

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

(J24051) 24-SEP-74 23:37;;; Title: Author(s): ARC FDBK
Feedback/FDBK; Distribution: /SRI=ARC([INFO-ONLY]) KWAC([INFO-ONLY
]) ; Sub-Collections: SRI=ARC KWAC; Clerk: KIRK; Origin: <
FEEDBACK, FDBK,NLS;200, >, 24-SEP-74 20:39 KIRK ;;;;####;

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Introduction, Assumptions, Decision Algorithm 1

Assumptions and Goals: 1a

This file was created as part of an attempt to develop a methodology for collecting, storing, retrieving, analyzing, and making decisions concerning user feedback. This methodology has not been finalized but is described in its present form below. 1a1

It has generally been observed that a "suggestion box" capability is needed to take advantage of user feedback that will allow the user to be easily informed of the status of his suggestion and to provide some scales of measurement for analysis and development decisions. The algorithm below is a way of augmenting this process with the specific intent of avoiding any extra burden on the already over-burdened people involved. 1a2

There are several steps in the following algorithm. These have been customized for the internal ARC feedback process concerning software development and documentation. However, they could be generalized for any development group that wishes to augment their feedback process. 1a3

Each Development group could have it's own feedback ident, sndmessage directory, decision file, and person responsible for coordinating the file. For example: 1a4

GROUP	COORDINATOR	IDENT(S)	FILE	SNMSG DIRECTORY
NLS DEVELOPMENT	JOAN	FDBK	<FEEDBACK,FDBK,>	FEEDBACK@SRI-ARC
USER DEVELOPMENT	JHB	FEED	<FEEDBACK,FEED,>	FEEDBACK@OFFICE-1
NIC DEVELOPMENT	JAKE	NIC	?	

If one group is sent an item which does not belong to that group, the feedback coordinator would be responsible for forwarding the item to the proper group. 1a5

A central Query Database could provide places from which any user could access the decision file to determine the status of his suggestion or to automatically express his opinion (via the Insert Opinion command described below) concerning a development thrust as depicted by a decision file. 1a6

An ANALYSIS team uses the decision files to analyze the feedback and make recommendations. 1a7

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It is assumed that the process of organizing, analyzing, and keeping track of user feedback, bugs, needs, possibilities, and thinkpieces is important enough to the decision process in a living system to warrant the allocation of the necessary initial setup and continuing maintenance time.

1a9

Algorithm for the NLS Software Development And Utility User Development Feedback Mechanism:

1b

USERS:

1b1

Send comments through SNDMSG to FEEDBACK@SRI=ARC or send them through the Journal to the ident: FDBK.

1b1a

Utility members send comments to their architect, who will forward them, or send them directly to ident FEED or through SNDMSG to FEEDBACK@OFFICE=1. An architect can send things to be shared by other architects to KWAC.

1b1b

Review the newly updated Future Needs & Possibilities branch when sent (see last step). They send their opinions to FDBK, use the "Insert Link" command or use the Insert Opinion Command (see SOFTWARE below).

1b1c

FEEDBACK COORDINATOR periodically (weekly):

1b2

Forwards items that belong to other groups to the appropriate ident.

1b2a

Reviews the Unclassified Items branch in <FEEDBACK>FDBK and makes an attempt to move bugs, trivia, Needs and possibilities, and implemented items to the appropriate places and consolidates duplications.

1b2b

Prints out (or otherwise gives to DEVELOPMENT) the BUGS and ACCEPTED TASKS branches.

1b2c

NLS SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT:

1b3

Once a week, or as provided by the Feedback Coordinator, reviews each item in the BUGS and ACCEPTED TASKS branches, and marks it as

1b3a

Future NP

Done

Rejects it or

Assigns it to an implementer.

1b3a1

* Moves marked items to their assigned branches in FDBK.

1b3b

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- Bug reports which are not clear enough should be rejected and the sender informed. 1b3b1
- [An optional step depending on the available time allocated for Feedback purposes would be to forward this current status information to the user(s) who made the suggestion.] 1b3b2
- [* items to be completed by the Feedback coordinator.] 1b3b3
- Updates the Accepted tasks branch in the Feedback file to contain the current NLS implementation categories with the ident of the implementer responsible for each category. 1b3c
- To items moved into the DONE branch, adds any changes made that are different from or not included in user feedback with descriptions sufficiently accurate for the documenter to document them. Note: if an implementer makes a change in the system and does not somehow get it represented in the DONE branch, IT WILL NOT BE DOCUMENTED. 1b3d
- Notifies the Feedback Coordinator when bringing up a new system. 1b3e
- After bringing up a new version of NLS, reviews each item in it's Future Needs & Possibilities branch and either 1b3f
- confirms its current position,
moves it to a more appropriate place,
rejects it, or
assigns it to an implementer. 1b3f1
- ANALYSIS:** 1b4
- Analyzes information in FDBK and integrates it with other data for the purpose of making suggestions to operations, NIC, user-development, help-development, software-development, and analysis and for determining problem areas to be followed up with further studies. Analyzes feedback mechanism for possible improvements. 1b4a
- DOCUMENTATION:** 1b5
- Checks the Help System branch under Accepted Tasks and implements or rejects suggested changes. 1b5a
- Periodically checks for new items in Done Branch, moves each item out of the branch into the Documented branch, and

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updates the documentation if necessary. <See ==
documentation, manual,>.

1b5b

FEEDBACK COORDINATOR for each new version of NLS:

1b6

Places items in each development area in the Future Needs & Possibilities branch in a suggested order of execution as directed by ANALYSIS supported by analysis' data and suggestions if any.

1b6a

Whenever a new version of NLS comes up, the feedback coordinator journalizes the entire feedback file at this time for posterity and to save space by sendmailing a link to the updated Future Needs & Possibilities branch to interested users filling out the proper NLS version number in the following form:

1b6b

TITLE: User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1
AUTHOR(S): FDBK
DISTRIBUTE FOR INFO-ONLY TO: SRI=ARC KWAC
FILE: <feedback, fdbk,>

COMMENTS: This document contains the status of user feedback decisions for NLS=8.1. It is over 100 pages long, we advise you NOT to print it. Read it online. For the new features and bug fixes, see the Documented branch. For those suggestions that have been rejected, see the Rejected branch. The items scheduled to be done in the next version are in <NLS,MODS>. Those items which remain as Needs & Possibilities are in <feedback, fdbk, future>.

1b6b1

After journalization, items for that NLS version in the Executed and Rejected branches are deleted and the link in the branch statement for these branches is updated to point to the newly journalized version.

1b6c

Very old Future NP items should be verified with their supporters to determine if they are still desired.

1b6d

SOFTWARE to augment this Algorithm:

1c

Insert Opinion B/A: (in favor?) Y/N: OK:
This command would be in the readmail subsystem and would allow anyone to insert their initials in front of an item classified in FDBK independent of whether they have write access. A minus sign would precede the idents of those that said "no".

1c1

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The Insert Link command in Sendmail subsystem should be implemented to allow anyone to use it on an item classified in FDBK independent of whether they have write access.

Complete Feature B/A (exactly as stated?) Y/N: OK;
 This command would move an item specified by an implementer from the implementer's "to do" branch to the appropriate category in the Implemented branch in FDBK to be documented.

Author: announcements of old versions of feedback

First journalized fdbk file == <24048,>

Unclassified Items

Journal (Sendmail and Message items)

KIRK 24-SEP-74 15:30 24043
 Bug with move file in NLS
 Message: When using the move message command, I get the message File Not Online ... Copy message works fine. NDM says the problem is a bug in the Move file command in nls that occurs with TXT files. Is this true? If so, will you (Ken) be fixing it?
 *****Note: [INFO-ONLY] *****

2a1

JHB Notes from Laura Gould Visit 24 June 1974 (Visitlog)
 1-JUL-74 18:25 (GJOURNAL, 23503, 1:W)
 *****Note: [ACTION] *****

2b

Comments: These notes are colored by my interests, rough but readable, and hopefully contain those suggestions that will be useful in the development of NLS.

2b1

Notes from Laura Gould Meeting, 24 June 1974

2b2

Seminar included discussion of three areas concerning the CAI NLS Project, "Mixed Intivie Tutorial Sysytem to Aid Users of the On-Line System". Contracted by The Deputy for Command and Management Systems, ESD, USAF (Dr. Mayer).

2b2a

Overview of the Primer (...see hardcopy):

2b2b

3 Units (chapters) or "lessons" which are roughly estimated to take about 1.5 hours each;

2b2b1

13 demo tasks run by the simulator;

2b2b2

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An Agenda program drives Scholar (not sure why that's significant,...); 2b2b3

It has the question mark facility. 2b2b4

Student tasks; 2b2b5

Student performed tasks are evaluated == task evaluator which references to a preferred command sequence; 2b2b5a

Has hierarchy of tasks; 2b2b5b

references to kinds of questions the student asks, noting the knowledge necessary to answer; 2b2b5c

Question-answering system; 2b2b6

Natural language == comfortable subset of English, uses dynamic parsing; 2b2b6a

Data Base which includes the structured facts encompassing 90% of the Primer (see listing of Data Base); 2b2b6b

Instantiation == will do natural language command that is discussed or introduced by the student. In general, the simulator, written in LISP, can perform 90% of the NLS commands. 2b2b6c

Primer deals with NLS divided into subsystems, eg. file handling. 2b2b7

Does not provide for different groups of students, no facility for skipping ahead over material that is known a priori. 2b2b8

Also "secretive", that is about not introducing commands, many of which represent short cuts, until a later session could conceivably cause bad feelings... "why didn't it show that before..." 2b2b8a

Recognition issue; 2b2c

LEG advocates DEMAND, not fixed anticipatory as we do, 2b2c1

because of the mnemonic value of typing up to a certain (comfortable) point, maybe even the whole command word,

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and the CONTROL of recognition (system doesn't take off and do something until the student is ready,**)	2b2c2
Recommendations (in addition to the recognition mode):	2b2d
Explicitly terminate the L: prompt field with CA, whether Null or not;	2b2d1
Print file command instead of Print only, This would not move the CM but would Print File from origin with basic default viewspecs (all, all, m...);	2b2d2
Print Rest command was cited (CHI) as improvement over the current Print only, which doesn't have a noun field.	2b2d3
LEG's comment in the context of training and introducing NLS to new users: "Need subset of NLS."	2b2d4
NO C: prompt for the first 2 fields: "what else can you type after the the herald?" Also, F; for filename rather than T;	2b2d5
"Noise words more helpful than prompts".	2b2d6
HELP data base not comprehensible, gave example of response to question about address. (Show Address...)	2b2d7
JHB Questions	2b2e
Suggestions for explaining plex.	2b2e1
reference book...necessary?? Yes, of course.	2b2e2
Ideas about test of NLS skill level...user assessment.	2b2e3
Graduated levels of NLS with restricted command set availability...first cut of this was given to her. Her response was favorable. She recommended the addition of markers and introducing SIDs a little earlier in the progression.	2b2e4
Citations w/o suggestions	2c
MDK A suggestion on NLS File structure, with Application to Back-Links and Output Processor Directives 27-NOV-73 10:36 (IJOURNAL, 20574, 1:w)	2c1
KIRK Proposed system using two viewspecs to view warps (text	

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- specified by a link instead of link syntax),
13-JUL-73 20:46 (LJOURNAL, 17811, 1:w) 2c2
- JEW Helping the User Keep Track of NLS Changes %NLS release
date = date of last NLS load = file of changes loaded
automatically%
11-MAY-73 13:52 (IJOURNAL, 16376, 1:w) 2c3
- JAKE Column manipulation
13-SEP-73 11:29 19059 2c4
- JEW Proposal for a New Family of NLS Editing Commands
23-OCT-73 12:49 (LJOURNAL, 19830, 1:w) %justifying text string
lengths% (19869,) (JBN) (17867,) (RLL) 2c5
- KIRK Two suggestions for handling statement names in NLS
superdocuments that must live in TENEX file structure,
%informaton preceding directory name in ORIGIN statement should
be saved = forget 2nd part%
14-DEC-73 12:03 (MJOURNAL, 20903, 1:w) 2c6
- RLL re: new text string = remarks %remarks that wouldn't
appear when file is printed = alternate to 19557)%
15-NOV-73 08:27 (IJOURNAL, 20258, 1:w) 2c7
- RLL margin note addition to nls %non-printing remarks%
8-OCT-73 18:09 (KJOURNAL, 19557, 1:w) 2c8
- JCN Response to JI Proposed NLS Features: Meta nls and Output
Nls (20028,) and (20027,) %supports%
3-NOV-73 09:01 (LJOURNAL, 20031, 1:w) 2c9
- JI G[oto] M[eta] N[ls] %repetitive tasks%
3-NOV-73 03:57 (LJOURNAL, 20028, 1:w) 2c10
- JI O[utput] N[ls] %to get rid of OP directives%
2-NOV-73 23:41 (LJOURNAL, 20027, 1:w) 2c11
- Bugs: see <nls,mods,bugs> 3

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Questions to Answer 4

Praise 5

Things that work impresssively well: show also, (I think this is the ideal structure for esacaping treeism), show <words> makes remarkably intelligent guesses, but it can also send you off into left field. The "O function is implemented beautifully, the "Q in the middle of an editor command getting you help is quite impressive, (Especially when it gets you some help that you want), The HELPs themselves are rather well written in most places that they are "finished", (RICART)

5a

KIRK 13=MAY=74 17:27 22983

Praise for the Feedback system

Message: I think the way Susan has been handling the NLS feedback is excellent. This is something we should have had long ago and I hope it becomes an established procedure for the future. It is all too easy to take for granted necessities that aren't apparant because they are working as they should. Let's not let this one go by the wayside after the newness of the new NLS wears off.

*****Note: * action * *****

5b

1=APR=74 1828=PDT BECK: Praise to Allah the HELP programmers
Distribution: FEEDBACK
Received at: 1=APR=74 18:28:21

5c

When I am busily constructing networks in the HELP Database (in New NLS) and want to check how my links work, I can immediately do a <control=q>, one show command to get to the branch I was working on and then step through the menus I have just created just as a HELP user would, do a Quit, and PRESTO! I'm back where I was in Editor, editing the file again. Very Nice,

5c1

17=FEB=74 1700=PDT KELLEY: Praize for the way level indenting works in xnls
cc: irby
Received 17=FEB=74 17:00:11

5d

I just used 21 levels with viewspecs 1 and B in <Continuum,sri> and they worked fine. When I turned off B, it worked fine also. Things like this which seem primarily database oriented and not document production or software production oriented are rare so I really appreciate one when it comes along. It makes me very happy. Thanks,

== Kirk

5d1

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JMB 17-DEC-73 11:31 20929

new TNLS

Message: I like what Delete File does; ie, prints==

"Deleted Files are:

(beck, dodad,nls;1,) and its partial copy"

Good Work!

5e

KIRK From-To feature in the Move and Copy commands,

5f

KIRK Ability to bug with the Insert command,

5g

KIRK All of the directory commands from NLS,

5h

Rejected Suggestions

For rejected suggestions prior to May 1, 1974, see (MJOURNAL,22906,)

6

KIRK 21-SEP-74 16:11 24021 This will not be done as it is a problem peculiar to taskers

bug with displaying spaces in the seventy-second character position when invisibles are turned on,

Message: no space is displayed,

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

6a

KIRK 21-SEP-74 16:14 24022

followup on space display bug

Message: The problem is when bugging that space, the bugmark does not appear,

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

6a1

DHC go away, directive, you bother me,

24-APR-73 10:52 16101 Message:

As nice as signature information is, on statements, it would be even nicer to have a viewspec/directive to show only the date from that information. The date, of the date, time and ident-of-creator is easily themost useful.

6b

ADD Suggestions

4-JAN-74 23:41 21295 Message:

I think NIC/QUERY should implement "w and <esc> and "R (at least the last) when typing the object of show. I also think NLs should implement "G as and "S and "R when entering text, more or less as in SNDMSG, although some sort of accomodation for the fact that <cr>'s are not normally put into statements would be necessary,

6c

DHC

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24-APR-73 10:55 16102 Message;

The insert date command saves the user from remembering and typing any specific date, but requires execution of a separate command. It would be much better to be able to enter the date naturally, while entering text. Perhaps a control character could be reserved for that, and put under the same user control as "D, "X, etc (echoing, selection of character, etc.)

6d

DIA Suggestion: I'd like to be able to save views

3-JAN-73 10:58 13664 Message:

When romping through a large and unfamiliar file, I often have the urge to get a handle for a view -- i.e. I want to do a jump return to a particular place I once was, but which is no longer in the jump stack. This happens when I'm reading a file, and don't want to do any kind of a write. How about letting a user give a name to a jump stack type entry and save it away. It would be associated with the file, but would be local to the user and not part of the file. They would go away when the file was closed,

6e

CONFIRM in the Goto and in the Execute commands should be consistent (none necessary!). (22060,) (KIRK)

6f

3. The Editor subsystem contains far too many commands, resulting in unnecessary alphabetic conflicts. (23116,) (MDK)

6g

In reality the presently implemented Editor subsystem seems to me to encompass AT LEAST three subsystems: an EDITOR, a FILE-handler, a TERMINAL-handler; and possibly also (depending on your viewpoint) a TELCONFERENCEING handler, and a HARDCOPY-OUTPUT handler,

6g1

I suggest the present editor subsystem be subdivided as shown below (I hope I haven't missed any commands; if so, I hope it will be obvious where they would go in this scheme).

6g2

Note that a few commands are common to more than one of the subdivisions, for ease of use. (I feel no esthetic or philosophical conflict in that approach.)

6g2a

Editor:

6g3

```
append string / structure
break      " "
copy       " "
delete     " "
insert     " "
```

6g3a

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move	string / structure	
replace	" "	
substitute	" "	
transpose	" "	6g3b
freeze	statement / branch / group / plex	
release	statement / branch / group / plex / all	6g3c
jump (as presently implemented)		
load file		
renumber sid's		
update		6g3d
set	case / filter / name=delimiters / viewspecs	
reset	" "	
show	" "	6g3e
sort		
merge		6g3f
print		
output quickprint		6g3g
execute		
goto		
help		
quit		6g3h
File Handler:		6g4
archive file		
copy file / directory / sequential / archive		
create file		
delete file / modifications		
expunge directory / archive		6g4a
load file		
move file		
protect file		
retrieve file		
trim directory		6g4b
connect directory		6g4c
set	archive / link=default / name=delimiters / temporary	
reset	" "	
show	" " / directory / file=status / disk=space	6g4d
set	private / public	6g4e

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sort		
merge		6g4f
undelete file / modifications		
verify file		6g4g
freeze statement / branch / group / plex		
release statement / branch / group / plex / all		
renumber sid's		6g4h
jump		
execute		
goto		
help		
quit		6g4i
Terminal Handler:		6g5
clear window		
split window		
simulate terminal		
move boundary		6g5a
set tty=window / char=size		
reset " "		6g5b
execute		
goto		
help		
quit		6g5c
Hardcopy Output Handler (or, possibly a part of the File-Handler):		6g6
output assembler / COM / journal / printer / quickprint / remote / sequential / terminal		
print		6g6a
set viewspecs / name-delimiters		
reset " "		
show " "		6g6b
jump		
execute		
goto		
help		
quit		6g6c
Teleconference Handler:		6g7

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start recording session	
stop recording session	
playback recording session	6g7a
accept connection	
connect terminals	
disconnect terminals	6g7b
link terminals (not presently implemented in NLS)	
break links " "	6g7c
Universal commands	6g8
help (getting you to a relevant place in the HELP data base)	6g8a
set (with operands appropriate to the subsystem)	
show " "	
reset " "	6g8b
execute	
logout	
quit	6g8c
a, some of the "current alternatives" are not implemented,	6h
That is, of course, most frustrating when you're trying to learn a language that's not documented, I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT NO ALTERNATIVE BE LISTED UNDER QUESTION MARK UNLESS IT HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED,	6h1
A side effect (a nuisance, really) is that some commands (like "append link") are not implemented, but the user doesn't find that out until he gives the terminating <CA> after typing the command's full syntax expression. At the least, the user should immediately get a "command unrecognized" response --- i.e., a "?" just as if he had typed, say, "x" for a command word,	6h2
RLL 11-SEP-74 09:42 23940 Comments on new insert/delete edge commands (in work) and bugs. Location: (HJOURNAL, 23940, 1;w) *****Note: [ACTION] *****	6i

The word perpendicular I think is not clear to many users, first to the class of people not familiar to this geometric term and second to those who are but bug some random point in the window, Are we to assume that the window is divided into

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sections in order for the system to determine which margin edge is used for pegging the "perpendicularness"? What is the algorithm that determines which margin to use? I think it would be BEST to NOT use the term and second best (at the very least) give feedback to user asking for him to point to a margin directly (do not accept bugs not at a margin.)

611

What ever happened to ndm's proposal on this. I think that a better (more consistent, clearer) idea,

612

I suppose the following bugs are known (being quite apparent):

613

Moving an edge off the window results in an empty screen (with the final bug (OK) in the window with an existing file.

613a

If one has three windows (insert edge first vertically then horizontally on the right side), and then delete the edge between the left right windows, keeping the bug on the right bottom window then one still has the right bottom window. The left bottom "window" remains blank due to the funny delete of edge.

613b

NDM 16-SEP-74 14:50 31058

Split Screen commands

Message: I think the new split screen control commands are very poor. When I go to split my screen, I know were I want the boundary. I don't want to have to stop and figure which boundaries it may fall perpendicular to. Isn't much more straightforward to say "Insert a Horizontal Boundary (or Edge if you will) here"? As Robert said, even those of us familiar with trigonometry found the new command non-intuitive (a euphamism). Let me once more ask you to consider the suggestions made in 30932,

6j

Comments: Not too late to change, is it?

6j1

"FILENAME.EXT;123 cannot be opened" is the wrong message for me to get when I try to load a file someone else has protected by marking it 770000. 770000 means the file should not appear to the outside world via the DIRECTORY or any other command. Someone who's access has been restricted in this way should get the FILE NOT ONLINE message, (22059,) (KIRK)

6k

Changing option character from <"U> to space, (22061,) (KIRK)

6l

RLI 18-JUN-74 19:41 23396

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stop printing control characters;suggestion
 Message: Is the control S functioning in the new NLS? also, may I suggest a control character to stop printing remainder of branch, that would be (I think) more meaningful than stopping statement printing since most statements are short and by the time one types it the statement is done anyway, Robert.
 *****Note: [ACTION] *****

6m

I think that <SP> in front of a statement name should specify searching for "name in branch". No space specifies "jump to name any" [which would also search any external files].

6n

I don't think this will add any confusion in explaining the DAE to users for the following reasons:

6o

A space preceding a name as the first element in a DAE will work the same as no space except when specifying a second Group address parameter where the distinction will become important,

6o1

Currently if anyone uses a naked name (no preceding special character) following other addressing elements, all of the preceding elements are evaluated and then ignored, wasted,

6o2

The most important reason I'm requesting the above DAE changes is that in my work and I'm predicting, in the work of other database builders and document referencers, "name in group" and "jump to name external" will be more valuable than the current defaults,

6p

Already, typing ! in front of all of the second names in the help database is an ugly pain,

6q

3) if you type rapidly enough while inputting a literal, then DNLS sucks up the <ca> and doesn't --- or at most subliminally --- displays the full literal in the lit feedback window; it simply does the intended task. This is especially annoying on a jump to link, inserting strings, and similar tasks. (23493,) (MDK)

6r

I think "Useroptions" is a misnomer. There is confusion with the already confusing special NLS concept of OPTIONS vs Alternatives and besides, every parameter of every command in nls is a user option. In other words, "Useroptions" is too general potentially very confusing. I think the word "Profile" is much more definitively descriptive. I like Charles' idea of renaming Programs to be Userprograms. Not only does it read better than "use roptions", it can provide a home for all those user programs that currently cannot be used because they have no CML interface. It currently requires more than twice as many steps as the old

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system since you have to load and attach to the CML interface for each one. (22175,) (KIRK)

6s

JHB 31-MAY-74 12:10 23177

New NLS bug

Message: When Jumping to file return it said "illegal statement in file return ring". Thanks I said, How about an error msg that tells me what to do?

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

6t

viewspec to indicate number of lines to display

6u

This viewspec would be similar to level and truncation. It would control the number of lines to be used in the window in question. Currently, all lines are used. I would like to specify the number of lines used sometimes (e.g. when I do a jump) and I don't want to wait for the entire window to be painted. This viewspec makes little sense with TASKER displays, but would be a boon to Lineprocessor displays, especially those running at less than 4800 baud.

6u1

Suggestion: this viewspec could be controlled by digits, "1" for one line, "2" for two, ..., "9" for nine and zero for ALL. These would be as inconvenient to type as upper case viewspecs, but I think acceptable. I don't think there is a need for the "+1" or "-1" features that the level and truncation have. Also, I don't think we have to worry about allowing the user to set it to more than nine lines. (16007,) (DHC = for IMNLS too)

6u2

KIRK 29-MAY-74 17:01 23157

How to waste time, cpu and paper with indenting off

Message: About 5 times a week, I have to reprint something because I had viewspecs B, and l or g indenting off and plex or branch only on. It looks indented in PNLs and TNLs, but is not indented when printed. This anomaly is impossible for me to get used to. There are three solutions that I know of. 1) make output quickprint work like the current system. 2) Change the current system by adding another viewspec for "left adjusted" independent of l and g, 3) Make l and g automatically mean "left adjusted" and capital B ALWAYS mean ALL indenting off. Number 2 seems like the way to go, but I don't see any one doing it. I would prefer 3 to the way it currently works if it would be easier to do than 2. But somebody please do something. I find "left adjustment" vital in working with highly structured files.

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

6v

KIRK 26-FEB-74 16:17 22062

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

A simple system to eliminate the cludgy left justify indenting system of plex only (l) and branch only (g) viewspecs with indenting off (B) without adding another viewspec.
Location: (HJOURNAL, 22062, 1:w)

6w

If the current left justification resulting from branch only and plex only viewspecs with indenting off was instead the way l and g worked for indenting on as the default, then when indenting was off, it would be OFF (independent of plex only or branch only viewspecs).

