Device Unit        Num   Device Unit
---   ------ ----        ---   ------ ----
1    TTY    5          1    TTY    5
2    CDR    2          2    PTR    3
3    PAP    6          3    PAP    7
4    MAG    16          4    MAG    17
5    DEC    9          5    DEC    10
6    DISK   20          6    DISK   22
7    DISK   21          7    DISK   23



           IBM S/360 (CP/CMS)
     Input              Output


Num   Device Unit        Num   Device Unit
---   ------ ----        ---   ------ ----
1    TTY 80   5          1    TTY 120  5
2    CDR 80   10          2    PTR 133  3
3    TAP 80   11          3    PUN 80   7
4    TAP 140  9          4    TAP 133  12
5    DSK 80-L0 13          5    DSK 80-L0 13
6    DSK 80   1          6    DSK 80   3
7    DSK 80   2          7    DSK 80   4
```

Pass-2 file definitions

```
               PDP-10
     Input              Output


Num   Device Unit        Num   Device Unit
---   ------ ----        ---   ------ ----
1    TTY    5          1    TTY    5
2    CDR    2          2    PTR    3
3    PAP    6          3    PAP    7
4    MAG    16          4    MAG    17
5    DEC    9          5    DEC    10
6    DISK   22          6    DISK   20
7    DISK   23          7    DISK   21
```

```
              IBM S/360 (CP/CMS)
          Input                Output


      Num   Device  Unit        Num   Device  Unit
      ---   ------  ----        ---   ------  ----
       1    TTY 80   5           1    TTY 120  6
       2    CDR 80  10           2     PTR 133  8
       3    TAP 80  11           3    PUN 80   7
       4    TAP 140  9           4    TAP 133 12
       5    DSK 80-L0 13          5    DSK 80-L0 13
       6    DSK 80   3           6    DSK 80   1
       7    DSK 80   4           7    DSK 80   2
```

All input records are 80 characters or less.
All output records are 120 characters or less.
The FORTRAN unit numbers can be changed in the
subroutines GNC and WRITEL. (These are the only
occurrences of references to these units.)

Figure IV-3. PDP-10 and IBM System/360 real device assignment.

And, page 61, you can find the following sentence: "The particular
example shown in Figure IV-6 resulted from execution of PLM1 on
an IBM System/360 under the CP/CMS time-sharing system, using
a 2741 console."

Conclusion

I can therefore affirm that the name CP/M is
coming from the CP/CMS Operating System used on
the IBM System/360 used at the Naval Postgraduate
School of Monterey, California, in 1972, when
Gary Kildall was writing the PL/M compiler to
program the Intel 8008 CPU, which led him to
write the Disk Operating System known as CP/M
(that MS-DOS copied) (that was patterned after
the commands of the Operating System of the
DECsystem-10 used inside Intel), in order to have
a resident DOS under which to run PL/M on one
Intel MCS-8 computer system.

(As far as I know, the first microcomputer in the
world to run under a DOS was one Intel MCS-80 with
one ASR-33 Teletype used as the console and the
way to load the DOS from paper tape. Unfortunately,
I don't know the date.) (The drive was a 8" Shugart.)

The rest is history...

Yours Sincerely,
"French Luser"

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