6w1

The disadvantage to this implementation is outweighed by the advantages in that if you were bothered by the resulting change in line length, you could split the screen or set your line length. However, under the current implementation, there is no way at all for the user to show plex only or group only with indenting really off. This capability is valuable to me. However, the way branch only and plex only currently work with indenting on is next to useless.

6w2

Also, I assume that output quickprint could then show the same as view as the Teletype or Display.

6w3

The alternative to this is to introduce a new viewspec: Left Justify.

6w4

Something should be done before a whole lot more links get cluttered with capital B's, l's, and g's. (16700,) (KIRK)

6w5

-(23116,) (MDK) "freeze" and "release" have long suffered (in my opinion) from not letting you set viewspecs "o" and "p" before completing the command. I wish that would be implemented.

6x

Note also in my proposed categorization of current editor commands given above, that I've recommended expanding the freeze and release commands to include branch, group, and plex as legitimate objects. In addition, I would recommend that "release all" automatically result in viewspec "p" being set.

6x1

Would like to bug term and backspace (for getting different versions of file & jumping to plurals) (KIRK)

6y

The illegal text entity message in xnls does not allow backspacing for misplaced bugs. (22009,) (KIRK).

6z

If "directory" were an option at the source selection of the replace command I would not have to delete plex to get rid of the out-of-date version in my initial file which contains my directory

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

copied via copy directory. Of course it would be best if the system automatically wrote that branch anew every time I logged in or the like. Can the profile do that? (21425,) (DVN)

6ae

How about putting all the directory and TENEX commands in a separate subsystem? (20925,) (NDM)

6aa

RLL 18=JUN=74 20:40 23397 %TNLS%

indicate last OK was accepted.

Message: One should have a three dot response or <CR> after the final CA or <CR> in commands such as update file. I find myself unsure if it really did hit the last confirmation, sure I could do a control t but that is more difficult. I am lazy especially at the TI.

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

6ab

Levadj should be either upper or lowercase. (22940,) (RWW)

6ac

There should be fewer recognition modes with more intuitive names. Suggested - novice, expert and tenex-like. How many choices are too many? (JAKE)

6ad

Expert-expert recognition confuses new users. (MEJ, JCP, JAKE)

6ae

"Expert" recognition mode is a misnomer. It should be called "Efficient" recognition mode. (22465,) (KIRK)

6af

RLL 7=JUN=74 09:38 23302

New recognition mode: a true expert-expert.

Message: Please read (23294,) and (23298,) for suggestion on an additional recognition mode. I would not replace the expert-expert mode but have this new mode made in addition.

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

6ag

JHB 6=JUN=74 22:56 23298

Response to (23294,) RLL: New recognition mode

Message: I think secondary and tertiary command level recognition by spaces instead of unique spelling is worthy of serious experimentation.

From a psychological viewpoint, the suggested operation is far more consistent in psychomotor operation. Further, experiments have shown that short term memory is more efficient utilizing character consistency rather than alternatives (as it would be using all numbers or all characters rather than the combination). Whether this will affect long term memory of keystrokes for command recognition can only be projected from the work on STM.

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

I recommend that this alternative be implemented as soon as possible and that it be integrated with MDK's proposed online command presentation scheme. It should be substituted for the present expert/expert mode.

*****Note: [INFO-ONLY] *****

6ah

15-FEB-74 1430-PDT KELLEY; Logout command.
Received 15-FEB-74 14:30:58

6ai

To make the logout command consistent with the rest of the command language and also to help avoid accidentally logging yourself out, the logout command should be:

Logout Job OK where Job is the command-noun.

6ajj

KIRK (NDM) NOUN=TYPE keywords could allow adverbs and adjectives where it saves typing. Lets maintain the convention of having a verb-noun type command, but lets not create dummy nouns that require extra Command-word input just to keep from using an adjective or adverb as a noun-type.

6aj

If we must use only nouns for the noun-type keyword, we need to rename:

6ajj

Delete All (markers), Delete Last (program), Delete All (programs), Jump (to) Up, Jump (to) Successor, Jump (to) Predecessor, Jump Down, Jump End, Jump Back, Copy Sequential, Output Sequential, Output Assembler, Output Remote, Record (session) On, Record (session) Stop, Release Frozen (statement at), Release All (frozen statements), Reset Archive, Set Archive, Show Archive, Expunge Archive, Delete Archive, Reset Temporary,

6ajja

Not to mention the even greater number of commands with nouns used as adjectives such as Set Tty (window),

6ajjb

Split Window <Vertically / Horizontally> OK
could be:

Split (window) <Vertical / Horizontal> OK

or better yet

Horizontally=(split) Window !first level 'h' is currently not being used!

and

Vertically=(split) Window !move Verify File to second level!

6ak

JHB 19-MAY-74 19:34 23044

New NLS bug in split screen

Message; Help (control Q) says Split (window)... The command is actually Split Window... Hitting 'Q' after split doesn't

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

tell you to hit w,
 I think the w is superfluous, and the command should be split vertically or horizontally. Its logical even if the noun field is not quite perfect,... Change the command not the documentation.
 *****Note: [ACTION] *****

6ak1

KIRK 30-JAN-74 10:29 21679
 Inconsistency in noun-type keywords
 Message: Charles,
 If "To" is legal as a noun-type command-word in the "Quit" command, what is the reasoning for commands like "Split Window Vertically" when "Split (window) Vertically" would make the command easier to use? You told me the reason was because "Vertically" was not a noun, "To" is also not a noun,

6ak2

16-MAY-74 1451-PDT FEINLER: Update
 Distribution: FEEDBACK, feinler
 Received at: 16-MAY-74 14:51:50

6a1

Since there is only one option for update = namely 'file' - I would suggest that if a person writes 'u' the rest should follow without the user having to also write 'f'. Or to state it another way: u[update file] not u[update] f[file].

6a11

KIRK 9-MAY-74 12:28 22930
 More universal commands will do for jump commands%
 Message: The system would be more useable for me if many more commands in addition to Execute, Goto, Quit, etc. were Universal commands available in all subsystems. In particular: Jump would be most desirable. Also, Show, Set, Reset, and Split.
 *****Note: * info-only * *****

6am

2-MAY-74 0954-PDT FEINLER: Jump commands = need to repeat each time
 %For some reason she didn't find out about repeat = problem with Help??

Distribution: FEEDBACK, feinler
 Received at: 2-MAY-74 09:54:40

6an

I am finding that there is much more work (time and motion) involved in having to retype JUMP TO ITEM everytime I want to use it than there was having it remain until I gave a command change signal. The

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

former method had some drawbacks if one forgot to release the jump command but the new one seems to be much more time consuming

We might want to consider the tradeoff of time and see if it is prohibitive,

6at1

JHB 27=MAY=74 11:58 23130

New NLS suggestion

Message: The system defaults to Item in the Jump to command. I recommend that it default to Statement in Break and Append. In that way experts would have one less keystroke, and users shifting from old NLS would not lose that convenience.

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

6a0

=(23116,) (MDK) I would still like to see the sort and merge Commands upgraded, as defined by me last year (see == jjournal, 17234,1:wy),

6ap

Jump to Return syntax backwards (CA then Y/N) (JAKE) (should be Y/N "returnspot" OK;) (KIRK)

6aq

Content searches would be easier to input if delimiters were a lowercase rather than uppercase character (i.e.) rather than ") (22909,) (RLI)

6ar

Jump to content searching from where you are only to end of file. She thinks this is not intuitive and that it should start searching at the beginning or at least from where you are and wrap around to where you started. (22940,) (RWW)

6as

Problems with the Insert Statement Command

6at

1. L: is not the correct prompt. It should be L:/T:/B:/[A:]

6at1

2. If you type <*U> at L:, the prompt changes to A: and you get to the address field; if you type in text at L: the prompt changes to T: and the text goes in; however, if you BUG a statement, the prompt changes, ... but nothing happens,

6at2

This used to be the case where ever L: appeared but it was fixed for Copy, Move, Replace, etc, please fix this bug for Insert as well.

6at2a

3. If you try to insert a space at L: the prompt changes but nothing happens. (22489,) (22942,) (KIRK)

6at3

KIRK 26=MAR=74 18:37 22492

Efficient Command Language proposal

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

Location: (JJOURNAL, 22492, 1:w)

6au

KIRK 2=JUL=74 18:51 23514

A look at NLS commanding axioms or how to have your CA and repeat it too!

Location: (GJOURNAL, 23514, 1:w)

*****Note: [INFO-ONLY] *****

6av

JMB 3=JUL=74 09:54 23519

Re Kirk's (GJOURNAL, 23514, 1:w)

Message: Based on some recent experience with naive users trying learn NLS from Questionmark and Help, I believe that Kirk's (GJOURNAL, 23514, 1:w) suggests an improvement. The possibility that something like he describes can be implemented without much rewriting merits looking into.

*****Note: [INFO-ONLY] *****

6av1

KIRK 18=MAR=74 19:34 22424

Problems with Help system: their causes and solutions

Location: (JJOURNAL, 22424, 1:w)

*****Note: * info-only * *****

6aw

Help is not self teaching.

6aw1

The help system can't teach the user how to use itself because the user has to know how to use command-words in his recognition mode before he can use the Show command in the Help subsystem. The Help database cannot tell the new user what to type for the show command because the Help database has no way of knowing what recognition mode he is using.

6aw1a

Fixed view.

6aw2

The syntax statements have words like CONTENT in them with an unsightly definition immediately following:

6aw2a

TNLS: CONTENT = A;/[T:]

6aw2a1

DNLS: CONTENT = T;/B;/[A:]

6aw2a2

which does not say what is expected in the CONTENT for a command. It could be a FILELINK, LINK, IDENT(s), TEXT, an ADDRESS, NUMBER(s), etc. All of this information should be available but the syntax statements are separated from the statements that might contain this information.

6aw2b

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Syntax statements are seperated from the function statements and functions statements are divided into effects statements because each node must be kept small, 6aw2c

Even in the concepts section, the users must take many steps, showing many, small nodes in order to piece together a coherent picture of a segment of NLS, 6aw2d

Each node must be kept small because in the only format that query (expensively) allows, the user is forced to see the information in the parent node before he can get at the statements classified by that node, 6aw2e

On the other hand if he wants a coherent overview, the user cannot see all of the information classified under the parent node at one time. He must "return" and re-specify each menued node one at a time, 6aw2f

The user does not have a choice between a verbose or brief view, 6aw2g

Solutions to the above problems: 6aw3

Do away with all command-words in the help subsystem, 6aw3a

Allow node specification with the mouse in DNLS (CA), or by merely typing a menu number or symbol in TNLS, 6aw3b

Allow name specification with the mouse in DNLS (CD) or by merely typing a word, or string of words, in TNLS, 6aw3c

Allow view specification depending on whether the conformation key was a Carriage return (CA) or a questionmark (CD), 6aw3d

Carriage Return (CA) would show a brief, one line view or obey the viewspecs in a link if it finds one, 6aw3d1

Questionmark (CD) would show a verbose, all lines view, 6aw3d2

Needless to say, each default view would be the addressed level plus one more, 6aw3d3

I predict that this implementation of help would run faster using less CPU time and less special source code than the current implementation, 6aw4

KIRK 20-MAY-74 16:49 23054

MY feelings about 23006 'Help Additions and Fixes Currently Being

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

Implemented*

Location: (MJOURNAL, 23054, 1:w)

*****Note: [INFO-ONLY] *****

6ax

Comments: Much thanks to Dirk, Mike and Jeanne Beck for their comments on this item.

6ax1

KIRK 8-SEP-74 22:28 23929

two new (to me) bugs

Location: (HJOURNAL, 23929, 1:w)

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

6ay

A couple of funny things happend to me in xnlis that have never happened to me before. Suddenly it said I had "no write access" to a file in my directory group to which I've always had write access. It said this again even after I connected to the directory. I had to reenter work to solve the problem,

6ay1

The Set Content (pattern) To command with a split screen caused the name of the file loaded in the window that did NOT contain my cursor to appear in the tty window (there was no refresh). I think I then tried to do something and got "fst entry nonexistent" over and over until I did a "C,

6ay2

Again, reentering work solved the problem, both files verified,

6ay3

KIRK 20-FEB-74 17:57 22008

The most immediate bugs from several intensive sessions in XNLS

Location: (HJOURNAL, 22008, 1:w)

6az

Jump to Name doesn't work across a split screen to an empty window. (CHI; apparently gets number of file for name search from final CA instead of CA which terminates name, thus cant find name since no file in the window??)

6azi

I am really wondering what gos with the [A] part in Help (RICART).

6b@

RLL 16-MAY-74 08:15 23015

Positioning of CM after update command: bug?

Message: After an Update file compact command, the CM seems to be repositioned in random places. Occasionally it rYturns me to the origin (not so bad), other times it leaves me where I am currently (what I expect), and still other times placesm me somewhere else (no apparent significance to the address).

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

6ba

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

KIRK 21-MAY-74 15:34 23072

Line length differences between dnls and output quickprint.
 Message: A while back, Susan, you asked if I was still having trouble with this. I just noticed output quickprint breaks some lines sooner than dnls. That is, the line length in quick print seems to be shorter than in dnls.
 *****Note: [ACTION] *****

6bb

JAKE 20-MAR-74 09:49 22429

Margins

Message: The margins in TNLS, DNLS, and on the printer do not appear to be the same again. Can somebody check this out. Since this is a reoccurring problem would it be possible to assign someone the responsibility of checking this when a new system comes up.

6bc

KIRK 28-MAR-74 22:40 22613

Inconsistent line lengths

Message: As JAKE (22429,) I also find that line lengths are not the same across local media. In particular, tasker seems to allow one more character per line than TNLS. Furthermore, it is impossible in some cases no matter what you set line length for an OP to get them to come out the same as tasker. Presumably there is a different breaking algorithm used with OP throwing away following spaces. I'm sure the reason these inconsistencies do not get fixed right away is because no person capable of fixing the problem has to deal with text so finely formatted as to make a difference to them.
 *****Note: * info-only * *****

6bc1

4) aafter an update file or update file compact, the DNLS display is significantly different from what it was at the timme the update was given. It seems that the tail of the plex displayed when the update was issued is dsplayed after the update, instead of displaying the same statements that were on the screen when the update was given. (23493,) (MDK)

6bd

Bugs: 1) When in SENDMAIL;

6be

a) I found in interrogate that the only way to get by an item is NULL <OK>; NULL = <character> BS - that's extermely awkward,%Fixing%

6be1

b) I tried CD to go by an item and got bounced out of interrogate. That does not seem right. CD should have taken me to the next item, %NO%

6be2

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

c) When in the middle of interrogate and trying to find out how to get by an item and then quitting, I did not return to where I was but instead ended up at the command level. Very irritating in the middle of a message. %Help problem = fixing% 6be3

d) Next I tried to recover my work by inserting the status, then inserting a command form from the editor, editing my command form and quitting the editor. My labors were rewarded with an illegal instruction message, %Should work now% (22931,) (RWW) 6be4

JMB 25-MAR-74 14:56 22480

Ident subsystem in New NLS

Message: The Show command in Ident subsystem wouldn't accept a squarebracketed ident search,

I was just playing around with the new commands available; I realize this may not be fully implemented yet. 6bf

26-AUG-74 0118=PDT KELLEY; Set Content (Pattern) To LSEL

Distribution: MAYNARD, FEEDBACK

Received at: 26-AUG-74 01:18:36 6bg

The LSEL is for type CHARACTER instead of TEXT thereby making it useless.

It didn't used to be this way it seems it used to be for type TEXT. 6bgi

19-JUN-74 1337=PDT FERGUSON; Slowness with Frozen Statements On

Distribution: FEEDBACK

Received at: 19-JUN-74 13:37:02 6bh

Sue,

Does everyone experience that recreate Display takes about

5 times as long with Frozen State, On than with them Off.

If this is general, is it possible to speed it up. And if its

only me with this problem, would you tell me what (maybe

structure of

file) is making it soo-oo-oo SLOW=OW... 6bh1

KIRK

30-JAN-74 09:49 21674 Message:

Regarding link syntax as echoed in reponse to commands using links: this constant feedback could have a definite molding effect on users, especially people learning the system. For this reason, I think we should encourage a certain form by not placing a space between the link's delimiters and its contents and by using angle brackets instead of parentheses. 6bi

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

(2b1) [dsm] =068= Editor subsystem is too big resulting in unnecessary alphabetic conflicts. Suggested replacement: Editor, File-Handler, and Terminal Handler. See (Kudlick,newsubs,1:why) for a preliminary description; a more up-to-date description is forthcoming. Development will study this proposal and make a recommendation.

6bj

NOT CHANGED.

6bj1

Recommendation by Development: NO new File Handler Subsystem will be created. A Terminal-Handler Subsystem will be created. The new Terminal-Handler Subsystem will contain the following commands:

6bj2

Accept Connection

6bj2a

Clear Window

6bj2b

<>COnnect (to) Tty (number)

6bj2c

Display (number)

6bj2d

Disconnect Terminal (number)

6bj2e

Playback Recording (of session number)

6bj2f

Reset Character-size

6bj2g

Tty=simulation (window)

6bj2h

Set Character-size

6bj2i

Tty=simulation (for window)

6bj2j

<>SIMulate (terminal-type)

6bj2k

<>STArT Recording=session

6bj2l

<>STOp Recording=session

6bj2m

(2b1) [dsm] =072= Expert=expert should not be the default recognition for new users. (feedback,fdbk,02714)

6bk

TNLS = Demand
DNLS = Exp/Exp

6bk1

This is up to Applications. Development needs a final decision before Sept. 1st.

6bk2

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

(2b1) [dsm] -043- When someone tries to load a file which is protected, he should not get the message that the file cannot be opened; he should get the msg "File protected from unauthorized access", NOT CHANGED> TENEX PROBLEM>

6b1

Future needs & possibilities or need discussion, evaluation,

7

Small NLS changes requested (not bugs)

7a

KIRK 26-FEB-74 16:32 22065

Some comments concerning the new dynamic addressing elements from a database building and document referencing point of view
Location: (HJOURNAL,22065,1;W)

*****Note: (secondary Distribution Copy from XXX)*****

7a1

The new AE (address expression) is a very powerful tool, I don't think there is a single special character that is not used for some special function. It is important that these functions be specified unambiguously with the minimum number of characters so that the maximum number of functions can be accommodated.

7a1a

In this framework, I feel the following suggestions should be considered.

7a1b

First, I strongly oppose using Ampersand for jump to Name External. Ampersand is a special character that should be available for use within a name. Conjunction is a valuable and necessary searching concept that is especially important for cutting down on duplicate names in large databases while retaining a mnemonic and easily typed identifier. The alternative to "&" is "-and-" which is so clumsy as to almost preclude it's use.

7a1c

I suggest instead of using &, that s be used for "jump to name external".

7a1d

[As a side issue, I think that the external default is backward. The default should be "jump to name external" with the special character required if you don't want to search the external file(s).]

7a1d1

In the TNLS LINEFEED command, can we have NLS echo something (like <LF>) to show what you've typed before it goes on to print the statement?

It would be useful for the TNLS user to be able to read his TNLS printout later and see what he did to get that result.

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

(21198,) (JMB)

7a2

3-JUL-74 1357=PDT LEAVITT: buggish
 Distribution: FEEDBACK
 Received at: 3-JUL-74 13:57:38

7a3

Not really a bug but a pain. I use the substitute text command a lot in this. If you try using it you will see that it feeds a great deal of paper in completing one substitute (a command that has a number of steps, there is no need to have a blank line between every one of those steps, when i do a whole lot of substitutes the amount of ti paper i use is horrendous, it insults my basic liberal bullshit ecological concerns,

7a3a

SRL 27-MAR-74 09:23 22504

Output Quickprint Branch

Message: Is there some reason why the message Output Quickprint branch couldn't be displayed when viewspec g is on?

7a4

In Demand Recognition, CONFIRM should work for recognition, This way Altmode or SP might not be required before a CONFIRM even after a complete command=word has been typed, (22175,) (KIRK)

7a5

Instead of the current "Action or Information only" barrier in the Send command, the default should be "Information" with an OPTIONAL Action commandword (recognized by a single <"U", (22941,) (KIRK)

7a6

Distribution command hard to find,
 Send sounds like the choice to use when finished,
 Double verification not needed following Done,
 Interrogate should be default with options available
 Action? Y/N - If no, automatically fyi. (JAKE)

7a6a

Allow "none of the above" when submitting via Sendmail instead of for info or for action (22878,) (JMB),

7a6b

Make interrogate the default when entering sendmail unless there is an unfinished item,

7a7

RW 9-MAY-74 13:01 22931
 Bugs and Thoughts - New CML
 Location: (MJOURNAL, 22931, 1:w)
 *****Note: * action * *****

7a7a

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

I tend to Use Interrogate all the time. Do others? If so why not just automatically enter interrogate when arriving in SENDMAIL. Should other fields be added like keywords and obsolete, assuming one can pass them easier than at present. (22931,) (RWW)

7a7b

The current situation of automatically initializing whenever entering Sendmail makes Execute Sendmail practically useless. Yet I rarely want to send more than one item.,.

7a7c

KIRK 16-MAY=74 19:05 23024

Interrogate opinion

Message; I think the order should be; (1) Title (2) Type of source (3) Send (4) Show status (5) Done. First impression is I wouldn't want interrogate to be the default but I haven't thought about it.

*****Note: [INFO=ONLY] *****

7a7d

KIRK 17-MAY=74 12:18 23032

Trying out interrogate

Message; After consideration, Interrogate as a default mode when entering SENDMAIL seems to be a good idea only if the user does not already have an unfinished item. This would also make a good signal that would help me avoid a problem I've had where I've quit out of SENDMAIL unfinished, then gone back in and started on a new item only to find sometimes embarrassing parameters attached to the new item that were left over from the old.

*****Note: [INFO=ONLY] *****

7a7e

SLJ 17-MAY=74 17:02 23039

comment on your 23019

Message; i think interrogate should yes yes be default in sendmmail. standard order would be faster for me. bye, and you will will will get bike back back back.

*****Note: [INFO=ONLY] *****

7a7f

The sequence Replace From...To...By seems to be clearer than Replace At...Through...BY. In general From-To seems clearer than Through (JAKE)

7a7g

(type of source;) should come after (title;) and (send to;) so a message could be written in relation to the title and sendlist. (22761,) (KIRK) (JAKE)

7a7h

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

Institute Program CONTENT (as) Content/Sort/Seqgenerator OK
 Could be;
 Institute Content/Sort/Sequence CONTENT OK 7a8

Update File OK / <Old/Compact/Rename OK>
 could be;
 Update File/Old/Compact/Rename OK 7a9

KIRK 8-JUN-74 22:27 23368
 hatred for change in replace link implementation
 Message: A screen full of carefully thought out, irreproducible
 thought just vanished with the message: "ILLEGAL LINK" as I was
 using the Replace Link command. Total bummer.
 *****Note: [ACTION] ***** 7a10

KIRK 8-JUN-74 22:31 23369
 inconsistency-in replace link command
 Message: when I say replace invisible, and type in a
 visible, my typein doesn't disappear with the message
 ILLEGAL INVISIBLE.
 *****Note: [ACTION] ***** 7a10a

Load File BUGWORD VSPEC CA is what I'd still like to see, with
 extraction of a valid file name from the bugged visible, and
 with display of the deduced-file name before VSPEC CA (at least
 before the CA part), (23142,) (DCE, KIRK) 7a11

Jump File Bug vSPEC CA is o.k., where assume you bug a link
 and it extracts file name == but if Load File worked right,
 would rarely really need this option. Also, should show the
 file it will take you to before you commit yourself with the
 final CA. (23142,) (DCE) 7a11a

Jump Link B:/A: VSPEC CA I'd also like, where the VSPEC would
 over-ride those provided in the link, (23142,) (DCE) 7a12

In TNLS, I used to be able to say Print Branch (work, tds
 geptzm) CA CA and have the VSPECS applied to the printout.
 Doesn't seem to work that way now? How come? Generally,
 I'd like to see the VSPEC of the last link used in an
 address apply to the view (Print or Display), unless LIT
 vspecs added by user (which would over-ride conflicting
 link-held vspecs), (23142,) (DCE) 7a12a

Break Statement: As it was previously specified (Old NLS, and
 from OLD DCE) it is supposed to let you enter SPs that are
 inserted before the broken-off segment as it is made into a

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

statement. Indeed, the "? menu shows that a SP is allowable after the bug; but a SP produces a "?" response, and I can't put leading SPs in front of the new statement.

7a13

KIRK 26=DEC=73 09:32 21187

An ability missed with the break statement command in New NLS

Message: A feature in the old system that is missed in New NLS is the ability to insert text between broken statements. Use of something like the DFSL may return this ability to New NLS,

7a13a

It is hard enough (technically impossible) to Insert Text at the beginning of statements, but when leading invisibles are deleted for you automatically... In XNLS I find I am no longer capable of inserting text at the front of a new statement created by breaking from another statement. Is this a bug or a feature? (22059,) (KIRK)

7a13b

I seem to find from the "Q HELP info that there isn't expected to be this provision, at least by the documenters. I want that provision back; in fact, I feel that one ought to be able to insert any characters after an initial SP == i.e. that all characters after the SP (that follows the BUG LEVADJ) and before the final CA should be inserted at the head of the breakoff statement. (23142,) (DCE)

7a13c

=(23116,) (MDK) "TI" shouldn't be an alternative in the "simulate terminal" command if you're already in TI mode; similarly, "tasker" shouldn't be an alternative if you're already in tasker mode. Fixing those would remove an annoying letter conflict.

7a14

In TNLS, feedback a space after a prompt (22907,) (RLL)

7a15

RLL 6=AUG=74 20:06 23740 sug on copy file command

Location: (GJOURNAL, 23740, 1:w)

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

7a16

When copyin file (copy file command) and one gives a new file name the statement zero in the new file is a copy of statement of the old file. Thus, the old file name and directory appears, this, of course, disappears when one does an update. The suggestion: perhaps it wuld be better to replace file name in staement zero with the new file immediately. One is not immediately sure which file you really have up,

7a16a

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

NDM 17-SEP-74 13:31 31067

Load Remote file command

Message: I don't see any pretense of a Load Remote command in new NLS. Some of us need that. It will be available in some form by Oct 1, won't it?????

7a17

DVN 11-JUN-74 16:05 23332

Message: If you want to use both the level adjustment and the filter in a command such as copy, you have to specify the filter first. The prompt would be a little nicer if it said [**]/L; rather than what it now says, L;/[**].

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

7a18

JMB 3-JUL-74 17:53 23524

Suggestions for the Questionmark Facility

Location: (GJOURNAL, 23524, 1;W)

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

7a19

Comments: Wouldn't this be clearer and easy to change?

7a19a

RLL 13-SEP-74 11:07 23964 use same line for optional info in show directory command"; Author(s): Robert N. Lieberman/RLL;
Distribution: /FDBK([ACTION]); Sub-Collections: SRI-ARC;
Clerk: RLL;

7a20

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

Please put size info when using show directory with options on sam line as name o file, otherwise it goes to o fast on the screen, same for more than one copy of same file,

7a20a

Allow an end of statement to end a sendmail form as well as <CR>, And allow <CR>s in Messages in a sendmail form,

7a21

DCE 20-AUG-74 08:51 23825
 (^V) Before (CR) Doesn't Seem to Work in Comment Field
 Location: (GJOURNAL, 23825, 1:w)
 *****Note: [ACTION] *****

7a21a

In tnl3 if one wishes to format a comment with a carriage return it will of course terminate the comment command, One expects that if he wishes a literal carriage return he can preceed the carriage return keystroke with a (^V). I tried this and it doesn't seem to work properly, The carriage return indeed does get added as a literal to the comment but the impact on nls seems to be also as though the carriage return terminates the command and readies you for a new command in the particular mode,

7a21a1

JMB 19-JUN-74 17:22 23463
 Sendmail's Process command doesn't work as advertised
 Message: I did Insert Sendmail in Editor, As Help advises (under sendmailforms) I deleted the "DONE:" and added "MESSAGE:" in its place, I then used editing commands to type in my message and fill in the other fields, Then I used Sendmail's process command to send the item, Show Status then revealed that it got everything but the Message; indeed, DONE had "nothing to send!" Rumor is that the message needs a carriage return after it (though DONE: doesn't) for Process to work; that seems wierd and Help doesn't say anything about that, Could the command or the advertising be cleared up?
 *****Note: [ACTION] *****

7a21b

RLL suggestion on the show commands: always have a 'show' for a 'set'

12-AUG-74 10:48 (GJOURNAL, 23767, 1:w)
 *****Note: [ACTION] *****

7a22

I would strongly urged for consistency and simplicity to have for each 'set' command a corresponding 'show' command, For example: set buffer size/show buffer size, set private/show privacy setlink default/show link default, etc.

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

True we hae show status but that does not sail as nicely,
Even a show character size would be nice,

7a22a

DVN 23-MAY-74 14:09 23104
Driven Over Allocation by Mystery Files
Location: (GJOURNAL, 23104, 1:w)
*****Note: [ACTION] *****

7a23

Some of you may recall that last Friday and Monday I tried
to send a Journal item which was never delivered because of
a confusing accumulation in the distribution field following
several attempts to distribute,

7a23a

An sther problem seems to have arisen from that evil journal
submission, Today the system began to tell me I was out of
pages although Show Disc asserted that I had 25 or so pages
to spare, Jeff discovered that the culpable pages were in
the partial copy of my sendmail file, invisible to me,
presumably they had accumulated during th various submission
attempts,

7a23b

This seems only one way in which a user could accumulate
pages which the monitor counts against him but which neither
show directory nor show disc status will reveal, It's a
pretty frustrating feeling, I suggest making those files
visisble,

7a23c

KIRK 22-SEP-74 00:34 24026
Default name delimiters NULL NULL?
Message: Default name delimiters were to be changed to NULL
NULL, Has this decision been changed unknown to me or was it
just overlooked?
*****Note: [INFO-ONLY] *****

7a24

RLL 12-JUL-74 08:21 23610
add an 'OK' to sort command
Message: strongly urge the sort command have a 'OK' confirming
<CA>, At present, after address is given the sort takes off
and does its thing,
*****Note: [ACTION] *****

7a25

KIRK 22-SEP-74 18:02 24032
Typical onLine Systems thinking
Message: Why aren't Output Journal and Print Journal named
Output Sendmail and Print Sendmail?

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

7a26

KIRK 5-SEP-74 20:40 23922

NP for jump file return

Message: Jump to file return choice message (currently a filelink) should be the complete link containing the statement number and viewspecs.

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

7a27

3-MAY-74 1616-PDT LEE: Sendmail subsystem, Interrogate command

Distribution: FEEDBACK

Received at: 3-MAY-74 16:16:55

7a28

When it says "Send for action to" it seems you should be able to

type ? and get a message telling you to type "N to send something

for information at least in DNLS.

7a28a

Large changes requested

7b

LPD

23-JUN-73 12:34 17430 Message:

I think the following facility might be of considerable value in the increasing applications of NLS to retrieve data from resource files; the possibility of jumping to a name that was not spelled quite right, i.e., allowing a modest number of missing or doubled characters, transpositions, or wrong characters. Warren Teitelman's LISP system has this ability -- in fact, it invokes it automatically if it fails to find an exact match -- and it is an enormous help.

7b1

Programming

7b2

JEW 31-JAN-74 17:01 21704

LOCAL STRING watchamacallit [Idunkno]

Location: (GJOURNAL, 21704, 1:w)

7b2a

Wouldn't it be nice if one could declare a maximum string length with a declared symbol, in addition to with a self-defining term. Then such length dependencies would be explicit, and changeable by simply redefining the symbol and recompiling the affected files.

7b2a1

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

JEW A SEAS Idea, Offered with No Expectations &new NDDT%
22-JAN-74 12:58 (GJOURNAL, 21560, 1;W)

7b2b

DHC 21-JUN-73 16:26 17412
Auto-updating as option in Load File or Logout

7b3

JCN NP Item; Typescript File Command in NLS or EXEC
24-SEP-73 08:39 19264 Message:

Here is a request for consideration of a new feature; a command either at the exec level or in nls that makes the system record what the user types and what the system sends back to him in a file for future use by the user. I have found (as have others) tht use of the telnet.typescript file for making scenarios and for capturing other data is very useful. It means going out via telnet and re-entering the ARC system (or some other) to set up the typescript file. This seems wasteful of network facilities and adds unwanted steps in the process. I'm not sre what difficulties adding such a feature would entail, but offer this sggestion here to get some discussion started.

&WAS THERE ANY&

7b4

Output Processor

7b5

MDK Output Processing: A Suggestion for How to Improve the Speed &output printfile - looks for directives only in origin statement%
9-FEB-73 16:36 (IJOURNAL, 14367, 1;W)

7b5a

JBN Request for OP Directive Preventing Substatement Page Breaks

1-JUL-73 20:07 17590 Message:

CHI == For the Directory, as well as for production of formatted reports, there is urgent need for an Output Processor directive to produce page breaks at statements of a certain level only. This is not the directive to produce page breaks at specified levels at each occurrence, but one to insure that page breaks are not made at substatements when this is not desired, and the whole branch should be carried to the next page. I have asked for this before, and perhaps there is some reason it cannot be done? == Jeanne also (14342,) (JBN)

7b5b

RLL output processor suggestion re: time Zones
8-NOV-73 11:49 20109 Message:

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the time zone would be very nice to append to the commands 'gdt' and 'gt', one letter would do, namely, e = eastern, c=central, m=mountaan, p= pacific, daylight vs standard time should not be a problem, clearly we have another set of commands now possible, 'gdte', 'gdte', 'gdtm', and 'gdtp', (also for 'gt,') 'gt' and 'gdt' would always append 'p' unless the new commands are included in the system.
robert (20799,) (NDM)

7b5c

DHC 7-MAY-74 13:29 30705

Sweeping Journal Directive &alternative to (16047,)%
directive will contain any directive to be executed at a given level,.

7b5d

DHC Output Processor suggestions

27-AUG-73 11:48 18678 Message:

In order to make processed output better fit the device it is being printed on (or formatted for) I suggest the following:

7b5e

1. Have the Output Processor (during Output device Teletype) use the Terminal specs (line width, page size, form feed, etc) as limits, which embedded directives CANNOT exceed,

7b5e1

2. Allow run-time specified directives, The author of a file has certain formatting ideas, The printer of the file may want soemthing different, The printer's directives should take precedence, This saves the printer from having to copy the file and change embedded directives,

7b5e2

3. Allow the concatenation of files, at run time, This, too, saves having to do copying,

7b5e3

KIRK ignore Plex directive,

18-NOV-73 11:23 20356 Message:

I need an Ignore Plex (IGP) directive (like IGB, IGS, etc.),

7b5f

RLL for output processor : new command 'GrabS'

5-OCT-73 10:20 19525 Message:

a suggestion for the output processor, the command 'Grab' serves a useful function for lines; why not have a similar command (GrabS') for statements, One often does nto knwo how many lines will be in a statement but a header statement such as a chapter title will be followed by another

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statement, r. lieberman of nsrdc

7b5g

TTY window OFF allowing 2 more lines of text if desired,
(22061,) (KIRK)

7b6

command feedback Off allowing 4 more lines of text if all you
are doing is jumping and reading, (22061,) (KIRK)

7b7

These require CML re-write

7b8

3-JUL-74 1355-PDT LEAVITT: bug
Distribution: FEEDBACK
Received at: 3-JUL-74 13:55:15

7b8a

When I use the output quickprint and output printer
commands in tnls, there is echoed, or printed, an extre
"OK:", so one would see:

Output C: Quickprint OK/C: OK:

If I give a command accept after the C and ignore the
second OK, the process gets completed fine, But if I pay
attention to the second OK and give another CA, the bell
rings, I have learned to ignore the second OK but other
particularly new users may be confused by it, so why not
get rid of it,

7b8a1

line entiti,

If we eliminated LINK as a Command word as proposed in
(JJOURNAL, 22236, 1:w) there would be no conflict,

7b9

Filters should obey line clipping viewspecs,

7b9a

DCE Re-implementing DNLS Line entity
9-OCT-73 12:17 (KJOURNAL, 19580, 1:w)

7b9b

DVN For Lines and Arrays

10-OCT-73 09:00 19590 Message:

I second Doug's motion (Kjournal,19580,). See also my
argument for Matrices (journal,16245,)

7b9b1

Transpose window command,

7b10

Journal

7b11

CHI 26-JAN-73 20:07 14006
Proposed EXEC level capabilities: Journal Submission and
Printing

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

Message: I recommend the addition of two more entry points into NLS, one for Journal submission and one for Print Journal. I recommend that a new EXEC command be created, say JOURNAL, such that there is are two subcommands, one for submitting a message and one for printing Your Journal mail. The default for not specifying which submode should be submission, I think. Also, the Print Journal function should be slightly modified so that it marks the statements it has already typed == so that repeated use of the command will result in only new material being typed. NOTE: If we can fit this into SNDMSG and MESSAGE, all the better. == Charles

7b11a

DHC Statement Names for Journal Mail

12-JUL-73 16:38 17774 Message:

It just occurred to me that it would be very nice to have online Journal mail have the Journal number as the Statement name. What are the arguments against such an action and how hard would it be to implement??

==Dave

7b11b

JBN Request for Journal feedback Line to Show Lack of Title

Please consider having the Status block presented to the Journal sender include the line

3-AUG-73 08:32 18200 Message: Message:

[no title]

to prompt the sender that one has not been supplied and that it is a normal part of the submission. == Jeanne N

7b11c

JEW 25-FEB-74 16:09 22048

Secondary Distribution BUG?

Message: Dave== Apparent bug in Secondary Distribution. The following message accompanies the delivered citation:

'secondary Distribution Copy from XXX'. Note the incorrent ident (I assume). Background's? ==Jim

7b11d

DCE 7-MAR-74 17:55 22352

At least one Journal item is not indexed
Location: (JJOURNAL, 22352, 1:w)

7b11e

JBN Request for proper RFC journal format.

6-JUL-73 21:12 (KJOURNAL, 17694, 1:w)

7b11f

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8,1

JBN Resubmitted Reply to WLB re Journal Headers
 20-APR-73 08:28 (MJOURNAL,16031,1:w)
 *****Note: (Secondary Distribution Copy)*****
 7b11g

MCK Journal Complaint
 4-JUL-73 06:29 (KJOURNAL, 17631, 1:w)
 %default output directives should be by choice or better
 advertised% (15469,) (WLB = also speed up ident check)
 7b11h

CHI * BACKLINKS in the Journal
 15-NOV-72 21:37 (LJOURNAL, 12866, 1:w)
 7b11i

MDK * Annotating journal Files with Footnotes
 19-OCT-72 9:33 (LJOURNAL, 12329, 1:w)
 7b11j

MDK MINOR SUGGESTIONS re the Journal,
 6-MAR-73 9:07 (IJOURNAL, 14915, 1:w)
 %citation format, default viewspecs, status commands% allow
 other viewspecs & statement nos. (19425,) (JMB)%
 7b11k

MCK Comment on "Distribute Document"
 4-DEC-73 10:04 (IJOURNAL, 20702, 1:w)
 %DD for offline doc = message "Document is not online" or
 notify NIC person to manually DD%
 7b11l

JEW Identifying Exactly WHAT File is Not On-Line
 %change message to specify what directory a journal file is
 in; ability to interrogate journal catalogs%2-OCT-73 12:19
 (JJOURNAL, 19414, 1:w)
 7b11m

JEW How About "RFC-524" Instead of "17140"?
 25-JUL-73 16:50 (LJOURNAL, 18011, 1:w)
 7b11n

DCE On Journal=item citation Naming; cf. (18011,);
 (18036,) and (18063,)
 31-JUL-73 09:17 (LJOURNAL, 18132, 1:w) %opposes%
 7b11n1

MDK On Changing Journal File Naming Convention
 27-JUL-73 08:56 18036 %supports%
 7b11n2

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

JEW Some Dialog Support Ideas for the Next Couple Years
20-FEB-74 15:50 (HJOURNAL, 22002, 1:w)

7b110

Ideas (not fully developed) for Dialog Support
development over a couple-year period.

7b1101

JOURNAL AND IDENT SYSTEM RE-WRITE

7b1102

Absolutely the most important item on the list!! If
this project doesn't get top priority, we will one
day == sooner or later == see the world come crashing
down upon us!

7b1102a

Should assume a multi-host environment as we've
discussed and partially designed, with well defined
modules == cataloger, archiver, recorder, publisher,
registrar, etc. == distributed and replicated
throughout the Net.

7b1102b

Flexible access controls are to be built in from the
start.

7b1102c

This topic has been labeled 'Multi-Site Journal
System', but it's important to realize that the Ident
system (i.e., its replacement) is intimately involved ==
it's probably the most important and complicated of
all the modules, in my view of the world.

7b1102d

BACKGROUND NETWORK JOURNAL SUBMISSION AND NLS FILE
RETRIEVAL

7b1103

It turns out that there's too much overhead associated
with submitting a Journal article or formatting,
converting, and retrieving an NLS file to require that
it happen in-line with the Network request that
initiates it.

7b1103a

I therefore suggest that we create a background
process running NLS to respond to such requests,
interfaced to the outside world via the mail system.
That is, permit a user to submit a journal article or
request a copy of a specified NLS file, formatted in a
particular way (e.g., via the Output processor) by
sending an appropriate message via Network mail to
JOURNAL@NIC. The message would specify a Network
return addr to which the background process would make
reply, and, for the case of file retrieval, the host

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

and filename (along with login parameters) where the file is to be sent. 7b1103b

Journal submission by this mechanism would provide full flexibility with regard to specification of comments, preassigned catalog numbers, RFC numbers, etc. 7b1103b1

JOURNALIZATION OF SEQUENTIAL FILES 7b1104

We've long been aware that many journalized documents originate as sequential files. We've long been aware of the difficulty of converting sequential files to tree-structured ones in a reasonable way. Although I know that much more work can be done in the area of defining and implementing a variety of clever conversion routines, I believe that that's not the real answer to the problem. In general, you don't make a guy, who's spent time and effort formatting his file, happy by massaging it -- by ANY program (programs don't come that clever). 7b1104a

I suggest that we permit sequential files to be journalized (and stored as such), just as there are handles for journalizing hardcopy documents. 7b1104b

PERSONAL MAIL-MANAGEMENT SUBSYSTEM IN NLS 7b1105

No work has been done by us in this area. We need an equivalent of READMAIL, but presumably even more powerful. 7b1105a

DRAFTS, COMMENTS, AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS 7b1106

Formalize the notion of drafts, comments, and acknowledgments, so the journal can make decisions (e.g., about routing) on the basis of whether or not a document has been acknowledged by certain individuals, etc. 7b1106a

GENERALIZED ROUTING FOR JOURNAL DELIVERY 7b1107

We can, I think, give the user a great deal of flexibility about the routing of a document to the people in its distribution list (I would expect sequential, and, of course, the current parallel delivery to fall out of this). 7b1107a

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A distribution list would, in the general case, be more complicated than it currently is. For example: 7b1107b

Distribution: (CHI JDH DCW) then (RWW or 25=FEB 5PM) then ack JEW 7b1107b1

meaning: 7b1107c

Distribute in parallel to CHI, JDH, and DCW; when and if positively acknowledged by all of them, send to RWW. Then send finally to JEW, either when RWW has acknowledged or by 5 pm, Feb 25, whichever comes sooner. 7b1107c1

Both the syntax and example are contrived, and more constructs could be defined, but the idea, I think, is clear. 7b1107d

DELIVERY OF NETWORK MAIL TO INITIAL FILES 7b1108

MESSAGE.TXT files can be eliminated for those NLS users who desire it. All network mail sent to them would be reformatted and placed in their initial file, like journal mail. 7b1108a

SNDMSG SUBSTITUTE IN NLS %DONE% 7b1109

I've 90% completed an NLS command which replaces SNDMSG, in that it does exactly the same thing as SNDMSG (in terms of the mode of mail delivery), but operates on NLS files and allows both 'User@host' and ident forms for addressees. 7b1109a

GENERALIZED JOURNAL ADDRESSES IN THE IDENTFILE 7b11010

Instead of the current hardcopy, on-line, and network mailbox address, permit each user to maintain N such mailboxes. Each would be of one of those three types, and each would admit only mail which met certain criteria, e.g.: 7b11010a

Authored by one of a specified list of users. 7b11010a1

Meeting certain specified size constraints. 7b11010a2

Containing specified keywords in the title. 7b11010a3

Etc. 7b11010a4

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PROMPTING MECHANISMS	7b11011
Allow the user to be notified (at login, or if already logged in, by NOTIFY) when, e.g.:	7b11011a
mail arrived at a particular mailbox.	7b11011a1
On a pre-specified date and time of day, with a specified message.	7b11011a2
Etc.	7b11011a3
VIEWING WHAT'S BEEN CHANGED IN A FILE	7b11012
Provide the ability for a user to visibly distinguish on his screen between a file and the changes contained in its partial copy (with underlining, italics, or whatever, perhaps under user control). Allow a file to be viewed through any of several PCs.	7b11012a
This, to my mind, is the way to implement (at least one form of) comments on a journal document. A user could then send a draft to N other users for review, each of whom would create his own partial copy for the file, and return it via the Journal to the originating user, who could then view the N partial copies against the original file, and produce a final copy.	7b11012b
AUTOMATIC GARBAGE COLLECTING OF INITIAL FILES	7b11013
Allow the user, via the identfile or his profile, to specify a garbage collecting algorithm for his initial file, involving parameters like:	7b11013a
Time it has sat in the file.	7b11013a1
Who it's authored by (e.g., "Discard after 30 days anything not authored by RWW or JCN").	7b11013a2
Etc.	7b11013a3
UNRECORDED MAIL & DONE%	7b11014
No definition required. (17497,) (DHC)	7b11014a

JI Distribution Groups

4-NOV-73 11:48 20038 The suggestion is for a capability comparable to the "B" option in TENEX sndmsg where I would be able to insert a branch for the distribution in the journal

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

mail system.

7b11p

DHC 22-JUN-73 17:54 17426

Author Control of Distribution Media for Journal Mail

7b11q

AT DELIVERY TIME, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO SAY MEDIUM HARD,
ONLINE AND IF THE PERSON HAS ONLY ONLINE TURNED ON, BUT
HASN'T SAID 'NEVER' FOR HARDCOPY, HE WILL GET A HARDCOPY
(THO HE WOULDN'T, NORMALLY).

7b11q1

LPD Don't like current Net Journal distribution

19-AUG-73 00:29 18495 Message:

I disapprove of the current Net Journal Distribution
procedure. The TENEX READMAIL facility is a far less
convenient form in which to maintain a permanent record of
Journal items addressed to me than my Initials file at ARC.
The overhead of transferring such notices to a permanent
file is also odious. Until and unless the NIC can make a
subsystem (such as NLS) available to aid in this process, I
would like my Journal items delivered BOTH to my "home" host
and to my NIC Initials file. If it is impossible to do
both, I would prefer the latter to the former.

7b11r

JEW Smaller Separator in Print Journal

26-APR-73 13:50 16210 Message:

To whoever is messing around with 'Print Journal' these
days (is it Chuck?), Dave Crocker suggests in (15477,) that
the separator be reduced from three to one line. Makes
sense.

7b11s

DCE NP for SNDMSG, User Program INMES, and round-trip
conversion between NLS and sequential files

17-OCT-73 17:35 (LJOURNAL, 19746, 1:W)

7b11t

Comments: Time for more dialogue re improved facilities
for NLS support of composng, sending, and managing SNDMSG
traffic?

7b11t1

KIRK quit command

30-JAN-74 10:09 21677 Message:

In being consistant with the subsystems and novice user
naivete, there should be a quit Tenex command in NLS that would
take you out to your higher level. Your higher level would be
telnet, a superior NLS, or Logout. There should also be a quit

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Job command which would equal the Logout command,

7b12

DIA 8-APR-74 14:29 22662
Viewspec suggestions for NLS
Location: (LJOURNAL, 22662, 1:w)

7b13

Let viewspec questionmark display the viewspecs when you
want to see them. (KIRK)

7b13a

limit display if viewspecs.

7b13b

This would be a user profile parameter that would control
the display of viewspecs. The effect would be that
viewspecs would not be displayed unless they were
DIFFERENT than a specified set of viewspecs. The result
would be that the viewspec area would be empty unless
there was something unusual -- which the user would like
to be aware of.

7b13b1

I find myself paying little attention to the viewspecs
anyway, except when I have some 'special' (unusual for
me) setting.

7b13b2

Print Journal

7b14

DHC Fewer hard copies of Jourrrnal messages
19-JAN-73 12:17 14012 Message:
This suggestion is actually courtesy of Jon Postel:

A Journal message receiver should have hard-copy as an
optional, rather than automatic occurrence. This would
lessen the mail situation some.

Probably the easiest thing to do is have the print Journal
command have a verbose mode which queried for a) deletion of
the message, and b) hard copy of the message.

7b14a

Now that filters delimited by semicolons ;filter; are defined
as viewspecs in the definition of a link or an address,
;filter; should be a valid viewspec whenever the V: prompt
appears. (22486,) (KIRK)

7b15

Alternative views in help

7b16

24-SEP-74 1818-PDT KEENEY: help

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

Distribution: KELLEY
 Received at: 24-SEP-74 18:18:37

7b16a

how can i get a printout of the whole help system,
 i am really behind on nls development and reading the
 latest help
 might help (so to speak,...)
 marcia

7b16a1

=(23116,) (MDK) the command feedback window and the literal
 feedback window should be merged, in practically all instances,
 so that the total expression that a user composes --- command
 words, command noise words, literal typeins, etc --- is
 displayed in the appropriate order for the user to reflect
 upon,

7b17

The major difficulty in doing this would seem to be how to
 handle bugs,

7b17a

I think this depends on the situation,

7b17b

If the user is bugging a word or character or filename then
 that string can just be displayed; if the user is bugging a
 structure, then the statement number(s) of that structure
 could be displayed, or perhaps just the symbol "<bug>" could
 be displayed; other cases would have to be thought out, of
 course, but the net effect would be an eminently more
 readable command feedback line.

7b17c

=(23116,) (MDK) I would like to see a modification to the
 "Output File" command that allows the output to be "filtered"
 That is, the command should at least optionally obey viewspecs
 "i" and "k". This would make it MUCH easier to do a content
 search and save the results without having to split the screen,
 create a new file, copy filtered, etc,

7b18

SRL 4-JAN-73

The message at the top at times is poetic, but rather strange
 looking, for example, Transpose text at through and through,
 Copy Group from through to follow, etc. It seems the words
 should go away when they are no longer applicable or slashes
 between or something (CHI; we could echo an @ or BUG for each
 bug selection -- we will want to do this in final tty=simulated
 CFL anyway) (JAKE)

7b19

DSM 24-MAY-74 15:07 23117
 CML Backspace implementation
 Location: (GJOURNAL, 23117, 1:w)

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

*****Note: [INFO-ONLY] *****

7b20

There is a inconsistency in the CML interpreter.

7b20a

In expert/expert recognition mode when the user types the sequence <Space><Letter><Backspace> the backspace is executed as a double backspace and the interpreter considers the next letter input as a LEVEL! Command.
Example <space>S<backspace>C recognizes copy command

7b20a1

It would seem more consistent to have one backspace leave the interpreter in a state expecting a second level command sequence, and require the user to type two backspaces (or a command delete) to get to the top of the parse tree.

7b20a2

Changes in basic CML io entities DSEL, LSEL, SSEL.

7b21

Indirect Addressing

7b21a

RLL suggestion on indirect addressing.
14-AUG-74 14:14 (GJOURNAL, 23793, 1:W)
*****Note: [ACTION] *****

7b21a1

I believe indirect addressing would be nice to have within editing commands. When the control U business disappears in the new version, one could use the control u to be used as an indirection. E.G. if bugged after control u, the name/link bugged would be taken as the effective address. This is extremely valuable where an index is kept of links and structural entities are moved/copied to positions relative to this links. The slight inconsistency with TNLS should not be a barrier since such an indirecting scheme has very low value for TNLS users and <CA> for them means CM where <CA>=<BUG> means the spot currently being pointed to. Just don't permit it for TNLS. If there is some other conflict I have issued, then consider a special character or another (ugh) control character to indicate the indirection. (how about slash?) Robert

7b21a1a

KIRK 14-AUG-74 17:04 23797
Addressing in commands by bugging a link
Location: (GJOURNAL, 23797, 1:W)
*****Note: [INFO-ONLY] *****

7b21a2

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

I support RLL's suggestion (23793,) for allowing <CA> immediately after <"U> mean "I'm bugging a link containing the address". The prompts in DNLS would be
 B/T/[B/A] for CONTENT (LSEL) 7b21a2a
7b21a2a1

where the parameter in square brackets for LSEL wants an address (or link, depending on Your point of view), 7b21a2a1a

B/A/[B/T] for SOURCE (SSEL) 7b21a2a2

B/A/[B] for DESTINATION (DSEL) 7b21a2a3

I see no inconsistency with TNLS where A: <CA> means "the location of the Current Marker", 7b21a2b

This would also be consonent with the new entity "Default Select" (DEFSEL) for use in the Append, Break, Connect, Distribute, etc, commands. DEFSEL would be T/[B/A]. Just like the new LSEL Robert suggests only without the first B, 7b21a2c

DVN 15-AUG-74 08:21 23798
 For Indirect Addressing in Editing (support for 23793)
 Location: (GJOURNAL, 23798, 11w)
 *****Note: [ACTION] ***** 7b21a3

Robert's right, I have frequently missed being able to bug a link as a source of a copy etc, 7b21a3a

KIRK Use of the equivalent of a DeFault SeLect (DFSL?) (Same as TNLS CONTENT = TYPEIN / [ADDRESS], In DNLS = T:[B:/A:],) would allow the user to CONFIRM a command without having to type anything for the default. This would save typing the special control characters <"N> and <"U> in order to change the default for the most frequent use in some commands including the following, 7b22

Append Statement (at) SOURCE (to) ADDRESS <NULL> / TYPEIN / BUG / [DAE] CONFIRM 7b22a

This forces the user to type a null character (<"N> or <SP><BS>) whenever appending without inserting any text between the appended statements, 7b22a1

Because bugging text to go between appended statements is more infrequent than not inserting any text between

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8,1

statements (NULL), and in order to make the TNLS Append more closely parallel the DNLS Append, I suggest changing the syntax to be:

7b22a2

Append Statement (at) SOURCE (to) ADDRESS DFSL CONFIRM

7b22a3

Append Statement syntax (5 bugs required) is too lengthy; possibly use optional text, intervening text, or insert added text, instead of to-through

7b22a4

RLL suggestion on a new append statement

23-OCT-73 08:41 19825 Message:

after a execute insert sequential there exist a nls file with no structure, we have found it desirable to structure it by joining (appending) several statements together, however, the append command operates on statements only, we suggestion that aappend be extended to groups, so that one can append to a statement from a group of statements, namely, append to statement ,1 from ,3 to ,13 etc, one could call this ommand group append to distinguish from append, robert lieberman of nsrdc

7b22a5

COnnect (to) Directory USERNAME CA <CONFIRM / <*u> PASSWORD CONFIRM>

7b22b

requires a CA followed by <*U> in order to specify a password (instead of nothing or <Sp> as in Tenex), No-password can be the default field and the password can be typed in without requireing <*U>, The command would be:

7b22b1

COnnect (to) Directory USERNAME CA (Password) DFSL CONFIRM,

7b22b2

Ken Tells me that this is desirable in other Directory commands as well,

7b22b3

Output <Quickprint/Journal/Printer/COM> [File CONTENT / Copies TYPEIN] CONFIRM

7b22c

This requires <*U> to specify another filename or number of copies other than 1, The following syntax would eliminate the need to type <*u> and could also save accidental printings by following the double command accept convention,

7b22c1

Output <Quickprint/Journal/Printer/COM> DFSL CA (Copies = 1?) DFSL CONFIRM

7b22c2

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

Set Name delimiters should be considered,

7b22d

DVN 18-JUN-74 08:29 23392

Strings for the Scope of Substitutute

Message; I,e, Substitute character in text, What ever happend to that good idea?

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

7b23

Automatic repeat of commands with Commandwords available along with the first parameter (a la NLS=7)

7b24

CML should be modified so that after typing the noun in addition to the parameter (e.g, B:[A:]) all of the command verbs in a subsystem can be made available. This is so those people who think this capability from the old system is valuable can write their own subsystem to do this, (22175,) (KIRK)

7b24a

2) Repeat

7b24b

Can't we have a more intelligent implicit way of getting out of repeat mode as in old system by having it recognize that characters being typed are illegal at that point and try to interpret them as commands?(22931,) (RWW)

7b24b1

-(23116,) (MDK) I am personally not satisfied with the automatic return to "command reset" mode after every command terminator,

7b24c

The use of "RPT" is not a satisfactory mechanism, especially since it usurps the <control=b> that was previously used for the old center-dot function --- an annoying need to relearn an old habit,

7b24c1

I don't have an obviously winning solution; but my own preference is simply to type "command delete" --- very simple with the mouse, not so simple with a TI --- when I know I want to start a new command. Perhaps this is one place where the old difference between TNLS and DNLS syntaxes should prevail,

7b24c2

19-JUL-74 1558-PDT FEINLER: New NLS
Distribution: FEEDBACK, feinler
Received at: 19-JUL-74 15:58:45

7b24d

To verbalize some of my reticence to use the new NLS :

7b24d1

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

- There are too many confirms and too much undefinable verbage in the command language, I find a few of the commands almost unintelligible with respect to what I am expected to do, (ex, Sendmail, Append) The number of interruptions from the command language interfer with my concentration on the job I am trying to do,

7b24d2

- The fact that each command is cancelled after it is executed once cust way down on efficiency, For instance, if I am jumping down through a file changing a statement here and some text there. In the old system I could go back and forth between the jump command and the insert command with one bug. Now I must retype the command from scratch, If I have a 'hold' on a command in the new system so that it does not go away after each use, then it is cancelled every time I have to do a jump. Also the double button routine is difficult for me to execute - not infrequently I hit both but only the command delete registers thus canceling my work,

7b24d3

I have mentioned that 'jumps' and text finding seems slower in the new system than it does in the old, HGL is checking this out,

7b24d4

These are verbalized here not to 'knock' the new system but rather in the hopes that they will be useful user comments.

7b24d5

Execute Verbose could put him in the most verbose mode for all feedback for the single following command when it's an unfamiliar one such as show drectory (21703,) (21711,) (DVN)

7b25

KIRK 11=AUG=74 00:58 23758
 Ampersand should be a valid character in a statement name,
 Location: (GJOURNAL, 23758, 1;W)
 *****Note: [ACTION] *****

7b26

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

Therefore, some other character should be used to specify an external name. It is of utmost importance that this decision be made as soon as possible before ampersand becomes tradition and impossible to remove.

7b26a

DVN 10-JUL-74 21:34 23591

For a Means of Highlighting Strings that Are the Object of Content Searches

Location: (GJOURNAL, 23591, 1:w)

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

7b27

We are now trying to print via COM some files that came over from another system that included an hyphenation program (as many do) which leaves words with "-" in their midst wherever they now occur in the resulting NLS statment. It happens that many of the statments are very long, more than a screenful in some cases. We cannot merely do a mass substitute because the text includes dashes.

7b27a

What we need in this case is something we often need in editing, a way of visually highlighting a string which is the object of a substitute or a content search. Then an editor could go rapidly through the text, sight every "-" in a moment, and decide it's fate quickly and easilly.

7b27b

Since, as I understand it, underline is available both on tasker and on the devices supported by the line processor, underline seems a good way for NLS to highlight strings. I have mentioned this problem before, probably not loudly enough. If NLS is ever to compete as a production editing system, (journal, 23555,) it needs some such feature. Most word processing systems do. The information that a string occurs somewhere within a statement is just not enough for production editing on displays.

7b27c

Jump to Bottom of window.

7b28

KEY request for a new nls command

5-JAN-73 13:53 13709 Message:

It would be nice if there were a jump to bottom command in NLS that function similarly to the curent jump to item command except that the item selected became the new bottom line of the screen. Viewspecs that matter (such as the e viewspec) could be take relative the the bugged item. This command would be very useful in looking at assembly files for example.

7b28a

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

RLL 9-AUG-74 10:43 23750
 A new jump command suggestion,
 Location: (GJOURNAL, 23750, 1:w)
 *****Note: [ACTION] *****

7b28b

I have often found that I wanted a window view showing the last (tail) part of the plex. Jump to tail shows only the tail statement and what follows. I suggest we have another jump (e.g. jump to full tail) that would have the tail statement as the last line of the window, this would give a full screen view of the last part of the plex. Of course it would obey viewspecs. A more general set of jump commands would be a tjump. Where tjump noun does the same as jump noun but positions the bugged (or addressed) statement at the tail(end, bottom) of the window. Rob

7b28b1

(KIRK)

7b29

Allowing edges to be moved anywhere up to the margin and then moved back.

7b30

Jump to previous screen composition, including windows that have been moved away. (MDK)

7b30a

Allow a user to type "Execute command in TENEX" which would take him to the exec to do one command and then allow him to return (22815,) (KIRK)

7b31

-(23116,) (MDK) you can of course "goto tenex", but you can't "execute command in Tenex" --- so tenex is not a true subsystem !

7b31a

HELP Software DEVELOPMENT

7b32

Free text input

7b32a

RWW 1-MAY-74 16:15 22874
 help system needs
 Message: Some suggestions fo Help, w need to instrument help to see path etc. It would also be nice to let the user input free form text to express his question or problem and whether or not it got answered or what ever.
 *****Note: * action * *****

7b32a1

Brief views specifiable by user

7b32b

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

RLL 23-APR-74 12:48 22804

help system suggestion

Message: suggestion on help system; the show < command returns one to next higher level; fine. But in TNLS it would be nice to return to this point without printing out all the "help" info again includingg the menu (it was presumedly printed out before and one can look at it). Yes, one could use the control O command to cease printing but this is not "neat". If not too hard suggestion a show <n command to supress the printing.

7b32b1

Most frustrating thing is finding two or more objects on the menu you want to examine. You go after one, but it is very difficult to get back to previous menus. The best thing to do, apparently, is type SHOW T:/[A]: " until you get to the place where you can re-select. The large penalty for doing so is that you have to look at that piece of text again. There really ought to be a way to get only the previous menu in the tree, (RICART)

7b32b2

Shopping list for the NLS part of the NSW

7c

To: NSW Development Group

7c1

From: EKM

7c2

This is a first draft of the 'shopping list' for the NLS part of the NSW. It needs priorities, time estimates, additions, deletions and copious editing. Could you look it over, mark it up and bring it to a meeting tomorrow at 10:30 to finish it.

7c3

Working Paper for NSW Meeting

7c4

This paper outlines a set of possible NSW NLS tasks to be performed by ARC=SRI. It is intended to serve as a basis for discussion for the NSW NLS meeting at the end of September. Suggested priorities have been assigned to each task with the expectation that these will be revised at the meeting.

7c5

Make the new NLS system now running at ARC the standard NLS system at OFFICE=1.

7c6

This task is almost complete. Major remaining portion is completion of the new help system and a NIC query system.

7c6a

New features are described in (nls,mods,).

7c6b

NLS frontend backend split

7c7

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

- The current state of the split is that the source has been, somewhat roughly, divided into frontend and backend files based on our current perception of what these should be. The compiled files are all loaded together as before, 7c7a
- We need to complete the design of the frontend/backend communication protocols and implement them. Then we can try running NLS with the two sections in separate forks and then with the two sections in separate computers, 7c7b
- Specify, design, implement, and document a COBOL programmer's interface, 7c8
- Under user control, automatically complete the spelling of COBOL reserved words while inserting COBOL source code 7c8a
- Automatically apply structure to the inserted source code 7c8b
- Help ensure syntactic correctness of the inserted source code 7c8c
- Attempt to use existing data definitions to 7c8d
- Provide spelling completion when requested 7c8d1
- Request new definitions and documentation when a new identifier is used by the programmer, 7c8d2
- Provide a debugging facility, 7c8e
- Provide capability to generate test data files, 7c8f
- Preprocessing of Source Code Prepared for Remote Job Entry for COBOL Compilation 7c9
- A Remote Job Entry (RJE) facility will be made available through the NSW Works Manager. This facility will allow the NSW user to, among other things, compile and execute his COBOL programs on various machines available within the NSW environment that provide the required RJE facilities. An NLS preprocessor would take the source code prepared by the NLS COBOL programmer's interface and format it appropriately for further handling by the NSW Works Manager, 7c9a
- Provide a special interface for programmer support personnel including secretaries and clerical workers. The interface will include the following capabilities: 7c10
- On site study of present working methods and needs, 7c10a

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

Simplified editors, one tailored to display terminals and another designed for hardcopy terminals., Use less technical language, e.g, paragraph for statement,	7c10b
It might be useful to provide a Wylbur-like, line oriented, unstructured editor for TNLS,	7c10b1
Preparing and sending mail	7c10c
This would include an analog of the letter program and an interrogate system for sending the mail,	7c10c1
Reading the mail	7c10d
Sorting and filing the mail	7c10e
A calculator facility to handle simple bookkeeping tasks,	7c10f
A system for filling in forms,	7c10g
A series of SHORT CAI courses to instruct personnel in each phase of the system. (Note: this can probably be implemented using the process commands in branch command with the facility that allows user feedback,)	7c10h
Document production and publication system,	7c11
Entering text into the system	7c11a
Directly from a computer terminal	7c11a1
From a document prepared on a typewriter using OCR	7c11a2
From a cassette device prepared off-line, e.g, mtst tapes, dex cassettes, any 'smart' terminal storage device,	7c11a3
From a file existing on any NSW host computer via the network	7c11a4
Editing text in the system	7c11b
Simplified NLS editor subsets designed to allow temporary personnel and people who only use the system occasionally to learn quickly and perform basic text editing. (See the section on the interface for programmer support personnel,)	7c11b1
Full NLS editor. Expanded features might include:	7c11b2

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

'column' and 'row' entities	7c11b2a
A 'table' entity.	7c11b2b
A 'heading' entity	7c11b2c
A way to mark off editor's comments.	7c11b2d
Add elipsis capability in content searches	7c11b2e
Add an option to the content analyser that displays only statement numbers or sids of statements that pass the filter without displaying the associated text. This is particularly useful to users working at hard copy terminals.	7c11b2f
A way of high lighting character strings within a statement that are the object of a content search.	7c11b2g
Underlining and overstriking	7c11b2h
More powerful programs to generate tables of contents, indexes, and bibliographies.	7c11b2i
Formating text for printing/displaying	7c11c
First NSW implementation to be based on the current output processor with some added capabilities.	7c11c1
A two-pass system that would know on the second pass the boundaries of each page, and thus compose footnotes, glosses, paged indices, columns that break accros the page, etc.	7c11cia
A two-pass system is more than twice as expensive in CPU time and only occasionally useful; it should be an alternative.	7c11cia1
A way of highlighting (i.e. by bright characters) test strings that are the object of a content search.	7c11c1b
,SIDS=ON;	7c11c1c
Directives (or whatever) to mark off headings as headings.	7c11c1d
Directives (or whatever) to creat non-NLS paragraphing easilly.	7c11c1e

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

Directives invisible to the users, but present in the file in, for example, the manner of markers, 7c11c1f

Parts of highly formatted files like the ARPA Network Resource Notebook are unreadable online because of the profusion of directives. We resort to the cumbersome procedures of a separate file to read online and another to print from, with attendant maintenance problems. 7c11c1f1

Alternatively or in the short run a viewspace that filtered out directives. 7c11c1f2

A way to mark off editor's comments in the text. 7c11c1g

A two-pass machine and a way to tag statements as glosses would serve well. 7c11c1g1

Proofs available rapidly near the user's terminal. 7c11c1h

All (underlined) display viewspecs should be observed. 7c11c1i

A way to call for non-ascii characters including graphic entities like braces of various sizes, flow charts symbols, etc. 7c11c1j

A display system whereon the page appears as it would appear printed. 7c11c1k

Such a display would be useful even if it did not show real fonts, but only layout. 7c11c1k1

As a step beyond the formatting programs, an interactive subsystem that would allow the user to instruct the system about layout via simple English words and graphic devices rather than by writing in bits of code (the directives). 7c11c1l

Such a system should be able to guide the user by questioning her intellegently about her wants. 7c11c1l1

A forms system that allows the user to instruct NLS in the layout of an external form and to subsequently call for given files or other units of data to be printed into the proper boxes in instances of that form. (21808). 7c11c1m

System of varying degrees of sophistication for entering format directives into a file. 7c11c2

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

Direct entry using the editor. This assumes a sophisticated user, thoroughly trained in the use of the output processor.	7c11c2a
An interrogate system which asks the user questions about headings, footers, fonts, etc, and is essentially self teaching.	7c11c2b
A set of special purpose formatting routines tailored to a particular set of needs. e.g. Air Force specifications for 1) copy produced on a line printer, 2) COM hard-copy, and 3) microfiche.	7c11c2c
Rewrite the output processor to be a completely interactive and generalized portrayal generator.	7c11c3
Graphics	7c12
Simple drawings	7c12a
A graphics work station would consist of a standard alpha-numeric display and a graphics storage display connected to the frontend through a single line processor. A file displayed on the alpha-numeric display would show all text in the file and would have a special notation to designate areas where pictures would appear. The graphics display would show the picture and any text associated with it.	7c12a1
In graphics mode the user could make simple line drawings with the mouse, depressing the proper mouse button to designate the beginnings and endings of lines.	7c12a2
The user could move a line or entire figure and perhaps change the size of a figure.	7c12a3
Text associated with the picture such as captions, labels, etc., could be edited at the alpha-numeric display.	7c12a4
The work station could include a printer to allow hardcopy of the pictures and text shown on the graphics display.	7c12a5
For better quality output the edited file could be processed for COM and printed that way.	7c12a6
Flow-chart production	7c12b

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

- Here we need a new set of entities that offer flow charting symbols, e.g, a diamond shape to indicate a decision point, a special shape to indicate printed output, etc. 7c12b1
- There should be a standard set available and the user should be able to define, by drawing and naming for example, new entities. 7c12b2
- The user should be able to change the size of each occurrence of an entity, associate text with the symbols and manipulate connectors between symbols. 7c12b3
- Provide user documentation in the form of an online HELP database and command language reference manual summary. 7c13
- NLS user documentation will exist in two forms: online and in appropriate hardcopy forms. 7c13a
- Hardcopy documentation will exist in the forms agreed between ARC and ARPA, such as cue cards, introductory guides, scenarios, or more extensive user guides. 7c13b
- Online documentation and HELP databases will exist with appropriate easy-to-learn methods of access and browsing. Some simple tutorial facilities may be available as required. 7c13c
- More sophisticated NLS tutorial and HELP facilities can evolve in later NSW system versions. 7c13d
- Perform any modifications to the NLS file system that may be necessary to integrate it most efficiently into the larger NSW file system and conventions. 7c14
- Deal with problems of file transfer and use imposed by network bandwidth. This may involve partial paging of files across the network. 7c14a
- Measurement and analysis of cost and effectiveness of using current traditional tools and working procedures in each area expected to use the new system. 7c15
- Programmers and analysts. 7c15a
- Program documentation production and control. 7c15b
- Secretarial and clerical support. 7c15c

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

It is hoped that these figures will fall out of existing Air Force accounting reports,	7c15d
Measurement and analysis of cost and effectiveness of using the new NSW tools and working procedures in each area using the new system,	7c16
We need a plan for this at least by July 1.	7c16a
Training	7c17
Question; do we train programmers and secretaries, etc, or do we train trainers of programmers and secretaries? We need a plan.	7c17a
Suggested Additions to shopping list	7d
Full NLS editor, Expanded features might also include:	7d1
Implement or interface an automatic spelling program,	7d1a
Make the site field work (windowing or copying in appropriate instances) for remote file access in links,	7d1b
"included" links under viewspec control to allow cross-file substitutions, editing, and searches,	7d1c
Augmented Feedback, Analysis, and Decision Process: 1/8-1/4 person year,	7d2
An ongoing, effective, responsive, user feedback-decision process is vital to the survival of any living system,	7d2a
"Ongoing" means day-to-day, week-to-week, month-to-month, version-to-version of NLS,	7d2b
"Responsive" implies automatic user voting and weighted opinion gathering mechanisms as well as easy access to the current status of suggestions and projects,	7d2c
"Effective decision" implies analysis,	7d2d
This would also include date, person-hour, and cost projections for appropriate features and projects,	7d2e
Simple, easy to use, information retrieval system with a database consisting of an easily queryable integrated online handbook, 1/2=1 person year,	7d3

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

contents of the handbook could be:	7d3a
Work Manuals with basic conventions and Step-by-step algorithms for accomplishing and automating specific tasks,	7d3a1
Userguides for general purpose learning.	7d3a2
An open-ended glossary, thesarus of special terms.	7d3a3
A dictionary of standard definitions	7d3a4
An index of keywords	7d3a5
An interface to online help facilities.	7d3a6
Online document locator for important or special documents.	7d3a7
Decisions and Decision Algorithms for feedback, analysis, and decision operations.	7d3a8
Accounting and financial information.	7d3a9
Catalogs of available online and offline materials, (Books, reports, articles, video-tapes, etc.	7d3a10
Directories of individuals, groups, and organizations with published online materials by author.	7d3a11
Doug Englebart's thoughts on the NLS Handbook. References...	7d3a12
"Integrated" means file independant. Cross-file searching, linking,	7d3b
A back-link capablity.	7d3c
Make the site field work (windowing or copying in appropriate instances) for remote file access in links.	7d3d
Simple, easy to use, information retrieval system in this application means it must be general enough to operate on the average NLS file WITHOUT the user being aware of or needing to know about structural relationships, view specification codes and file size limitations. It would require the minimum number of button pushes to use for this application.	7d3e

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

Table of Contents program	7d4
RLL 24-JUL-74 00:06 23671 user prog suggestion: assignment of numbers to plex statements at beginning of statements Location: (GJOURNAL, 23671, 1:w) *****Note: [ACTION] *****	7d4a
How about a user prog that assigns outline numbers to statements in a plex/branch/group under controlling viewspecs(levels only), some default could be used as the numbers (uppercase roman numbers, upper case roman letters, arabic numbers, lowercase roman letters, lowercase roman numbers,) There should be a simple command for just numbering the plex with the given type (this could be a simple version of the overall command or another command,) You can have a set mode command to set the kind of number or ask for it each time the request is made,	7d4a1
User-program integration into NLS suggestions.	7e
Currently Append Branch is not implemented. It would be easy to implement by having it do exactly what append statement currently does. Append plex and group is another story. They should work like the Append user program in the running system. (22059,) (KIRK)	7e1
A Break Branch command should work differently from the break statement command. It should put the original substructure under the new statement instead of under the original statement.	7e2
Break Group and Break Plex commands should break at every <EOL> in statements at the current level ignoring substructure and viewspecs,	7e3
DOCUMENTATION DEVELOPMENT	
DB: Data Base	
> this contains items that have not yet been assigned to a person or are controversial. For assigned tasks, see <nls,mods,done>	7f
Create and maintain a reasonable tree structure with which the user can identify. This depends on an accessing system that allows the user to see Map and Full views. And allows the user to take reference links located in a node. (Reference links are not classified by the node and therefore do not belong in its substructure.)	7f1

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

The treeishness is very confused by the arbitrary allowed branches. Let's say that you are trying to find out about subject X. You are led down the tree, selecting various branches. At one point, your eyes light up since one choice is "all you wanted to know about X". You think that finally you are going to get the info. In reality, it takes you back to a previous menu and you have to start all over again.

7f1a

DVN I really like the when FILENAME at the same spot spells out its parts in the menued line.

7f1b

RLL 23=APR=74 17:50 22810

annoying loop in help menu system

Message: JUST came across a loop in the help system. I realize that this probably occurs quite often, however it was a bit annoying to keep seeing in menus the same selection. The particular instance in this case was with ITEM, show item has 1, message and show message has 1, item, guess it would be too hard to prevent this sort of tight loop (a stack of the last menu items called might be inspected before system goes off- if recently displayed then could user option of aborting this selection).

7f1c

10=MAY=74 0545=PDT JERNIGAN; HELP Loop in Programs Section
Distribution: FEEDBACK, jernigan
Received at: 10=MAY=74 05:45:51

7f1d

There is apparently a loop in the HELP Database under the Programs Subsystems section, (1) into the Programs part of Subsystems; (2) Show "loading user program" which is item 3, (3) At this point a section of information comes up entitled "loading user programs" and under it there are a "show also" selection plus 10 items. In the Show Also are "Programs Load, filename, extension", (4) Do a Show "Programs Load" and it shows a section of info with two items, first one which is "important loading information", (5) Do a Show "important loading information" (which is Item 1), (6) You get an Item not found! (7) do a show 1 (which is same thing), and you get "important loading information, a CR, and loading user programs: blah blah, which is where you started. I have the TI paper printout from the loop and will deposit it on Susan's desk. (Point is, it is not important loading information if you just saw it from where you came in.)

7f1d1

The first line of every function statement could be the syntax. Add syntax as first part of each function statement.

7f2

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

f) In help database, on some commands you get the syntax in the menu, others not. I like getting the syntax as it may not require me to go on. Let's adopt this as the uniform convention. (22931,) (RWW) 7f2a

f. SHOW DELETE MARKER (22871,) (MDK) 7f2b

This works o.k. but illustrates an undesirable feature: 7f2b1

The first line of the response says simply "MARKER". It should say "DELETE MARKER". This comment holds for all SHOW's for which the object is a stacked statement name: the first line that results from execution of the SHOW command should contain the entire stacked statement name. 7f2b2

Change all STRING and STRUCTURE and SUBSYSTEM references in Function, (syntax and example) to a reference for each command-noun. 7f3

Backlink system 7f4

Whenever the Insert Link command is used, 7f4a

before it inserts the link, it parses the link and 7f4a1

finds the addressed statement and 7f4a2

places a link appended to the end of the addressed statement 7f4a3

preceded by a carriage return, and 7f4a3a

surrounded by pound signs: #<01234># 7f4a3b

It then inserts the SID of the statement addressed by the inserted link 7f4a4

after comment dashes 7f4a4a

after the address inserted by the user. 7f4a4b

If it does not find the addressed statement, 7f4a5

it will insert the link without the "== SID" 7f4a5a

but only after sending out a message and requesting an extra confirmation. 7f4a5b

The delete statement command 7f4b

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

checks to see if any links delimited by # are in the statement, and 7f4b1

if one is found, refuses to delete the statement. 7f4b2

If the user still wishes to delete such a statement, he must use the Delete Referenced Statement command. 7f4c

The Renumber SID's command will check for links and either not work, or else only renumber those statements without links. 7f4d

You must use the Renumber Referenced SID's command to renumber referenced statements. 7f4e

Suggestions outside the realm of NLS code,

> Network Information Center Feedback sent to ident NIC, see Jake feiner to determine status.

Operations and User Development feedback sent to indent FEED, see <OFFICE-1, FEEDBACK, FEED,> or Jim Bair for status. 7g

DVN 20-MAY-74 19:38 23062
response to Response
Location: (MJOURNAL, 23062, 1:W)
*****Note: [ACTION] *****

7g1

I think "Force Case" is much nicer than "set Case mode", (mjournal,23019,1g) How about "show markers",... "Show File Marker" is two extra key strokes considering "marker" is a second character name in expert expert mode.

7g1a

OPERATIONS & USER DEVELOPMENT (UD)

7g2

ARC Environment

7g2a

KIRK 1-FEB-74 12:28 21723
NP for an Offquota command
Message: The equivalent of an Offquota command (for the group allocation system) is needed to maintain the first-on, last-off convention and make cooperation among members of each group much less painful. This would allow you to keep your place in the offquota stack when another member of your group is scheduled to be onquota. Currently when you are automatically made onquota, you must log out to allow a scheduled person to log in.

7g2a1

Interface to video-tape cassette machines.

7g2b

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

Hardware	7g2c
Mouse and Keypad	7g2c1
I want two mouse=sets with five buttons each instead of one mouse and one keypad (KIRK)	7g2c1a
Typewriter terminals	7g2c2
KIRK Features desired in typewriter-like keyboard hardware for optimal user control. 24=JUL=73 20:47 (LJOURNAL, 17999, 1;w)	7g2c2a
Printer	7g2c3
RWW NP for a Printer Escape Mechanism 17=JAN=73 10:05 13857 Message: A problem has arisen today which has been seen before, namely someone sends a very large file or large number of copies of a file to the printer and then realizes he made a mistake, in the meantime the printer is tied up for 20-30 minutes. Can an escape mechanism be put in the system so the the operator can tell the printer process to stop printing the current file and move on to the next on in the queue?	7g2c3a
TENEX (secondary distribution to KEV & DCW)	7g2d
The message "use downtime command to see new up=down schedule" would be a valuable thing if it only appeared when there was a new up=down schedule. (22176,) (KIRK)	7g2d1
JI TENEX/NLS File Compatibility : A mini-suggestion 30=OCT=73 07:55 19908 (JOURNAL, JRNL15, J19908: gwy)	7g2d2
DHC Archive listings briefer 12=NOV=73 14:41 20174 Message: I am really glad to see the Archive stuff getting polished, a VERY strong request, tho, is to make the printing of what tapes thefiles are on OPTIONAL (default to DON'T print). If the Archive system works properly, the user doesn't actuallyever need to know the the tape numbers.	

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

And it will greatly speed up the listing process.
(Dave.)

7g2d3

JBN Repeated Request for Truncated Print of ARC SNDMSG
3=AUG=73 08:26 18187 Message:

Again, I would like to request that local sndmsg be fixed so that it prints on 8 1/2 paper rather than across the printer paper. As you know, sndmsg from outside stops at the perforation, and it is inconvenient that ARC messages do not. I am sending this only to NP. If that is not the place, would you forward the request. == Jeanne N

7g2d4

IMLAC

7g2d5

DHC IMLOAD for Imlacs attached to TIPS
23=APR=73 12:54 16048 Message:

The IMLOAD program should be able to reload an imlac attached to a TIP port, just as SENDPRINT can divert output to a TIP port (ostensibly a printer). This way, a crashed imlac could be reloaded, using another terminal, without having to put a standard editor into the imlac.

TIP Divert Output doesn't work. I have tried it many times and apparently too much dirty data get into the loader stream.

7g2d5a

DHC IMNLS changes that should be
25=APR=73 13:17 16163 Message:

These two suggestions are courtesy of Mark Kampe:

7g2d5b

1. Make the functioning of the "direction" buttons an option which is user settable (It would be option 'A', after option 'O'). This would allow users to use the buttons, to control the cursor, instead of the bug. Also, please have UCLA's option begin enabled. Also, the option should not exclude use of the bug, while it is enabled.

7g2d5b1

2. Use the 'clear screen' instruction (or clear data area) as a button (page xmit?) on the board, under user control.

7g2d5b2

Scheduler

7g2d6

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

JEW scheduler gripe * 20-FEB-73 17:18 14551==
 Scheduler gripe
 It's a Nice Place to Visit, But Why Do I Have to Live
 There?
 Location: (IJOURNAL, 14551, 1:w)

7g2d6a

Archive System

7g2d7

JEW 4=MAY=73 14:08 16282
 Adding a DELETE Function to BSYS
 Location: (IJOURNAL, 16282, 1:w)

7g2d7a

KEV 16-JAN=73 14:04 13827
 archive status of nls files
 Message: It would be nice if nls propagated archive
 status when it did an update file

7g2d7b

DHC 13-JAN=73 11:03 13799

QFD

Message: It is very irritating not be able to use the
 'qfd' command in tenex,
 and therefore to have to print out a rather long
 directory list.

I can't believe it is computationally expensive to use
 that commands.

7g2d8

Network

7g2e

JEW NP NLS GLITCH, Underscore Represented as Vertical
 Bar for Net TTYS &map into UNDERSCORE BACKSPACE&
 27-FEB=73 13:49 (IJOURNAL, 14810, 1:w)

7g2e1

NETWORK INFORMATION DEVELOPMENT (NIC)

7g3

Functional Documents

7g3a

MEJ 4=MAY=73 18:14 16284
 Desired Catalog changes
 Location: (IJOURNAL, 16284, 1:w)

7g3a1

JAKE 5=MAY=73 21:23 16300
 Siteidents

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

Location: (IJOURNAL, 16300, 1:w)

7g3b

Comments: Suggested method for assigning siteidents

7g3b1

RWV * 10-NOV-72 10:33 12718

Three Tasks Requested of JEW for Evolution of NLS
Integration into the NET

Location: (LJOURNAL, 12718, 1:w)

7g3c

DHC 12-JAN-73 11:42 13776

Making nls use the Net more Efficiently

Message: It appears that nls is quite inefficient in
composing network 'messages'.

7g3d

Clearly it has no choice when echoing characters, but when sending out relatively large quantities of data (and relative to single-byte echoing, 20 or 30 characters is a large quantity) a larger message-size should be attempted. Perhaps a 1000-bit (one packet) buffer, vs. 2-3 seconds between messages should determine transmission. I.e., try to fill a packet, but if it takes more than 2 or 3 (or whatever seems reasonable) seconds of real time, send the message off 'now'.

7g3d1

1k bits doesn't seem like an unreasonable buffer (unless, of course, TENEX does nasty things to keep you from it.)

7g3d2

Please let me know what you think of my thinking. If I am off base, I would like to understand how.

thanks,

7g3d3

ANALYSIS

7g4

feedback process

7g4a

28-MAR-74 0920-PDT BAIR: Feedback mechanisms

Distribution: FEEDBACK, islei at ISI, bair

Received at: 28-MAR-74 09:20:06

7g4a1

Jon, It all of a sudden has become very clear that we must coordinate on our separate feedback endeavors. We have a mechanism for subscribers to the Utility that is being refined now after 2 months of operation (see == bair,feed,1) @ SRI-ARC. I have looked at your groups document and could discuss it with you,

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8,1

particularly from the viewpoint of a Behavioral Scientist. Anyway, we are having our final meeting next week (3 Apr). There seems to be no question that there will be 3 mechanisms, 0 at ARC, 1 at Office=1, and the NET. They have very different characteristics and serve different communities. Looking forward to hearing from you, Jim 7g4a1a

JMB - A suggestion she sent in was forwarded to a programmer who in turn contacted her for more information that was specified in the original suggestion. Reinforcement for distributing original text of items, 7g4a2

JHB - I would like to see an acknowledgment when action is taken, and only then. Otherwise the assumption would be that none was taken, 7g4a3

DVN 30-JAN-74 20:04 21688

Against Feedback for Now

Message: Please don't give me feedback on all the flack I have been sending you!

These days, we are going through a kind of debugging of newnls. Most suggestions are really notices of what the sender thinks are bugs either in the code or in his view of the way the system responds to the user.

As we get more settled, the situation will be different, suggestions will be more constructive and long term. Then it might be useful to give feedback. Perhaps request for feedback should be some kind of option, 7g4a4

KIRK 31-JAN-74 15:21 21700

Response to Susan's (21685,)

Message: Your message asking whether NEWNLS stuff should be acknowledged is a good idea. It didn't mention the alternative of each user being able to easily find out what happened to his suggestion by going to the NLS file, so you should judge the responses you get accordingly. I think you know my feelings, but I'll restate them here for the record. I think it would be nice to be able to get a message telling me the status of each of my suggestions each step along its way to implementation, rejection, or the limbo of contention. However, this expensive service (even if pared down to a minimum single message acknowledging receipt) should only be undertaken if enough of a person's time (10-50% ?) to do it right has been allocated by analysis, operations, development or whoever. Until this time has been made available, I think we should concentrate on making the

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

feedback mechanism as accomodating as possible for someone to find what happened to their suggestion on their own,

7g4a5

JEW Dispatching Users' Questions Efficiently

2-OCT-73 14:39 19420 Message:

Why not create an ident similar to NP and BUGS, called HELP, to which users can address questions (as opposed to suggestions or bug reports) about use of our system (eg., "How do I do such and such?")? This would not only alleviate the very common problem (in my experience) of each person at ARC having to serve as dispatcher for questions that he can't answer, asked of him simply because the asking user knew his name; but it would also (I would guess) serve to generate a data base from which holes in our user guides could be patched. Maybe there is such an ident already and I don't know about it and nobody uses it (?). [Implementation Problem: There's already a branch in the Ident File (although not an ident) called HELP.]

7g4a6

KIRK NP for voting capabilities.

2-JUL-73 19:12 17608 Message:

I would like to vote for Jeannes suggestion (17590,) in the NPS file but I don't know how. Is sending another Journal message the only way? It might be worth while to devise a simple voting system allowing people to associate their ident by someone elses suggestion in the NPS file. Decision makers might like to have an indication of how much user weight is behind a particular improvement. Maybe people would be more inclined to use the NP and BUGS files if they could easily vote for suggestions. I know one user who would feel he had a little more of a role in the bootstrap feedback process. (17611,) (DVN)

7g4a7

other

7g4b

JMB 24-JUN-74 12:31 23439

re <GJOURNAL,23429,3q6> New NLS NPs

Message: I think that #3 Show Return Stack which is under the New Commands Desired section of ADDITIONS should be moved up in priority to the New Commands Desired section of CHANGES, because the lack of such a command, or an alternative solution, is an inconsistency (there is a Show File Return stack command) and a serious frustration in TNLS (there is no way to see where you will find

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

yourself before you go there, changing your stack==Slash
in an address now works only after you give the <CA>;
and is even more than an NP in my opinion.

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

7g4b1

KIRK 16-APR-74 12:21 22742

My notes of the observations of Sandy trying to learn
xnl

Location: (LJOURNAL, 22742, 1:w)

7g4b2

Assigned tasks: > see < nls, mods, >
this needs to link to mods or something to avoid duplication. It
also hasn't been updated in over a month. If you could mark the
appropriate status for each item, I'll put it in the appropriate
category (done, rejected, Future discussion item, or Assigned to XXX,
I guess "on the list in MODS" would also be an appropriate category.)
That is the primary difference between the "Assigned" branch in FDBK
and MODS. MODS has the assigned person's IDENT by the item where
assigned, and FDBK has them in branches. Lets pick one way of doing
it and eliminate the duplication of effort across files.

8

CHI -- FRONTEND, CML, SENDMAIL

8a

EKM -- GENERAL NLS, COBOL INTERFACE <see -- nls,mods,>

8b

EKM -- CALCULATOR, OUTPUT-PROCESSOR,

8c

KEV -- TENEX INTERFACE, PDP-11

8d

DSM -- USERPROGRAMS, FDBK interface

8e

KJM -- SECRETARIES INTERFACE

8f

STAFF -- MYSTERY BUGS

8g

HGL -- HELP SOFTWARE

8h

DVN, JMB, KIRK: DOCUMENTATION, HELP INFO CONTENT <see==done>

8i

DIA -- LINEPROCESSOR, CML compiler

Charles, I'm trying to clean out the feedback file. Could you
look these over and note which ones have been fixed, or wont be
fixed? DIA says this should be done by you,.. He also said the
only one he thought would not be fixed is the LP-to-Tasker bug
reported by DVN

8j

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

KIRK lineprocessor bug
 14=AUG-74 14:52 (GJOURNAL, 23794, 1:w)
 *****Note: [ACTION] *****

8j1

Going into nls when your initial file partial copy is busy
 at another job freaks out or hangs Your lineprocessor job.

8j1a

RLL 5-JUL-74 07:23 23526
 LP bug. When tabs in text and updating done,
 Message: For DNLS and the line processor (with Delta D): When
 there are tabs in text the LP messes the display up after one
 does updates, e.g., replace word or character. It appears that
 the updated line is split into two lines with the first part on
 the line below (yes below) and the rest of the line as it
 should be. call me or try it yourself, Robert
 *****Note: [ACTION] *****

8j2

NDM 8-JUL-74 13:08 23547
 Line Processor Troubles: Tabs
 Message: When I edit a line with tabs in it, the system goes to
 rewrite the statement, and after the line with tabs is puts in
 an artificial blank line. Viewspec=f works properly.
 *****Note: [INFO-ONLY] *****

8j3

NDM 8-JUL-74 08:11 23544
 Line Processor Troubles: SENDMAIL message
 Message: I did a message and it blanked part of the screen (on
 Line Processor). That part was never restored.
 *****Note: [INFO-ONLY] *****

8j4

NDM RLL 10-JUL-74 12:27 23569
 Line Processor Troubles: Move Boundary
 Message: On the Line Processor, in New NLS, viewspec w (all
 lines all levels), when I move the Boundary of a horizontally
 split screen, only one line of each statement is displayed. It
 is cut after 72 chars, even if that falls in the middle of a
 word. If we turn off level indentation, more of the statement
 appears (filling the 72 char line). It seems the only way to
 recover is a TENEX reset! Haven't tried old NLS or work.
 *****Note: [INFO-ONLY] *****

8j5

NDM 10-JUL-74 12:37 23570
 Line Processor Troubles: Backspace in Literal Input
 Message: While typing in a literal (like in Insert Statement or

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now during SENDMAIL Message), I type two lines, then begin the third and see a mistake in the second, so I backspace through all of the third line, then the next backspace erases the char/word from the top line rather than the second line. It actually does the right thing to the literal, but displays it wrongly. Further backspaces are displayed properly,
 *****Note: [INFO=ONLY] *****

8j6

NDM 11-JUL-74 09:02 23595
 Line Processor Troubles: Update File Compact
 Message: Update File Compact, on the Line Processor, tries to refresh the display when it's about done. It takes some lines down, puts some back up, and leaves me with a screen resembling my file but with pieces of it randomly disorganized (in their placement on the screen),
 *****Note: [INFO=ONLY] *****

8j7

18-JUN-74 1807-PDT BAIR at OFFICE-1: Line proc error
 Distribution: FEEDBACK AT SRI-ARC, bair
 Received at: 18-JUN-74 18:06:57

8j8

When doing a Jump to item, {get pbug error fndchr,... It continued in this mode apparently unable to accept a mouse bug,

8j8a

18-JUN-74 1814-PDT BAIR at OFFICE-1: lineprocessor
 Distribution: IRBY AT SRI-ARC, FEEDBACK AT SRI-ARC, ANDREWS
 AT SRI-ARC, bair
 Received at: 18-JUN-74 18:13:53

8j9

Perhaps something has changed, but I cannot get this thing to work in DNLS at Office-1. It crashes consistently after the third command in DNLS!!

8j9a

RLL 19-JUN-74 13:39 23410
 refresh bug in LP
 Message: Using the line processor (wash), while in Sendmail, I typed a long message of about 16 lines. Loaded file was deleted line pr line as it should be when inserting text of message, however when done, the message was cleared and the file text was not refreshed, that is I had about 16 or more lines that were blank. Did a refresh via mouse buttons and viewspec f, Got all lines back but when doing the message bit again in sendmail, the lines were not erased before the new text was typed. Since it is happening now I do not know if the line will reappear when i finish this message, Robert,

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

8j10

DVN 27-JUN-74 16:41 23486

SCSR JSYS error crstr

Message: For what it matters, when I quit at tasker, detached, attached at the line processor, and attempted to continue, that was the error message I recieved, succeeded by a series of "NLS Display Error."

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

8j11

NDM 27-JUN-74 13:57 23482

Line Processor Troubles: Split Screen

Message: I have a horizontally split screen. In the top window I have viewspec g on (branch only) so part of the window is blank. I deleted one of the statements in the top window. The boundary and bottom window moved up to delete the line, but never moved back down.

8j12

Comments: happened in both old and new NLS

8j12a

RLL 26-JUN-74 07:29 23475

Bugs in viewing (maybe LP problem)

Message: Two bugs: DNLS at the lineprocessor; 1) when having split screen (horizontal), with lower half having frozen st on (viewspec o) I did a viewspec K (signatures on) and f (refresh) the frozen statement dots disappeared (there were no frozen staements at the time). Turned on viewspec o again, tried viewspec L (sign, off) and f (refresh) and again the dots disappeared, turning viewpec o and f on worked. My guess: on split screens with frozen statements on, refreshing the screen causes the frozen st to be turned off. tried the same with no oslit screen and had no problems. (2) with no split screen tried viewspec K and f. got strnage view, namely it appears that the system thinks i have a very wide terminal. the whole staement appears (if I could see it) on one line. Of corse this cuts the staement off in the middle of what ever is the 72 character. only way out of this is by resetting NLS, again; this is DNLS with Lineprocessor.

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

8j13

18-JUN-74 1807-PDT BAIR at OFFICE-1; Line proc error

Distribution: FEEDBACK AT SRI-ARC, bair

Received at: 18-JUN-74 18:06:57

8j14

When doing a JUMP to item, (got pbug error fndchr.... It

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

continued in this mode apparently unable to accept a mouse bug,

8j14a

18=JUN-74 1814=PDT BAIR at OFFICE-1; lineprocessor
Distribution: IRBY AT SRI=ARC, FEEDBACK AT SRI=ARC, ANDREWS
AT SRI=ARC, bair
Received at: 18=JUN-74 18:13:53

8j15

perhaps something has changed, but I cannot get this thing to work in DNLS at Office-1. It crashes consistently after the third command in DNLS!!

8j15a

5=JUN-74 1635=PDT MEYER at OFFICE-1; Line Processor and SENDMES User Program
Distribution: FEEDBACK, irby at ARC, andrews at ARC, white at ARC
Received at: 6=JUN-74 04:47:50

8j16

Line Processor only gets blown out by SENDMES when SENDMES goes to try a network delivery, Jim White, ideas?

8j16a

NDM 31=MAY-74 07:33 23175
Line Processor Troubles: Empty Screen
Message: Still awaiting new Line Processor and new program, so don't know if this is fixed in new setup. After running a Content Analyzer that returns "Empty", X recreate display with viewspec j does NOT take down the "Empty". It just writes over it when overlap,

8j17

NDM 23=MAY-74 06:06 23086
Line Processor Troubles: Horizontally Split Screen
Message: Screen horizontally split, I delete a statement in top window: boundary and all bottom window jogs up one line as it erases deleted line, then STAYS there, recreate display in bottom window does right thing but top line of bottom window remains (duplicated as) bottom line of top window,

8j18

MEH JHB KIRK 16=MAY-74 14:45 23023
lineProcessor feedback
Location: (MJOURNAL, 23023, 1;w)
*****Note: [INFO=ONLY] *****

8j19

author:JHB date:15 may 74 time:4:30

8j19a

all of a sudden received stream of garbage characters, in

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

command mode that i couldn't stop, some of them were
executed causing file to be renamed, 8j19a1

author:JHB date:15 may 74 8j19b

<"C"> and con do not clear screen for tenex, neither does
reset, 8j19b1

author:JHB date:15 may 74 8j19c

split screen insert statement--dumped part of statement
into tenex window and doubled the viewspec fdbk, 8j19c1

author:JHB date:15 may 74 8j19d

would randomly not clear fdbk windows, 8j19d1

author:kirk date:8 may 74 time:15:31 8j19e

backspace character (BC key) is defined to be <"H"> which
doesn't wok in tenex and means something different in
NLS, it should be defined to be <"A">, 8j19e1

author:kirk date:9 may 74 time:9:18 8j19f

i had viewspec B and L and then changed to W but i only
got 2 lines no matter what i did after that, i could not
get more than 2 lines for a statement, 8j19f1

author:kirk 8j19g

i got hung, characters went in but nothing came back,
reset LP and <"P"> worked, 8j19g1

author:MEH 8j19h

same bug as one listed previously, reset tip channel by
disconnecting modem, works ok now, for some reson tip
gets in a state where it will not listen to <"P">, 8j19h1

NDM 9-MAY=74 14:34 22933
Line Processor Troubles; Dialog to date
Location: (MJOURNAL, 22933, 1:w) 8j20

Comments: Summary of Line Processor dialog in which I have
been involved, 8j20a

DVN 4-MAR=74 22:07 22182

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

Line Processor and XNLS Problems
 Location: (HJOURNAL, 22182, 1:w)

8j21

I am working tonight in XNLS through the line proecessor, so I am sending my problems in both directions.

8j21a

Fragments of my origen statement are all the time floating in my input text; likewise my input text runs into the top lines of my file. The fragments of the origen statement are, I guess, the source of ORG in caps which floats up some times,

8j21b

Sometimes when I do jump to item the screen removes a middle item or two, moves the jumped-to item up to second place, and waits for a recreate display before making further modifications.

8j21c

On one occasion Update File Old, prduced some kind of jumble on the screen, <control-t> followed by <control-C> prodced a complete jumble including the tenex teletype image, and various fragments of my file, I reset.

8j21d

Just now it worked fine.

8j21d1

Finally some one on a TI linked to me. I hit <control-c> to see more lines. That got me the teletype face plus a jumbled NLS screen. I reset. Then she wanted me to try something in new TNLS. I reentered WORK intending to simulated terminal type TI, BUT I was greeted with a new high in garbage. All kinds of shit like I'd not set up the line procesor properly, eg <control-c> echoed with a string of chracters. I went to another terminal.

8j21e

8j21f

JEW == PROTOCOLS

I'm trying to clean out the feedback file. Could you look these over and not which ones have been fixed, or wont be fixed?

8k

DVN 19=JUN=74 11:57 23407

you Can't Write on Updates from Journal Files.

Message: When you update rename from a journal file to make a copy to work on, the new file inherits the journal file's unwritability. If then update compact to a thrid file, you can write on the compacted file.

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

8k1

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

NDM 23-MAY-74 07:45 23087

Bug in User Program SENDMES

Message: The user program SENDMES cannot send messages to Tom O'Sullivan, possibly because of the apostrophy in his name, I can neither type it in nor accept the name offered by the ident system. It blows out the line processor too,

8k2

Comments: I assume this will also be a bug in the new system's equivalent subsystem,

8k2a

4-JUN-74 0521-PDT MEYER: SENDMES

To: feedback

Distribution: FEEDBACK, white

Received at: 4-JUN-74 0536:34-PDT

8k3

I only wrote the interface to Jim white's SENDMES. I haven't the skill nor the time to fix it. I would hope that the code does get fixed before it is made a part of the running system (in new NLS). --Dean

8k3a

NDM 31-MAY-74 07:31 23174

Journal SUBCOLLECTIONS command

Message: In Old NLS, in the journal subcollection, I can't specify the subcollections SRI-ARC (the dash won't come out) nor NSW (I type N at it puts up NIC). Also, with each character I type, it does (on the line processor) a complete recreate display. Also, it doesn't allow backspacing,

8k4

JDH == FROZEN NLS

I'm trying to clean out the feedback file. Could you look these over and not which ones have been fixed, or wont be fixed?

81

3-JUL-74 2304-PDT KELLEY: there is an undeliverable mail file in my directory

Distribution: FERGUSON, FEEDBACK, white

Received at: 3-JUL-74 23:04:30

811

I think it is the result of a bug in the new SNDMSG,

811a

DCE 10-JUN-74 15:44 23317

Bug in sort process for executable text

Message: Sort Plex process didn't use instituted SORTMERGE program (I was using SORTREV) when executed as a command statement via process Command Statement (i.e it sorted in normal ordering), yet the proper use of SORTREV ocurred if I executed the Sort Plex operation by hand == no change in the status of the program buffers or program-institution

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

assignments between these trial, Repeatable inconsistency,
 *****Note: [ACTION] *****

812

JCP == TENEX

8m

Done: to be documented, see <nls,mods,done>

9

Documented tasks, fixed bugs, and answered questions

> Bugs listed here are fixed, For tasks prior to August 1974, see
 <24048, executed>.

10

LPD One man's opinion of NIC/Query

25-JUN-73 19:15 17443 Message:

The NIC/Query language is distressingly verbose. I wanted to read various things in the ARPANET News and got a canned message telling me how to return to the contents (which wasn't even necessary to access other items) at the end of querying every item. I suggest that the implementor of NIC inform himself about the ZOG system built by CMU, which I feel provides a more reasonable user interface.

10a

MEJ Branch 2 deals with suggestion that execute assimilate be sensitive to line viewspecs.

4-MAY-73 18:14 (IJOURNAL, 16284, 1;W)

10b

A confusing situation exists with the current operation of LEVADJ for Commands (in TNSL at least) other than Insert Statement, (DUVALL)

10b1

Specifically, if a character other than 'd or 's is entered (which may frequently be the result of a typo), the LEVADJ is terminated and the command is executed (which is normally not desired in, for example, move group).

10b1a

I think that NLS should respond to an illegal character in these cases with a '?', and wait for another character.

10b1b

EXAMPLE:

10b1c

currently the command sequence "MB,a CA ,b CA e" Results in:

10b1c1

Move Branch to ,a! from ,b!

e
 *EXecute

10b1c1a

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

Whereas I would prefer; 10b1c2

Move Branch to ,a| from ,b| e ? 10b1c2a

with TNLS waiting for a legal LEVADJ character. 10b1c3

NEEDLESS RECREATIONS 10c

When you connect to directory in xnl, it refreshes your display. 10c1

In xnl as I just did recreate connect to directory, I did it nicely but also recreated the display, which seems a waste of effort. 10c2

In XNLS when you mark a character, the screen refreshes. 10c3

When I do an edit, like a delete or move, which effects only things off the screen, it refreshes anyway. Surely a waste of cycles. 10c4

30-MAY-74 0903-PDT WATSON; User Programm Hassles

Distribution: FEEDBACK

received at: 30-MAY-74 09:03:03

10d

The use of programs from the user program library is unnecessarily complicated and confusing. First you have to load them and then you get some very scary message about no entry point and subsystem. Then you have to go to it as a subsystem often with a different name than as a userprogram, then the user interface conventions for interaction are not completely compatible with the rest of nls etc. Its all very unclear and needs to be considerably simplified. For example why not just go to it as a subsystem and if the subsystem is not in regular system assume and try library automatically etc for those such as INMES 10d1

c. the alternatives are not in alphabetical order. 10e

They definitely should be. Alphabetic conflicts are so fundamental to parsing and the recognition modes that the user ought to be assisted (through alphabetization of the alternatives) in seeing what the potential conflicts are. 10e1

b. the alternative <space> is never indicated. 10f

It shouldn't be indiscriminately indicated, but should definitely be shown when in fact it's a bona fide alternative.

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

- That is, when there are command words for the command that REQUIRE <space> to be typed if you are in expert mode, 10f1
- =(23116,) (MDK) "all" is not a satisfactory alternative command word (in the "delete all markers" command). Here and wherever the second command "word" is really a phrase, I would prefer seeing the alternative listed as a hyphenated expression, such as "all=markers". This will of course require coordination between the question mark responses and the help data base statement names, 10g
- Vertical Splits which are hard enough to do anyway "<SP>spwv", have the bad habit of vanishing irretrievably if you try to move the boundary within 21 characters of the edge. WHY??? There should be an error message or some way to know the limits if they must be set. (22060,) (KIRK) 10h
- When I tried to load my ident file after the partial copy had been deleted (it was bad), XNLS created a new version with nothing in it instead of loading the locked version and letting me unlock it. (22059,) (KIRK) 10i
- Could you make <control-o> stop printing the list of alternatives which prints after '?' ? (22038,) (JMB) (MEJ) 10j
- DVN 8-JAN-74 10:34 21321
FOR Making AE's Available without the Option Character Message; Jump to address or item should take an address without the need for typing an option character. Making addresses available only after an option character cuts down the usefulness of putting AE's in DNLS by a substantial fraction. I have heard that some one resists making addresses available without an option character "for the sake of consistency". Consistency like that is like making a rule that you have to start walking on your right foot no matter where you start from, 10k
- DVN 8-JAN-74 15:01 18375
More on Non-Option AE's (follow up on 21321)
Message: ..,or what you have to step over, 10k1
- DVN 14-DEC-73 09:20 20895
For Holding Options to the Minimum Location: (MJOURNAL, 20895, 1:w) 10k2
- DVN More on Having to Type Option before Entering Addresses

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

(response to 21350)

11-JAN-74 10:53 21366 Message:

My present ussage is to type j a, bug the screen at random, and put in the off-screen address I long for. When a user types A to get the command term "Address" after "Jump", the system could generate an option character for her,

10k3

%wants ability to type another command word or this suggestion%
KIRK The definition of Destination Selection (DSEL) for DNLS should be changed from B:/[A:] to A:/B:/[A:], If I am not mistaken, this can work everywhere there is currently a DSEL but without requiring the option character to type an AE. I realize that if one thought about it carefully, specifying an address for a destination B:/A: would appear to be inconsistent with the convention for specifying an address for a SOURCE T:/B:/[A:] (i.e., it would not require the option character). However, from one point of view successful in the past, there really is no inconsistency at all because the prompt we are now using for A: might just as well be T: by the same reasoning that eliminated I:, F:, and N: from the user's prompting. Think about typing in an ADDRESS for a DSEL WITHOUT an option character (which is the way it works in TNLS) as replacing the typing in a TYPEIN for a SSEL. I think the un-written convention of having the maximum capabilities available at any single command position, along with prompting, would make any conceptual inconsistency invisible to the person learning the system by using it.

101

JEW 3-APR-74 12:47 22620

Feeding Back the Existence of a PC

Message: I don't know whether I'm peculiar in this respect or not, but I very frequently display file status information just to see if the file is locked or not; all the rest of that display is pointless in such cases, and my having to wait for it is very annoying. Would it be reasonable to constantly display that one bit of info (i.e., file locked or not) in the feedback area somewhere? Another, more general approach, of course, would be to define a "user-settable" field in the feedback area somewhere whose contents were kept current by the system and whose nature was selected by the user, by way of his user profile, from a set of alternatives offered by the system.

10m

RLI 24-SEP-74 12:13 24038

File not on line message on entering NLS

Message: Why I am getting the file not on line message when I enter NLS. This began when the NEWEST NLS wwas instituted as NLS this past weekend. There seems to be no other problems. This has happened each time I enter NLS.

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

10n

How about changing the 'Exceed capacity' message to something like 'System error; string variable overflow'? People call me and say they got that message, but they HAVEN'T exceeded there disk allocation.(22455,) (JEW)

10o

Output quick-print does not look the same as DNLS as far as names on the right is concerned. I prefer the way it shows on the screen. (22060,) (KIRK)

10p

In the Load command, "Busy" should not appear as an alternative to people who can't use it. Is this hard to do? It is needed in some other places like the Algorithm command in the Help subsystem should not show up when the user types "?".

10q

MDK HELP as an NLS command

1-FEB-74 12:01 21721 Message:

Charles ... Please consider this suggestion as a kind of strong "lobbying" (I really would like to see it happen!); Add this command to NLS:

*HELP <CA>

which would be identical in function to

*GOTO HELP <CA>

and would be recognized in expert mode by the letter "H"

My reasoning is that HELP as a command is what one uses in FTP, TELNET, RSEXEC, and maybe other subsystems here and elsewhere, and I think it would be extremely useful as well as consistent for NLS users to be able to type H for HELP when they're in need, without having to remember (or even know) that it's GOTO HELP.

What do you think ? ... Mike

10r

DVN 22-JAN-74 12:35 14570

XNLS Problems of the Evening of January 21

Location: (GJOURNAL, 14570, 1;w)

10s

I think it's worth noting that I never use Set Case Character, I always do Repalce Character instead. (CHI: Can we invent some new command(s) to make this more useful? e.g. "FORCE" <"case"> textentity or "CAPITALIZE" and "LOWERCASE" textentity.

10s1

KIRK 16-MAY-74 19:10 23025

I'm in favor of Force (case) STRING/STRUCTURE DESTINATION OK; , It would be nice if it was a first level command (freeze is not available in TNLS anyway).

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

Message: Set Case is unuseable,
 *****Note: [INFO-ONLY] *****

10s2

I tried to send a file through Output Com. It said it was doing it, but it sent the file to the printer instead of keeping it. The result was very strange. When I tried to Output to COM Option File it said, "Illegal instruction"

10s3

%One time bug% Just now when I answered "n" to the Y/N in jump file return it said "exceed capacity", (CHI; file name too long?)

10s4

Backspace character does not work for <SP> in expert Command-noun recognition. It backspaces the whole command. Isn't tht what Backspace word is for? There is no way to backspace just the <SP> if you mistakenly hit one after the command-verb. (22175,) (KIRK)

10t

The fina confirmation in substitute bothers her and seems redundant since it already asked if you are finished. (22940,) (RWW)

10u

Space recognition for second level commands in expert recognition mode is not fedback in TNLs. The user can't tell for sure if he typed a space or not. (22008,) (KIRK)

10v

I would like to add journal items to new subcollections and send comments with items sent via secondary distribution in the forward command (30416,) (DVN)

10w

SRL 4-JUN-74 15:53 23267

Inconsistency in Sendmail

Message: It seems a little consistent that when in sendmail and you want to show status, you type "SH" and you get (sh)ow status when anywhere else you would have to type "SHS" for (SH)ow (S)tatus.

*****Note: [INFO-ONLY] *****

10x

Jump (to) Item B:/[A]: OK VIEWSPECS OK
 could be:

Jump (to) Item B:/A: OK VIEWSPECS OK,

10y

Insert STRING (to follow) B:/[A:] CONTENT OK
 could be:

Insert STRING (to follow) B:/A: CONTENT OK,

10z

Simulate Terminal <Ti / Nvt / Lineprocessor / Imlac / Execuport / 33=tty / 35=tty / 37=tty> OK
 could be:

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

Simulate <T1 / NVT / Lineprocessor / Imlac / Execuport / 33-tty /
35-tty / 37-tty> OK 10a@

=(23116,) (MDK) the command "record session" would (in my
opinion) be better named as "start recording-session" to
complement "stop recording-session" 10aa

=(23116,) (MDK) I would like to see the L10 compiler pass on to
the Loader the required information about the size of a compiled
program, and correspondingly I would like to see the "Load
Program" mechanism be smart enough to obtain the required buffer
size from the Compiler's passed data, and AUTOMATICALLY SET THE
BUFFER SIZE just before loading the user program. 10ab

It is abominably annoying to have to know or guess and then set
the buffer size of a user program. And certainly it is
entirely unnecessary, given a slight change to the Loader. 10ab1

Rings were preferred to stacks when working with several files
(22910,) (RLI) 10ac

JMB 26-MAY-74 15:31 23126

Jumping to Return in TNLS

Message: It is very difficult and frustrating to JUMP to Return in
TNLS because there is no way of knowing if you have counted back
the right number of moves to get what you want. There is no Show
Return ring command as there is for the file return ring; and you
can only get system feedback on where you'll be going AFTER the
<CR> has executed the command (with a slash--Jump to A: ,3r
/<CR>); you can't change your mind, like you can when DNLS feeds
back the destination in the Jump to Return command, until you've
already been moved, which has itself altered your return stack
further so it's then even harder to figure out the correct number
of jumps to give.

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

10ad

DVN 29-MAY-74 21:38 23161

For Shortening the Process of Setting a Simple Content Analysis
Filter

Location: (GJOURNAL, 23161, 1:W)

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

10ae

"Go to Programs + Compile Content Analyser Pattern +Institute
Program P as Content Analyser Pattern" is a lot of (expletive
deleted) to go through to creat the pattern fo some simple
search. It would help if the compile command would
automcctically institute the pattern as in the old days, Then

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

you could institute a pattern with one command and atleast use "execute program",

10ae1

What about a "Delete Explative" command?

10ae2

DVN 7=JAN-74 New TNS Copy Directory problems

When I entered a series of options following Y/N, on the first occasion the system prompted me, sensibly: "opt C:". From then on, however, it gave me only "C:".

10af

She seems to find prompts necessary but awkward for new users because they force concept explanations earlier or require trying to avoid sliding by. This tends to indicate a need for language subsetting to avoid some concepts. (22940,) (RWW)

10ag

NDM 9=JUL-74 11:47 23553

Message: Why does the command "Delete Modifications" deinstitute and program that was instituted as the current content analyzer?
*****Note: [ACTION] *****

10ah

MDK 9=JUL-74 10:50 23552

markers in new nis

Message:

My experience is that the mechanism for determining when marker "addresses" being typed is inconsistent with the rest of NLS address parsing. In many commands (like insert character, for example) a marker address can be typed WITHOUT the option character preceding it; it's simply a function of how the keyset/mouse keys are depressed and released.

10ai

This may be neat for marker usage, but it's hell on learning, and on speedy or sloppy typists like me who don't release the keyset completely before typing the <ca>.

I believe the marker parsing mechanism incorrectly ignores CONTEXTT (is it not true that a marker is an address? if so then why isn't it parsed as an address? ??)

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

10ai1

DCE 7=JUL-74 14:44 23539

FDBK: Set=Viewspec command deinstitutes CONAN program

Location: (GJOURNAL, 23539, 1;w)

*****Note: [ACTION] ***** %IS THIS FIXED IN WORK?%

10aj

A bug, when I do: Go to Programs CA; Load Program x CA (which

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

loads Program x, and institutes it as CONAN); quit CA; Set Viewspects i CA == then nothing happens. Return to Program and find CONAN deinstiuted.

10aj1

If, instead of doing Set viewspec i CA, I do a JI Bug i CA, things work as supposed to.

10aj1a

Note that when I last tried, perhaps a week ago, the CONAN program would always get deinstiuted in TNLS whenever I left Program mode and tried to invoke filtering.

10aj2

DVN 5-JUL-74 14:26 23533 &IS THIS THE SENDMAIL PROBLEM - WHERE YOU CAN'T SEE ALL THE PAGES YOU ACTUALLY HAVE?%
When the System Doesn't Learn I have Enough Pages
Message: Lately I've been running close to the limit of my directory pages. On a number of occasions I have exceeded it, gotten the message "file space allocaton exceeded" and "you cannot write on this file", gone into TENEX and there deleted enough files to have plenty of space, returned, got the message "you cannot write on this file" again, reloaded the file, and gotten the message again. Apparently the news that you have enough pages doesn't travel very fast.
*****Note: [ACTION] *****

10ak

KIRK 20-JUL-74 15:01 23655
Force Case as a second level command in DNLS only.
Location: (GJOURNAL, 23655, 1;w)
*****Note: [ACTION] *****

10al

Please make Force (case) a first level command in DNLS so it will be the same as TNLS. Making Freeze first level just because it used to be first level is inexplicable to new users and those that rarely (if ever) use Freeze. Force becomes harder to use (one of the reasons for changing it from Set Case). The current implementation also takes the wind out of old programmers' consistency arguments against new ideas.

10a11

Please make Force (case) a first level command in DNLS so it will be the same as TNLS. Making Freeze first level just because it used to be first level is inexplicable to new users and those that rap(if ever) use Freeze. Force becomes harder to use (one of the reasons for changing it from Set Case). The current implementation also takes the wind out of old programmers' consistency arguments against new ideas.

10a12

8-AUG-74 0811-PDT BAIR: Journal and mail

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

Distribution: FEEDBACK, IRBY, bair
 Received at: 8-AUG-74 08:11:55

10am

These have been brewing for a long time time and now there's one that's very strange, so:
 why am I recieving Journal citations in sndmsg? Theyre from ARC.

Suggestion: All considerations aside (ie there are other ways to do it), I think it is very important to have the distribution list appear with the Journal citation in the "mailbox".

I have noticed that certain deveopment decision have been made: to have an action and info branch; to change sndmsg; etc. I presume developers are aware that this is not going to help applications... design changes have a strong effect on the delivery and set up a AKWs, particularly if one is not informed about the changes.

10am1

There are serious clitches in New NLS that have caused numerous failures in critical situations. Perhaps this will go away, but I wonder if you really want a system to go out with lower reliability than its predessor. Eg, "illegal statement in return ring" came up several times yesterday associated with split screen and not. Many times rings were not retained even back one view. There were NLS display errors, and bunches of cryptic error data, much to the chagrin of those receiving the de.

10am2

The "no such marker" error because of keyset == mouse input sync has appeared some 100 times more frequently than it did with the old NLS. We have done experiments to see if it is operator error or something else. The CA button does NOT have to be depressed simultaneously with the key code, but merely in rapid sequence. These two fact lead to one conclusion. These are submitted with the hope that something will be done to:

- 1) Announce all changes to NLS to applications staff
- 2) change the Journal
- 3) fix the bugs in return rings and split screen
- 4) Fix the sync problem between mouse and keyset
- 5) Continue the work on making error msgs meaningful
- 6) Respond to this msg

Respectfully, JHB

10am3

It would look better to have A/[T]; rather than A;/[T]; (i.e. fewer colons) (22908,) (RLL, RICART)

10an

Change default so heralds are 4 instead of 3 characters (22826,)(RLL), (22175,)(KIRK)

10ao

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

=(23116,) (MDK) "execute command in HELP" shouldn't drag up
HELP's long explanatory text. It should just let you do "SHOW X"
for any X,

10ap

RLL 5=JUL=74 11:31 23528

Suggestion for DNLs: relative addressing without the nasty control
U,

Message: Why cannot address be given with out option control char?
If text is to be given as address then option char can be use
then, this would make the following very nice: Jump back 7 <ca>
to mean jump back seven statements from the bug (which is the
<ca>),

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

10aq

6=AUG=74 0916=PDT LEAVITT: minor irritations Part II

Distribution: FEEDBACK

Received at: 6=AUG=74 09:16:41

10ar

A long time ago in july, when i used to work here it seems, i
sent a meassage to feedback about an annoying thing in tris,
its still there, i realize how petty this might seem but its
frightfully annoying and couldn't be that hard to get rid of,
in the command output quickprint and, if i remember quickly,
output printer, there is a superfluous "OK" prompt which, if
paid attention to, results in a DING. i don't mind being
dinged at for a good reason, but...

10ar1

ahah, after spending a moment in conversation with susan i find
out that this ok is not a superfluous prompt, but an echoing of
the choice i chose, ie, OK. i suppose there is a good reason
for having the response echoed for you, in case in that split
second you forgot what it was you did, but in this particular
situation it is, to say the least, confusing. after responding
to an OK with a CA, its almost automatic to assume the next OK
requires the same response,

10ar2

Automatically generating hardcopy documentation from the Help
Database

10as

RWW 10=MAY=74 14:40 22954

Thanks for the Command Summary

Message: Thank you for the command summary. Its really useful.
Its an example of the type of documentation overview tht one
would like to automatically get out of the Help database with a
user program. How can that be arranged?

*****Note: * action * *****

10as1

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

When typiking ? to HEL C; you get an interesting assortment of such things as < and > and so-on that do very simple things, but which you can't find the help on since they aren't words, (RICART) 10at

Menu names would have helped a great deal to manuever within the database, I constantly found myself unable to get more information on something I had to choose on, (RICART) 10au

Trying to read all I could about this, I found out tat T; wants a Typin and /<something> means that [A] is an alternative, The []s mean that A is an option, and that "U should be typed to exercise it, So you type Show T;/[A]; "U and nothing hapens, So add a ? to make it tell you what it wants==it doesn't like that, So you CA it and get through T;/[A];, A "U from here gets you just about as far, and a ? gets you two ?'s back with a A; prompt, (RICART) 10av

I think that Show T;/[A]; < should sho only the previous menu but not repeat the texxt you have already seen, This command turns out to be commonly necessary to find out about your other alternatives, (You have just found out about one of them, but you are not sure if another migt no be moreaplicable), (RICART) 10aw

Typing Show everytime witin HEL C; is an annoyance, Why not let Show be a default command with the "U convention used for other things? (RICART) 10ax

RLL 23-APR-74 18:16 22811
suggestion on show command in help system
Message: I have found that the show command in the help subsystem (new TNLS) is annoying, Just typing the nemu number or series of words should be enough for help to help, the other commands could be keyed in my a space (<space>q[uit],etc,) Since the overwhelming (95% is my guess)command wouldbe the show command, it would make good sense to change it from a programming point of view as well as a user point of view, 10ay

JHB 19-MAY-74 20:04 23045
New NLS suggestion/bug
Message: When a user types ? in expert mode, there should be some clue that there are more commands if he types a space and then another ?. Better yet, have all options listed with those requiring a space showing that, ie. for move ?, have boundary listed as <space>boundary.
If you have compications because of multiple recognition modes, then it should be worked in anyway.
*****Note: [ACTION] ***** 10az

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

JHB 17-MAY-74 23:15 23041

New NLS bugs == 2

Message: 2 bugs tonite: When one uses Go to Help, he is given the fdbk, "for more help type " Q again"... He never used it in the first place,

10b@

1) Help

10ba

a) It's still too slow getting there (22931,) (RWW)

10ba1

b) When there ? not very useful (22931,) (RWW)

10ba2

c) To be asked to do "Q and its delays again is irritating (22931,) (RWW)

10ba3

d) When trying to go "back" I was prompted for text when I knew I had to hit <, a command (22931,) (RWW)

10ba4

DVN 20-MAR-74 20:21 22441

Against Command Words in HELP, For more Views.

Location: (JJOURNAL, 22441, 1;W)

10bb

Comments: Responds to (jjournal,22242,)

10bb1

I feel particularly strongly about getting rid of command words in the HELP system (jjournal,22424,3a),

10bb2

They seem a gross encumbrance to learning because, as noted, of the variety of recognition schemes, and an encumbrance to use once you've learned the system

10bb2a

If possible we should be rid of command words when the experimental system becomes the running system at ARC, a time when a lot of people will be learning to use HELP.

10bb2b

View specification (jjournal,22424,3d) seems to me a more complex issue. My best guess is that a naive user will want to see all the information in the parent node before he deals with the menu. In fact I think that showing many small nodes is a good way way to build up a general picture in many people and circumstances. However I can imagine more experienced or deductive users longing for the views Kirk describes. I think they should be available too. I think we can delay adding new views until the next version of the system based on the experience that will soon be upon us.

10bb3

2-MAY-74 0822-PDT JERNIGAN: Help data for Insert Text Command
 %Maybe there should be a message along with the alternatives

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

after a person has typed "?" that says "Type "Q for more info".&

Distribution: FEEDBACK, Jernigan

Received at: 2-MAY-74 0825:45=PDT

10bc

After trying Insert Text and not being able to figure out the correlation in the new system and the old, Charles told me that choosing where to insert text is by +F or +e. I went into nls again and used the ? help database to see what the alternatives were to see if I had misunderstood them. The feedback on that command is

10bc1

"Please make a selection of type: CHARACTER via Address Expression"

10bc2

No further questioning is permitted at that point, a ? simply getting a repeat of the same lines.

10bc3

How could one know that feedback is telling the user to use either +F or +e to place the inserted text at front or end of the statement? It is not apparent to me, and I have been able to guess pretty well what the new system might do,

10bc4

And what does "CHARACTER via Address Expression" mean? And does the odd capitalization have any specific meaning?

10bc5

Mil

10bc6

MDK 1-MAY-74 14:57 22871

Problems with the HELP system, circa 18-April-74.

Location: (MJOURNAL, 22871, 1;W)

10bd

Comments: This is a relatively old document, by now (a couple of weeks or so). Sorry it's late, just noticed I had never journalized it. A quick reading will determine whether any of the things I noted are still outstanding problems. ... Mike

10bd1

10bd2

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8,1

Background for this note, 10bd2a

The comments in this note are offered in this context: 10bd2a1

I BELIEVE THAT THE HELP SYSTEM MUST BE EXCEPTIONALLY EASY TO USE, 10bd2a1a

IF LEARNING TO USE IT REQUIRES ACCESS TO A USERS MANUAL (HOWEVER SMALL) OR KNOWLEDGE OF A "HELP" SYSTEM COMMAND LANGUAGE, I BELIEVE WE'VE DEFEATED THE PURPOSE, AND LOST THE BATTLE TO MAKE NLS EASIER TO LEARN AND USE, 10bd2a1b

Please note that I haven't used the HELP system before, and I haven't used the new NLS language very much at all, so I consider myself as providing a good example of what experienced NLS users will face when the new system comes up, 10bd2a2

THIS IS A PRELIMINARY, INCOMPLETE REPORT ON WHAT I'VE FOUND, 10bd2a3

More will be forthcoming, 10bd2a3a

But in my opinion no one person can exhaustively debug the numerous data and system errors that are bound to exist in the HELP system, 10bd2a3b

MY STRONGEST RECOMMENDATION IS THAT, IN ORDER TO HELP DEBUG THE HELP SYSTEM, EVERYONE USE IT AS THOROUGHLY AS HE CAN FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS AND REPORT WHAT DIFFICULTIES HE FINDS THROUGH THE ARC FEEDBACK MECHANISM, 10bd2a3c

For ease of reference, I suggest that we categorize HELP system problems as follows: 10bd2a4

- 0. Overall impressions about usefulness and useability
- 1. Bugs that cause fatal errors
- 2. Other Bugs or Inconsistencies
- 3. Unsatisfactory features
- 4. Unclear or misleading or just plain missing descriptions of particular commands or concepts or terminology (including misspelled words, of which there are quite a few) 10bd2a4a

0. OVERALL IMPRESSIONS 10bd2b

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

MY OVERALL IMPRESSION IS THAT IN ITS PRESENT STATE, THE HELP SYSTEM IS VERY DIFFICULT TO USE, 10bd2b1

This conclusion stems from a number of factors: 10bd2b2

First, the HELP system imposes a new command language, a new syntax and a different recognition mode that the user must learn before he can learn how to get the help he wants. In particular: 10bd2b3

- I think it's a serious mistake to require the use of the verb SHOW. A user who's interested in a particular operand (a command or a concept or some terminology), will expect to type just that operand, not a superfluous verb. That's as near as possible to the way he gets HELP via the question mark mechanism in new NLS itself. 10bd2b3a

For more advanced browsing capabilities, it seems that QUERY commands could be parsed via an escape mechanism, such as an initial period or space before the command verb. 10bd2b3a1

For some operations, I would hope that we can devise more "natural" commands. The one example I stumbled onto is the "SHOW <" command for getting back to the previously "shown" segment. It is at best obscure and certainly not "natural". 10bd2b3a2

- If we must insist on using SHOW (and I strongly object to that), then it's still a serious mistake to have single letter recognition mode for the verb ("s" for "show") when the rest of the command requires a full typein. This is surely gross inconsistency for a recognition mode, a carryover from the experimental query language that JFV hastily put together for the ICC. 10bd2b3b

- Regardless of whether we use SHOW or not, I also think it's a serious mistake to require that all operands be typed in full. 10bd2b3c

In my opinion, we should strive for something like this: 10bd2b3c1

When an operand is an NLS command, the recognition mode for that operand should be precisely the same as the one the user was using when he called HELP. 10bd2b3c2

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

When an operand is NOT an NLS command, then it seems reasonable to provide either Tenex-like recognition or 940-like recognition, preferably the former. 10bd2b3c3

Second, the HELP system is unacceptably slow, both to get into it, and to do almost anything once you're in it, 10bd2b4

It certainly doesn't have to be the fastest subsystem there is, but neither should it result in processing suspended on a SHOW command. 10bd2b4a

It seems to me that when in the HELP subsystem the user should be prevented from ever being suspended. 10bd2b4b

Third (especially in DNLS), the user can get carried along down several menu lists or down a long menu list that doesn't fit on the screen and then has no obvious way to back up to a previous menu list, and no apparent way to learn how to back up to a previous menu list. 10bd2b5

One can quickly lose one's train of thought, and forget where he was or what he was looking for. 10bd2b5a

There appears to be no simple explanation anywhere on how to USE that fundamental entity, the "menu". (It was pointed out to me by Kirk and DVN, who kindly reviewed portions of this note for me, that the explanation exists under the description of the "show" command. I think it should be in a more obvious place, like under "menu".) 10bd2b5b

Can you bug a menu item in DNLS? (You can, but it doesn't work; the wrong things happen.) 10bd2b5b1

How do you get to see a previously displayed part of a menu list that passed off the screen when you typed "MORE"? (I don't know, and I couldn't find this described in the HELP system.) 10bd2b5b2

How do you get back to a previous menu list that you just came from? (I don't know.) 10bd2b5b3

Whatever mechanisms exist for this, they should be "natural" to use, and easy to learn about. 10bd2b5c

Fourth, it should be as "natural" as possible to get INTO the HELP system, but it isn't (at least, not to me). 10bd2b6

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

Currently, you must type GOTO HELP, or <control-q>, 10bd2b6a

Instead of GOTO HELP, it seems to me that the natural way would be to simply type HELP. And, whatever subsystem you were in when you typed HELP should dictate what entry point you reach when you get into HELP. 10bd2b6b

Instead of <control-q>, it seems that the natural thing to do is to type a second question mark (i.e., to get HELP type two consecutive question marks). The first question mark would get the list of alternatives as it does now, and the second question mark immediately following the first would get the HELP system at the appropriate entry point. It doesn't seem to me that the NLS command parser should have any insurmountable difficulty in knowing whether it was the first or second question mark which was being typed. 10bd2b6c

Fifth, there apparently is no information in the current HELP data base about the old, no-longer-valid NLS command language. 10bd2b7

What's the equivalent of output file? No way to find out. Similarly for xset, null file, output sequential, output assembler, output file, execute device type, and presumably all the rest. 10bd2b7a

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THIS WILL BE THE NUMBER ONE REASON THAT PEOPLE WILL WANT TO USE HELP AT THE BEGINNING; TO FIND OUT THE NEW WAY TO DO WHAT THEY'VE BEEN DOING ALL ALONG. 10bd2b7b

Kirk agrees with this, and has begun to put in a brief description of these commands. The original intention was to wait until all new commands were described and then just link to the appropriate one. But this won't work unless all new commands have been described. So a shorter explanation is needed. 10bd2b7c

1. BUGS THAT CAUSE FATAL ERRORS 10bd2c

In a cursory scan of the HELP system on April 9th, I found that the command

SHOW SYNTAX

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8,1

caused a fatal error (expulsion to the Tenex exec, with no recourse but to RESET and enter NLS again), 10bd2c1

I don't know whether this is the only offending command, or what caused the bomb out. But it was reproducible. Here especially, everyone must help in finding the offending commands, 10bd2c2

2. OTHER BUGS OR INCONSISTENCIES 10bd2d

The commands listed as part of the HELP system repertoire include both ENTRYPOINT and EXECUTE. But there's no apparent way to do the EXECUTE command. The "E" is pre-empted by ENTRYPOINT, 10bd2d1

In several instances (some of which are described later) there are inconsistencies between what you get when typing ? in new NLS and what you find in the HELP DB. Some alternatives listed with ? are simply not to be found in the DB, 10bd2d2

The use of ? in new NLS has the following bugs/difficulties: 10bd2d3

When you first enter new NLS and immediately type ? , you get a list of alternatives that are in fact those for which you must first type a space in expert mode, 10bd2d3a

Then, after giving any command (but not simply CD), subsequent use of ? at the EDITOR command level gets you the correct list of alternatives (those that are recognized by their first letter in expert mode), 10bd2d3b

3. UNSATISFACTORY FEATURES 10bd2e

d. The object of the SHOW command should be echoed on the same line as the SHw command itself. Otherwise it disappears during execution of the SHOW command, and the user has no aid to remember what he SHOWed, 10bd2e1

When the object of the SHw command is "not found", the error message "item not found" should not be exhibited; instead, the word "item" should be replaced with the literal typein that wasn't found. For example, "INSERT FILE not found" 10bd2e1a

e. The command SHOW <<<< ,,, provides a useful function, but the syntax is not appropriate for a HELP system, in my opinion, 10bd2e2

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

I would prefer to see something like PREVIOUS MENU or PREVIOUS ITEM (the words chosen to be appropriate to the function desired). More verbose, yes; but more intuitive, also. 10bd2e2a

This gets into the area of "reserved" words, and warrants a separate discussion. 10bd2e2a1

This command also has the discomfoting and disconcerting aspect that you don't know how many "<'s" to give, i.e. you don't know where you've been, especially in DNLS. 10bd2e2b

Wouldn't it be nice if we could give the user his "show return stack" in a meaningful way (for example, by echoing the first line of what was previously shown, as in NLS "Jump to Return") and let him back up through his stack till he gets to the one he wants, so that he can then pick the one he wants to go back to ? 10bd2e2b1

g. The message "This section of the HELP data base is incomplete. Please try another," is condescending and useless. The user doesn't want to "try another"; what good would it do him ? 10bd2e3

KIRK 31-MAY-74 13:59 23361
Suggestion concerning Help structure, technical terms, and default introductory views
Location: (GJOURNAL,23361,1:w)
*****Note: [ACTION] *****

10be

CHI 16-SEP-74 12:39 23981
Sendmail and items under 2000 characters in length.
Message: The bug that causes a file to always be created has been fixed in xnls. If a bugged entity consists of more than one statement, ten it will still become a file (this awaits harvey and dave hopper bringing up the long overdue new delivery process).
*****Note: [INFO-ONLY] *****

10bf

Herewith some bugs and feedback on newnls, noted by NDM in (23635,): 10bg

The Line Processor bug which truncates each statement display to 72 characters must be fixed (23569,). 10bg1

The command "Detach Subsystem" does not work. 10bg2

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

When a User Program/subsystem (like MESSAGE) is loaded, the "WARNING == no entry to program" for the L10 part misleads the user to thinking something is wrong. That message must be eliminated.

10bg3

When a user programmed subsystem is attached, where the subsystem keyword is different from the program name (although this will be avoided in the future), the keyword, not the program name, should be given in the message "Subsystem XXX Attached",

10bg3a

SRL 23=APR=74 10:53 22799

Sometimes it's hard to get out of help
Message; I was trying to quit out of Help and typed q and I guess a space. One of my options was OK; but when I typed a CA I got a question mark!

10bh

RLL 23=APR=74 14:22 22805

help system error; illegal instruction
Message; error in help system; new TNLS at ARC, 23 Apr 5:15 pm eastern, 's[how] journal submission' results in the all too frequent response 'illegal instruction m,r5 = 12,,5 ,,,,.' I supposed that 'journal submission' would be a valid item to search for; in any case other attempts at various items either responded with 'item not found' or some info.

10bi

RLL 23=APR=74 12:28 22801

Help system; error = <<<
Location; (LJOURNAL, 22801, 1;W)

10bj

to journalize

10bj1

Error in help system of new nls with TNLS at ARC,

10bj1a

Time = 23 April 74, 3:25 pm eastern time

10bj1b

If one types too many '<' in the show command the system responds with illegal instruction etc. In other words if one wants to return up the tree but inadvertently goes too far back, the system bombs out.

10bj1c

This should be corrected since one then finds himself at an exec level.

10bj1d

Bugs: I managed to get Portrayal Failure, Call ARC!; Display Error several times, and to top it off, an illegal instruction. I want

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8,1

doing anything funny any of the times these errors occurred--just
cruising around the database with Show commands, Thanks
again, Glenn

10bk

SLJ 10-MAY-74 16:49 22960

blueyedsusan II

Message; well, susan, it took me all day (at least 30 minutes) to
figure out how to do this, but here is one comment: when you go
to help and show sendmail subsystem and ask for #7 you get #6 so
you then ask for # 8 which isnt there and you get #7 which is
really what you want to know simply the (god, my typing)
sendmail commands, love flew out the door when money came
inuendo, xxxhave good wknd, carmen,

*****Note: * info-only * *****

10b1

JMB 2-JUL-74 18:09 23513

A bug that really blows out beginning Help users

Location; (GJOURNAL, 23513, 1;W)

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

10bm

Comments: --which we certainly don't need

10bm1

I've observed a person who's totally unfamiliar with our system
try to learn how to use NLS from the Help system, in order to
find out why it's reported to be so frustrating,

10bm2

One of the more serious difficulties this person had was in
learning that he had to get out of the Help subsystem in order
to try any of the commands being described. When a new user
first sees the various commands for traveling between
subsystems, he is very likely to attempt to Goto whatever,
rather than quit Help. The bug that results from doing that
(one gets to Editor but the text of the database is displayed
on the screen) is very confusing--fatally so, since he can't
find out why or where he is--to the user.

10bm3

If a command is not going to be available from Help, it should
not be listed for Questionmark and should not be specifiable!
Better yet, if Help is a subsystem, all subsystem commands
should be available from it. And still better, all the
commands the user is reading about he should be able to try
without going through a tortuous maze, and then be able to get
back to Help. At least fix that bug with Goto (get the other
file back--the one the user can write on).

10bm4

3-MAY-74 1624-PDT LEE: Editor sbsystem, load file or jump to
link

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

Distribution: FEEDBACK
 Received at: 3-MAY-74 16:24:09 10bn

I had been working for quite awhile, and tried to load a file and I got the message, "Insufficient space for new statemnt return ring". Then I tried jump to link and got the same message. I had to reset and start again. 10bni

JCN 14-MAY-74 09:07 22991
 A Update File Old Bug? and Sendmail Blowup
 Location: (MJOURNAL, 22991, 1:W) 10bo

New NLS bug,.? 10boi

When I used the Update File Old command in NEW NLS today on the file (NORTON,JCN,NLS;7011,). The message I got back at the top of the display was (PMFDIRO,JOBPMP,,100014,) rather than (NORTON,JCN,NLS;7011,). Harvey seemed to think that this string has come up in funny places before and is associated with some special user space in the system. This could confuse new or old users about what file they are really updating. In addition, when I went to tell this to FEEDBACK, the sendmail subsystem blew up just after I typed the CA after typing in some message like the above. I got Illegal Instruction jsys 56=,,.10400,,56 at LODRFB+217=54401 Illegal TENEX source/destination designator,, etc etc. So there you are. This is sent from oldnls to try to get it through. 10bola

JHB 19-MAY-74 21:48 23046
 New NLS bug
 Message: When in Jump to File Return and spacing back through the link list (about 8 loads) received "pushdown overflow at 25301" and was left in exec. Continue got: "illegal instruction at 17000420001 at user 411516". whew.
 *****Note: [ACTION] ***** 10bp

DCE 22-MAR-74 12:54 22458
 Bug: SID duplication
 Location: (JJOURNAL, 22458, 1:W) 10bq

In my initial file, I happened to notice that I had at least two duplicated SIDs, i.e. two SIDS that appeared each on two

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

different statements, I updated and made a copy that I'll keep around for a while if someone wants to check into what went wrong. (Meanwhile, I'm doing a copy plex to get new SID allocations for my ongoing Initial File), 10bq1

(For each SID, two Locnums in file <ENGELBART>BUGCASE 10bq2

SID	LN1	LN2	
01043	19	21d5f1	10bq2a
01045	19a	21d5f2	10bq2b
			10bq2c

RLL 11-JUN-74 02:43 23323
 bug in address and file return stacks.
 Message: Often the file return ring (stack) and address return ring seem to give back 'undefined delimiter..' or some such message, this should not happen. This happened several time tonight (10ZJune).
 *****Note: [ACTION] ***** 10br

RLL 11-JUN-74 00:03 23322
 Bug: run away system on cross file edits.
 Message: apparently got into a loop after a cross file edit between windows. Happened twice tonight (11jun). Once with a replace word, once with a replace text command. did a reset after some 50 cpu seconds elapsed, reentered nls and loaded file that was to be edited. Surprise, the replace text and the replace word seemed to have worked. My guess is that the system ran away after doing the edit but while it was trying to recreate the display screen.
 *****Note: [ACTION] ***** 10bs

JHB 19-JUN-74 13:19 23408
 Apparent bug in New NLS Useroptions
 Message: When useroptions leveladjust prompts are turned off, I still get the L: on the other editing commands, move, copy, etc.. It seems off for only insert statement.
 *****Note: [ACTION] ***** 10bt

4-JUL-74 1907=PDT KELLEY: empty links
 Distribution: VICTOR, feedback
 Received at: 4-JUL-74 19:07:59 10bu

An empty link takes the user to the statement containing the link.

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

Unfortunately for me, an empty link containing only an exclamation point takes the user to the origin statement. This is exactly the oposite of what it should do since exclamation point means limit the search to the current branch. I would appreciate knowing if this bug will not be fixed in the near future.
Thanks,,,kirk

10bu1

KIRK 14-JUN-74 16:29 23399
BUG with footers on last oversized page.
Message: In a document whose page length is set to be below the perforation on the printer paper and whose last page does not have enough lines to over flow the perforation, the footer appears above the perforation instead of where it is set to appear.
*****Note: [ACTION] *****

10bv

DVN 12-JUN-74 08:54 23336 %Set Case Mode works only after a viewspec f%
Set Case Mode First and Markers in Links; Two steps back toward Entropy.
Message: Markers wrked in links in the recent past but see to have stopt. Yesterday Harvey apparently went into a loop trying to jump on an existing link to a filename and marker, and just now when I typed in a link to a file name and marker (whic I have used before) I got puped into exec at "pushdown overflow 25301;
Set Case Mode Fisrt still says it is not implimeted.
*****Note: [ACTION] *****

10bw

STORESRRING

10bx

4-APR-74 0952-PDT VANNOUHUYS: daughter of storestring
Distribution: LEE
Received at: 4-APR-74 09:52:40

10bx1

I rest, returned to XNLS, loadedthe file in qustion. Found that the group had been deleted. I then updated compact, wrote some more stuff, and updated again. It bombed me into exec with words like "ILLEGAL INSTRUCTION JSYS 30 = 1040000,,30
at JFNTOS+14 = 147203
Unassigned JFN " etc.

10bx1a

4-APR-74 0934-PDT VANNOUHUYS: file numbers do not match in storestring
Distribution: LEE
Received at: 4-APR-74 09:34:29

10bx2

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

I wrote a text (structurally a group) in a file in XNLS. I went to tenex, called regular tnis, loaded the file, and submitted the group as a journal item. Then I quit TNLS, quit inferior exec, and immediately tried to delete the group. It replied with the error message hat titles this message and wuld not do anything for me,

10bx2a

RLL 9-MAY-74 08:22 22925

strange system message

Message: After a "update file compact" command I got a "file numbers do not match in storesrring" message. The file seems ok and got no other messages, this happend Wednesday night and again Thursday (may8,9), Should I worry about the file ? Robert

*****Note: * action * *****

10bx3

KIRK 28-MAR-74 12:21 22521

The journal hardcopy command,

Location: (JJOURNAL, 22521, 1:W)

10by

I think a better word would be "Offline" because Hardcopy implies paper. This is the command one would use to journalize anything from a video tape to a human being (check out journal number 1),

10by1

RWW 9-MAY-74 16:09 22937

Y/N problem

Message: in sendmail and interrogate mode the conventions of <SP> for N and <CA> for yes do not seem to be operating consistently or correctly. for exampple when you get to done and it says Y/N and you hit <CA> you end up at the command level, while if yos then sy done and it says Y/N and you hit <CA> it works,

*****Note: * action * *****

10bz

RLL 20-MAY-74 17:30 23060

send-mail.rll partial copy left around

Message: On occasions, not sure at moment exactly whch ones, the file [send-mail].pc appears in directory with the .rll extension having nothing in it besides the statement 0 and message that no content was specified, this has occurred after a succdssful journal submission (I think successful) as well as after no sendmail submissions. A related bug: after deleting both the .rll and .pc versions of send-mail file, once a got a 'no such version' message after doing the messge, title, send to,, and done commands in sendmail subssystem. My guess, system some how thought old send-mail.rll was around but it was not discovered it was not

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

there until 'done' command,

10ce

3-JUN-74 1506-PDT WATSON: sendmail glitches
Distribution: FEEDBACK
Received at: 3-JUN-74 15:06:48

10ca

when trying to send a file got message journal workfile fomat
improper setjsource. On trying to send a message to report
this got illegal instruction 104000.,56 and a record structure
ala nddt,

10ca1

27-MAR-74 1754-PDT KELLEY: Character size 0 bug,
Distribution: FEEDBACK, irby
Received at: 27-MAR-74 17:54:08

10cb

I find I need to work with character size 0 on split screens in
the experimental system. For one thing, it is the only way to
do an output sequential without getting lines that are too long
in tenex. There are other reasons. Anyway, the problem is
when the Boundary is moved, the lines quit breaking where they
should, they just sort of dissappear into the empty vertically
split window to the right, (23124,) (KIRK) (23115,) (KIRK)

10cb1

%NP% KIRK 9-MAY-74 17:46 22943
Character Size Changes should be viewspecs instead of commands,
message: Character size changes in DNLS should be viewspecs,

10cb2

DCE 10-JUN-74 15:57 23318
Pushdown overflow bug, apparently when using several windows
Message: "Pushdown Overflow at 25301" -- got this message as as
bombed out of NLS doing a jump in one window to a new file (for
that window). Actually it was a Jump Item, with different VSPECS,
from directly-bugged statement in one of the other windows. I
think that this has happened to me severa times before.
*****Note: [ACTION] *****

10cc

5-SEP-74 0947-PDT KELLEY: Move Edge noise words
Distribution: IRBY, MAYNARD, feedback
Received at: 5-SEP-74 09:47:48

10cd

The Noise words (perpendicular to) in Move Edge are unnecessary
and in
some cases, invalid,

10cd1

5-SEP-74 0819-PDT BAIR: Bug
Distribution: FEEDBACK, IRBY, MAYNARD, bair
Received at: 5-SEP-74 08:19:46

10ce

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

I want to report a bug in WORK, not bug you guys... Anyway, when doing a copy word from left to right vertical split screen, the file I was copying to dissappeared and in its place appear the single visable: <null> . I thoyght we did away with "Null file",.haha. Anyway, I got the same error msg as in other similar situations, illegal number in filestore ring,.. Just in case you thought this was fixed, Jim

10ce1

2-SEP=74 1957=PDT KELLEY: Clear command
Distribution: MAYNARD, feedback
Received at: 2-SEP=74 19:57:31

10cf

is not available in DNLS appears someone forgo to say !NOT T!
or
something.

10cf1

2-SEP=74 1955=PDT KELLEY: The copy command is not available in
Work

Distribution: MAYNARD, feedback
Received at: 2-SEP=74 19:55:35

10cg

(it appears someone forgot to say NOT !L! or something with
the Clear command,

10c91

31-AUG=74 0101=PDT KELLEY: Control=Q after tYping in
questionmark

Distribution: MAYNARD, feedback
Received at: 31-AUG=74 01:01:17

10ch

It does not immediately work in XNLS after saying "Insert
Statemen t" and typing control-q. What happens is it waits for
some other control character and then parses all of the
contrl-q's

in the user's buffer (usually several by then) and the user is
stuck in Help several times recursively, very confusing, even
to
an experienced user.

10chi

28-AUG=74 0258=PDT KELLEY: bug in work with viewspec g and
output quickprint

Distribution: MAYNARD, irby, feedback
Received at: 28-AUG=74 02:58:21

10ci

I think it has to do with viewspec g when only a portion
of a page is picked up by the system and sent to the printer,
sure is reproduceable,

10cii

27-AUG=74 2020=PDT KELLEY: A new (to me) bug with split screens

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

Distribution: IRBY, feedback
 Received at: 27-AUG-74 20:20:35 10cj

In both NLS and Work. The file on the right half of the screen will suddenly decide not to recreate after an edit. Viewspec f causes <NUL> to appear in the top of that window and everything else to dissappear. That file must then be reloaded to avoid fst entry nonexistent and other such bullshit. After it is reloaded everything is fine for a while and then it will happen again. The file return ring on the left side of the screen gets fucked about this time. 10cj1

27-AUG-74 2015-PDT KELLEY: Backspace in level-adjust doesn't work

Distribution: FEEDBACK, maynard
 Received at: 27-AUG-74 20:15:16 10ck

Typing d BC makes the d disappear, but does not keep it from acting. 10ck1

26-AUG-74 1448-PDT MAYNARD: Assorted Bugs you reported Aug 22

Distribution: KELLEY, maynard, feedback
 Received at: 26-AUG-74 14:48:42 10cl

We have made some changes ans fixes which are not in xnlis yet. They should take care of the following problems you mentioned.
 1) Some of the jump return and jump file return problems.
 2) The sort problem (illegal instruction at sort + 3)
 3) Thebug in the tab command whith viewspec B.
 I will let you know when these changes are in xnlis and we would appreciate your checking of these fixes. 10cl1

Additionally:

The LSEL of type CHARACTER is correct for bugging a content pattern.
 You bug the first character of the pattern and the compiler finds the semicolon which terminates the content analysis pattern. 10cl2

Charles will change the order of the Promts for SSEL and DSEL to correspond to the order given by question=mark. 10cl3

We are still investigating the other problems you mentioned, and we will let you know about their status later. 10cl4

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

26-AUG-74 0421=PDT KELLEY: sort generates an illegal instruction twice in a row

Distribution: MAYNARD, vannouhuys, beck, feedback, hopper
Received at: 26-AUG-74 04:21:55

10cm

on the file <kelley, workfile,> I need to use sort in order to generate the documentation. The illegal instruction occurs at SORT + 3 = 545610 but could you try it yourself, I was using WORK, == Kirk,

10cm1

26-AUG-74 0116=PDT KELLEY: instituting content analyzer patterns

Distribution: MAYNARD, feedback
Received at: 26-AUG-74 01:16:27

10cn

Half the time, content analyzer pattern don't really institute when using load program, or else they go away when used. The other half

of the time they work fine. Haven't figured out the pattern yet, but you might take a look at it...very frustrating.

10cn1

23-AUG-74 0311=PDT KELLEY: Command Delete bug

Distribution: FEEDBACK, maynard
Received at: 23-AUG-74 03:11:30

10co

When hitting CD after typing questionmark in DNLS when it says "Type CA to Continue, Hitting a CD at that point does not do a Command Delete, it merely takes the q-mark message away,

10co1

19-AUG-74 0652=PDT JERNIGAN: NewNLS HELP Glitch

Distribution: FEEDBACK, KELLEY, LEE, VANNOUHUYS, jernigan
Received at: 19-AUG-74 06:52:07

10cp

Dear all:

10cp1

Today I tried:

10cp2

Marker set command and apparently have successfully set a marker in my initial file. Now I am trying to find the marker and read it successfully,

10cp3

I tried the show marker command and it gave me what I assume is the correct address (should be),

10cp4

I tried the old show marker command to take me to tthe address

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

and
I have been unable to find it, went to HELP and said 10cp5

Show marker
and it gave me some stuff about marker, one of which is a
command
called show file marker, This I felt was what I wanted, so I
said: 10cp6

Show "show file marker" and
it gave me the description of the show verb. 10cp7

I said show "file marker" and
it gave me the description of a file. 10cp8

I said show marker again, and the command is there...but how to
get at it?
I tried show file marker in nls and it doesn't do it,
apparently I am not
doing it right, 10cp9

What's the problem? And if I ask for a command quoted in HELP,
shouldn't
HELP show it? 10cp10

Mil 10cp11

13-AUG-74 1448-PDT LEE at OFFICE-1: printjournal
Distribution: FEEDBACK AT ARC, lrby at arc
Received at: 13-AUG-74 18:01:38 10cq

I just tried a print journal at ARC in new NLS and it printed
the
citations but not the links (text of document). I'm assuming
that it is to
work as before... 10cq1

12-AUG-74 0838-PDT LEE:
Distribution: FEEDBACK
Received at: 12-AUG-74 08:38:22 10cr

I got a new message today "Illegal Number of blanks requested
in CLINE".
I had been working with split screens moving things from one to
another where part of the screen remains and moves up. Part of
the window was
blank and a viewspec f fixed it. 10cr1

Copy with Filter Opinions 10cs

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

DCE Filtered structure operations -- cf KEV's 23105
 3-JUN-74 18:30 (GJOURNAL, 23224, 1:w)
 *****Note: [ACTION] *****

10cs1

Comments: I vote for Ken's #4, without more 'rationale'
 supporting another

10cs1a

NDM Response to KEV's (23105,): Filtered Edits
 28-MAY-74 09:04 (GJOURNAL, 23131, 1:w)

10cs2

Comments: My vote on KEV's four methods in (gjournal,23105,) 10cs2a

MY vote on KEV's (GJOURNAL,23105,). 10cs2b

Method Three seems the worst, since statement E gets
 affected by a change in a separate branch (which adds to
 whatever confusion arises out of the other branch's change
 in structure).

10cs2c

Method Four makes little sense on the Delete with Filter,
 though I have no strong objections to it with the other
 commands.

10cs2d

Retaining the structure could be of value in files
 formatted (say for COM) based on structure. But in the
 Delete command, the whole idea was to get rid of that
 statement.

10cs2d1

Method One would be fine, but a plex can be structurally
 broken and a relationship lost. A trade-off between import
 of subservience and plex relationships in structure.

10cs2e

Method Two seems most appropriate for Delete with filter (a
 precedent of sorts was set with Append in moving everything
 up a level). I would also be satisfied with Two in the Copy
 and Move command. I am not sure how Transpose will be used.

10cs2f

JMB Re (23105,) Implementation for Filtered Copy Plex, etc.
 24-MAY-74 16:16 (GJOURNAL, 23119, 1:w)
 *****Note: [ACTION] *****

10cs3

Re (23105,) Implementation for Filtered Copy Plex, etc. 10cs3a

I prefer method 2, so that I could learn and remember the
 following simple rule,

10cs3a1

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

"If the filter doesn't pass a statement, its substatements move up a level,"

10cs3a1a

Also, that is the way I have understood for many months (from Dornbush way back then) that New NLS was going to work, and thus have I written the documentation for the new Copy with Filter command,

10cs3a2

If you do eventually decide to stick with method 1 ("If the filter doesn't pass a statement, its first substatement is moved up into its place, with following substatements remaining at their old level, now having the first one as their source,"??!) or one other than 2, please notify me so that I can change the documentation,

Thank you, Jeanne

B,

10cs3a3

DVN Filter Restructure Default Vote

24-MAY-74 08:20 23112 Message:

I vote for method 1

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

10cs4

MDK copy move etc with filters

24-MAY-74 08:16 23111 Message:

re Victor's copy etc with filter:

It seems to me that if you look at the text as a document (not as L10 program statements, for example) then what one is looking for in using such a command is an excerpt of the document,

The excerpt is to be controlled by the occurrence of certain strings in a chapter, paragraph, section, or subsection of the document,

The extract would be most useful, in my opinion, if alternative three in Victor's write up were used: namely, copy, move, etc ALL the parent statements of any statement that passed the filter, and indicate where appropriate that those parent statements were "empty", i.e. did not themselves contain the filters,

10cs5

KIRK Preferred filter method

23-MAY-74 17:58 23109 Message:

Method 1 in ken's list,

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

*****Note: [INFO=ONLY] *****

10cs6

KIRK New (unintentional?) meaning for viewspec capital B
 14-AUG-74 14:54 (GJOURNAL, 23795, 1:w)
 *****Note: [ACTION] *****

10ct

Only those characters following the current marker are seen on the DWORK screen when capital B is on. This keeps the document locator files from working because they use viewspecs containing no address which addresses the link and not the first character of the statement.

10ct1

Only those characters following the current marker are seen on the DWORK screen when capital B is on. This keeps the document locator files from working because they use viewspecs containing no address which addresses the link and not the first character of the statement.

10ct2

RLL 19-AUG-74 11:08 23821
 bug in bugging: first line of screen
 Location: (GJOURNAL, 23821, 1:w)
 *****Note: [ACTION] *****

10cu

AHHHHH, bugging the first line on my screen in effect bugs the line prior to it (not visible). No split screen at the time, doing moving, copying, transposing branches at the time.
 19 Aug

10cu1

DVN 21-AUG-74 08:49 23832
 BUG: Set Viewspecs Does Not Work

Location: (GJOURNAL, 23832, 1:w)
 *****Note: [ACTION] *****

10cv

The Set Viewspec command will accept only two characters after it has recognized "Viewspecs" (all other characters get a ? or bell). They are CD and CA. Neither changes your viewspecs in any way. I am assuming for the purposes of the primer that it will be fixed to take viewspecs and then a CA in that field.

10cv1

RLL 27-AUG-74 10:18 23877
 sendmail delivery bug
 Location: (HJOURNAL, 23877, 1:w)
 *****Note: [ACTION] *****

10cw

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

The author copy of a sendmail item was delivered by replacing statement zero (thus destroying the origin statement). Yes there was an author branch and no I did not interrupt the delivery as it wa happening, 27 Aug 74

10cw1

KIRK 11-SEP-74 01:51 23936
 interpreter/parser/cml/control=q bug
 Message: After the substitute command, Control=q doesn't work until some other character is typed (this happens in many other places in NLS some of which occur after displaying a message that requires a CA to continue). What happens in these cases is the user keeps typing control=q until giving up and going on to something else in which case the user then gets into help recursively ... Needless to say, this experience with the system makes it look very stupid.
 *****Note: [INFO-ONLY] *****

10cx

JMB New NLS BUG: Y/N won't take yes for an answer
 22-JUL-74 13:05 (GJOURNAL, 23661, 1:w)
 *****Note: [ACTION] *****

10cy

In the Substitute command, when I get to the field prompted "Y/N;" typing y gets a questionmark.

10cy1

Comments: Please fix soon; it makes our documentation lie.

10cy2

RLL Show directory bug (DNLS+LP).
 5-JUL-74 11:04 23527 Message:
 when using show directory with options time and date for read, (DNLS and LP), if the information exceeds the viewing area, it is lost. Two ideas to fix it: 1) use a more command like help system or 2) format the text better, e.g., use columns.
 *****Note: [ACTION] *****

10cz

KIRK Bug in LEVEL=ADJUST
 3-AUG-74 23:10 (GJOURNAL, 23729, 1:w)
 *****Note: [ACTION] *****

10d@

In the Insert Statement command (and I Presume wherever L; appears, typing "d<"A>u" looks good but does not place the statement up a level, but inserts it at the same level.

10d@1

KIRK Bad File with jump to link on filename in origin statement.
 2-AUG-74 00:55 (GJOURNAL, 23718, 1:w)

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

10da

Attempting to Jump to Link on the FILELINK in the origin statement causes a Bad File message to be printed. The first time this happened, I lost 12 hours of work as it would not even load the file (my initial file). The second and third times this happened, Verify File said it was bad, but "C reset Verify File said it was good. Very strange. Why does the filename need to be in link delimiters anyway??

10da1

KIRK 2-AUG-74 01:01 23719
Update Compact seems to have solved Bad File problem
Location: (GJOURNAL, 23719, 1:w)
*****Note: [INFO-ONLY] *****

10da2

Even though the Verify File command said everything was cool, it wasn't until I did an Update File Compact. Now there seems to be no problem.

10da2a

KIRK 14-AUG-74 01:10 23790
Text disappears from the beginning of statements.
Location: (GJOURNAL, 23790, 1:w)
*****Note: [ACTION] *****

10db

KIRK 13-AUG-74 16:01 23789
Parts of statements disappear
Location: (GJOURNAL, 23789, 1:w)
*****Note: [ACTION] *****

10dc

KIRK 18-AUG-74 00:16 23817
BUG in the substitute command
Location: (GJOURNAL, 23817, 1:w)
*****Note: [ACTION] *****

10dd

KIRK 15-MAY-74 18:29 23010
Please change the default setting for ESC in TNLS to be ESC, MESSAGE; Currently it is defined to be <"B>. There is no way for a default TNLS user to use Ken's file recognition feature. <"B> doesn't do in the new system what it did in the old so people certainly aren't used to it as it is. Please change it.
Message: Currently it is defined to be <"B>. There is no way for a default TNLS user to use Ken's file recognition feature. <"B> doesn't do in the new system what it did in the old so people certainly aren't used to it as it is. Please change it.

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

10de

KIRK 23-MAY-74 21:17 23110
Bug with Filename recognition in Load Program Command
Message; Maybe this is an NP. Altmode should cause filename
recognition for a file in PROGRAMS directory without typing
programs, first.

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

10df

KIRK 12-MAY-74 13:41 22965
SENDMAIL BUG
Message: Don't send anything via the new SENDMAIL that is less
than 2000 characters but more than one paragraph or statement
long. SENDMAIL will only deliver the first paragraph.
*****Note: * action * *****

10dg

KIRK 20-FEB-74 17:57 22008
%Feature = must update immediately when loading busy file%The
most immediate bugs from several intensive sessions in XNLS
Location: (HJOURNAL, 22008, 1:W)

10dh

When I logged in as kelley, in tnls, connected to NIC and then
loaded and modified a busy file in a third directory, it locked
the file as (NIC)kirk in directory kelley and wouldn't let me
update it.

10dh1

(2b1) [dsm] -044- It seems inconsistent that in Sendmail you type
"SH" to do (Sh)ow Status but anywhere else you would have to type
"SHS" for (Sh)ow (S)tatus. (feedback, fdbk, 03340) i.e Change
"Status" to a Command word in sendmail and change "Record" to a
Command word in the Ident subsystems.

10di

(2b1) [dsm] -055- Default herald length should be 4 instead of 3.
(feedback, fdbk, 02647)

10dj

(2a2) [hql] -053- Must have simple DEX available in new nls.

10dk

(2b1) [chi] Change the CML to replace the entities "window" and
"boundary" by the single entity "edge", i.e. S[plit window]
H[orizontally] will become I[nsert] E[dge] etc.

10dl

(2a2) [chi] -062- Typing "U before an address was also disliked by
many. The preferred prompt would be B;/A; (feedback, fdbk, 02664),
(feedback, fdbk, 02777), (feedback, fdbk, 02790

10dm

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

- This will be changed, together with a new set of "DSEL SSEL LSEL" def'ns , namely: 10dm1
- | | | | |
|------|---------|-----------------|-------|
| | TNLS | DNLS | |
| DSEL | A | <bug> / A | |
| SSEL | A / [T] | <bug> / A / [T] | |
| LSEL | T / [A] | <bug> / T / [A] | 10dm2 |
- [] Substitute Command is changing name delimiters. 10dn
- [chi] Implement a method of showing a persons ident record given his last name in the Identification Subsystem. 10do
- nearly done 10doi
- [] Output quick=print and output sequential terminate abruptly before they shoul 10dp
- (4b2) -015- The space is not echoed to TNLS users when second-level commands are typed in expert-expert. Our suggestion is to echo it. (feedback,fdbk,02711), (feedback,fdbk,02712) 10dq
- (3a3) -0115- Userprograms are too difficult for users to invoke. Why not have commonly used ones such as inmes and letter instituted as a regular subsystem and simply say GOTO subsystem message or whatever. (feedback,fdbk,03335) Other suggestions: 10dr
- One "load program" command should accomplish all of the following events: 10dr1
- set the buffer size appropriate to the program being loaded,
load the program,
OPTIONALLY run it 10dria
- In addition, the "Run Program" command should still be there, 10dr2
- At the least, the Load Program command should automatically set Buffer Size. (feedback,fdbk,03261) 10dr3
- Implementation by Development: Loading a user program will automatically increase the buffer size. It is impossible to predict exactly how much space a program will need but the algorithm used should almost always provide enough. Buffer space will not be returned to the user by the Delete Last (program in buffer) command because of the high overhead involved, however the Delete All (programs in buffer) will reset the buffer size to the system default value to avoid constantly increasing buffer sizes. 10dr4

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

[ekm] Calculator sometimes changes ones ident to CALC ! See
(GJOURNAL, 23714, 1:w) 10ds

[ekm] - Calculator accumulator has dissapeared off screen, needs
restoration, 10dt

[] Jump to name external and set external file name in the
Editor do not work properly together, see (GJOURNAL, 23681, 1:w) 10du

[]Bad File with jump to link on filename in origin statement,
Location: (GJOURNAL, 23718, 1:w) 10dv

(3c1) Fix update command to "always" update origin, under some
circumstances this is not now done 10dw

[] prob with insert sequential in TNLS When i do an inserrt
seq. in TNLS, after everything has been specified, and i get the
mesage "insert seq. in Progress" I then get blown out
with "NLS System error: illegal file # passed to FLNTADR" 10dx

(2b1) [chl] fix the bug in sendmail which will not let just
specify a <ca> for a null distribution list, 10dy

This will either be implemented by: 10dy1

1) adding a type LIT to the CML which would require typein
(no bugging allowed) or 10dy1a

2)specifing a special character (ESC?) which means null if
it is the first character of a typein, 10dy1b

This is already implemented using method 2 above <"N"> specifies
a null lit 10dy2

Implementation by development: Loading a user program will
automatically increase the buffer size. It is impossible to
predict exactly how much space a program will need but te
algorithm used should almost always provide enough. Buffer space
will not be returned to the user by the Delete Last (program in
buffer) command because of the high overhead involved, however the
Delete All (programs in buffer) will reset the buffer size to the
system default value to avoid constantly increasing buffer sizes, 10dz

[dsm] In DNLS the Jump to Content command leaves the current
marker positioned at the target text and the beginning of the
statement does not appear, See xjump, 10e@

(1a1) [dsm] Make the user dialog better for the "output to

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

terminal" command ,that is make the CML prompts consistent with the rest of the CML commands, 10ea

[] Fix interpreter bug which will not allow second level subsystem names, This is required to implement the new subsystem Terminal which conflicts with Subsystem Tenex, 10eb

(1a1) [dsm] -030- Change the default setting for ESC in TNLS to be ESC. (feedback,fdbk,02906) 10ec

(2b1) [kjm] change the SENDMAIL Commands SEND FOR ACTION and SEND for INFO to D[istribute] A[ction (copies to)] and D[istribute] I[nformation (copies to)] 10ed

(2b1) [kjm] change the SENDMAIL Command DONE to "SEND (the mail)" 10ee

(2a2) -094- Altmode should cause filename recognition for a file in programs directory without typing programs first when loading a program. (feedback,fdbk,03018) 10ef

(1) -051- In TNLS, the Show Feedback command should show the feedback mode as well as length and indenting. (feedback,fdbk,03156) 10eg

(2) -054- Fewer colons would look better, i.e. A/[T]; rather than A:/[T];. (feedback,fdbk,02649) 10eh

(1) -057- L: field should be optionally terminate-able by <ca> 10ei

(1) -060: When searching with a Content Analyzer Pattern, why not have the compile command automatically institute the program. (feedback,fdbk,03286) 10ej

It does this now. 10ej1

(1) -067- "jump to ,fr" and "jump to ,r" need not be changed to pause and give stack information to TNLS users, but they certainly shouldn't go away. 10ek

(1) -071- = no this will not be done = When multiple characters or words are allowed, the noiseword should be Character(s) or Word(s) etc. (feedback,fdbk,02900) 10el

(1) -074- Discuss the following commands, choose simpler wording 10em

Split window Horizontally,
Split window vertically
Simulate Terminal-type 10em1

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

- One suggestion is: 10em2
- split-window horizontally
split-window vertically
terminal-type 10em3
- An alternate suggestion (by NDM) for simulating terminal type
is "set terminal-type" 10em4
- An alternate suggestion (by NDM) for the window commands is to
do away with the "split" verb and "window" noun, and instead
use something like 10em5
- Insert Boundary (Horizontally / Vertically) at (BUG /
Center of BUG) using window BUG CONFIRM
[note this still offers the split at center as an option] 10em5a
- Move Boundary from BUG to BUG CONFIRM 10em5b
- Delete Boundary at BUG keeping view at BUG CONFIRM 10em5c
- Supporting arguments for NDM's suggestion are in
(Gjournal,30932,1;why) 10em5d
- (2) =026= When the first or second command word is a phrase, list
the entire phrase as an alternative in response to question=mark,
for example, (d)delete (a)ll markers, preferably hyphenated,
(feedback,fdbk,03248) See (Gjournal,23646,1;why) for suggestions
by Applications. 10en
- (2) =031= Have Control-O stop printing alternatives after a
question mark has been typed, (feedback,fdbk,02796) 10eo
- (2) =038= In TNLS a space should be feedback after a prompt and a
CR before a herald and prompt, (feedback,fdbk,02648) (We know of
no case where this isn't done already.) 10ep
- (3c1) Fix substitute command to accept a "y" for answer, 10eq
- (1) =012= Have "Set Case" be as follows instead of it's present
wording: 10er
- Force=case Character
Force=case Text
...
force=case Mode 10er1
- (3c1) =012= Change "Show File Marker" to be "Show Marker" 10es

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

- (1) -025- In response to question-mark, alphabetize the alternatives. (feedback, fdbk, 03189) 10et
- (1) -037- Change "record session" to "start recording-session" to correspond to "stop recording-session". (feedback, fdbk, 03258) 10eu
- (1a1) -042- The error msg
"Exceed Capacity"
should be changed to
" NLS syst error: string too long "
to eliminate confusion with disk allocation being exceeded.
(feedback, fdbk, 02765) 10ev
- (1) -048- We'd also like to see <insert> and <repeat> listed as alternatives at top level. (Most users will type <control-e> and <control-b> respectively, but these are user-settable options. Therefore use of the global terms insert and repeat is preferred. But this also means that the HELP system data base must respond to "show <repeat>" etc. 10ew
- (1) -049- Other control characters should echo as it's done now (e.g., <lf> echoes via its action, not via a visible). This replaces the recommendation given in (feedback, fdbk, 02772) 10ex
- (3c1) -035- Make the Jump commands available from any subsystem 10ey
- (4b2) -034- All DNLS "jump" commands should be also available as commands in TNLS. 10ez
- (1a1) [kjm] -029- Unavailable alternatives should not appear after question mark. For example, Load Busy file. 10fe
- (2b1) [kjm] -022- New command: "print rest <ca>" (constrained as in proposed "print file" command) equivalent to and replacing current "print <ca>" 10fa
- (2b1) [kjm] -021- New command: "print file <ca>" (obeying default viewspecs, without upsetting current CM and without upsetting current viewspecs): equivalent in concept to print branch zero 10fb
- (2a2) [kjm] -0101- When viewspecs B and l or g are used the view on the screen and on a printout are different and they should be the same. (feedback, fdbk, 03284), (feedback, fdbk, 02731) 10fc
- (2b1) [chi] -019- In Print Structure commands, when a link with viewspecs is used as an address, the viewspecs should affect the printout. (feedback, fdbk, 03273) 10fd

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8.1

19-JUN-74 0905-PDT BAIR: Help on Jumps,
 Distribution: VANNOUHUYS, FEEDBACK, bair, kelley
 Received at: 19-JUN-74 09:05:12

10fe

In response to Dirk's request I have been using Help more...
 these 2 comments:

When using "Q after "Jump to Name Any" I was taken to a list of jumps which did not include "any"; this did not appear to be due the fact that this part of the data base is not finished. Second, after one has used the more command to see the rest of the list, how does he get back to the original display of the list...?

10ff1

RLL 8-MAY-74 11:22 22917
 Show directory command: comments
 Location: (MJOURNAL, 22917, 1;W)
 *****Note: * action * *****

10ff

First, there seems to be a bug in the show directory command, try show directory <CA> "U for file filename <CA> No Protection <CA> <CA>, the message comes out 'reference to undefined interpreter variable', I tried diffeent forms of filename (e.g., full name all the way out to version number, s in the name, just the name without extension, etc.) always the same message,

10ff1

comment: the messaae is cryptic, it should be more explicit as to what is wrong, i.e., the filename, command, etc,

10ff2

the other options for this command seem to work, namely, show directory <CCA> "U protection <CA> <CA>.

10ff3

Comment: for protection option ther seems to be much too much information. Either eliminate the line called protection or the next three lines making the protection very explicit. MY preference, well maybe the three line should survive, but it is a lot of lprinting. P. S. What is a group in this sense. How does one become a memeber of a group or not a memeber?

10ff4

Finally, for simple show directory command, one must type three (3!!!!) command accepts, that is a bit too much. I would think that a <CA> or "U would be the chose after Directory, if <CA> then that is it. Printout follows,

10ff5

DHC Address specification

9-JUL-73 17:37 17730 Message:

Addresses for text are additive (.! 2w! should give me the first three words of statement 1).

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

It would be nice to also have this for any double-address command (Transpose, especially)

10f9

JMB 6-APR-74 20:50 22640
New DNLS Useroptions Feedback command
Location: (LJOURNAL, 22640, 1:w)

10fh

I tried using Terse in Useroptions Feedback command, then repeating with Length = 0 and again with Length = 2. (In Expert Expert recognition mode) My noise words went off, but the whole command-word fed back. When this is implemented to work as I understand (Length--when Terse is on--diminishes amount of command-word fed back), what will be the procedure for having command-words not feedback at all? Length = 0 ?

10fh1

2) if a statement name has one or more apostrophes in it (such as the names in the ident file) then a jump to item using the option to type in a statement name, and a jump to name BOTH FAIL with error messages. Seems that apostrophe has a significant meaning in address expressions that conflicts with previous usage, as exemplified by the ident file name conventions; (23493,) (MDK)

10fi1

5) jump to link on a journal item which is in fact a message propositions you at the "up" of the statementt you really want to see. Try it on this one, (23493,) (MDK)

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

10fj

23-JUN-74 2159-PDT KELLEY: process commands bug
Distribution: VICTOR, feedback
Received at: 23-JUN-74 21:59:24

10fk

I can't get it to work on the Jump Return command. It always says "Retrieve?"

10fk1

JMB 1-JUL-74 15:34 23500
Bug in Useroptions Show Control characters command
Message: Command failed in several NLS sessions 1-JUL-74 - I did Execute Useroptions Show Control etc, nothing happened. (Three dots appeared for a suspiciously long time. Did a <"T">--found it at IO Wait...& wait...& wait. A CA gets out of it, but no info) Then did= Goto Useroptions OK Show Control etc, Nothing happened again, Show All works.

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

10f1

JMB 17=JUN=74

Reset Prompt command is still in new NLS's Editor subsystem. I thought this was supposed to have been taken out?

10fm

21=JUN=74 0844=PDT BAIR: New NLS bugs

Distribution: FEEDBACK, bair, irby

Received at: 21=JUN=74 08:44:07

10fn

- 1) You cannot search on a persons name in the ident subsystem.
- 2) When I used viewspec f in the help subsystem it OVERWROTE the previous view on the help display
- 3) The help display for the ident system was meaningless...not finished,

10fni

JHB 19=JUN=74 11:02 23405

Where are the defaults?

Message: I am wondering when the recommended initial defaults for new NLS are going to be implemented? At least the feedback conventions.

*****Note: [INFO=ONLY] *****

10fo

18=JUN=74 1819=PDT WATSON: dot last name search

Distribution: FEEDBACK

Received at: 18=JUN=74 18:19:26

10fp

I just submitted a journal item and tried the ,<lastname> seach. It did not do anything. when I said done it took the string. What's happening? Dick

10fpi

17=JUN=74 1641=PDT FERGUSON: Trying to submit to the journal

Distribution: FEEDBACK

Received at: 17=JUN=74 16:41:06

10fq

After a Goto Sendmail, (I wanted to send a loaded file to the journal) I typed File, and when it prompted B/[A], I pointed to the origin statement file name.

NLS proceeded to blow up with a PMAP error of the form:

IIL, INST Jsys 56 at LQDRFB+217 = 54432

Illeg, fork handle.

It's reproducable if you need the registers.

Did i do something wrong, or is this a bug??!!??

(P.S. I would have sent tis to you thru the journal - But old Catch 22!! I can't get there from here!!)

Ferg

10fq1

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

18-JUN-74 1819-PDT WATSON: dot last name search
 Distribution: FEEDBACK
 Received at: 18-JUN-74 18:19:26

10fr

I just submitted a journal item and tried the ,<lastname>
 seach. It did not do anything, when I said done it took the
 string, What's happening? Dick

10fr1

KIRK 6-JUN-74 21:48 23297
 at-sign @ no longer valid character in statement names
 Message: At-sign is the alphabetic zero and should be available
 for use in statement names as in oldnlis. Ampersand & should also
 be available, but that's another issue, Is the fact that @ does
 not work in the new system a bug or a feature?
 *****Note: [ACTION] *****

10fs

RLL 6-JUN-74 09:51 23283
 Bug: Move Character
 Message: Bug: try moving character from a particular point to the
 same point. It copies the character instead of doing nothing,
 Ture it is a silly thing to do but copying makes matters worse,
 *****Note: [ACTION] *****

10ft

RLL 25-MAY-74 11:29 23120
 Return file stack (ring) bug!!
 Message: Guess you al know that the file return stack (ring?) does
 not work as advertized. If one loads three or more files,
 thenproceeds to do a J[ump] ,fr (in TNLS) the previous file is
 loaded, another jump ,fr brings back the last one; from then on
 one flips back and forth between only the last two files. As i
 understood it, one could do repeated ,fr and eventually return to
 the very first one. Now one must count the position in the stack
 in order to return. Bad.
 *****Note: [ACTION] *****

10fu

JHB 27-MAY-74 10:34 23129
 New NLS bug in dir listing
 Message: When doing Show Protection on individual file received
 msg, "reference to undefined interpreter value", rather than
 protect listing for the file. The dir name and file name were
 typed out and were accurate.
 *****Note: [ACTION] *****

10fv

DCE 3-JUN-74 12:36 23217
 SENDMAIL should have plex-entity option

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

Message: Seems one can only send a file or a branch. I habitually set up my material to be journalized so that I transmit a plex. This should be added to the option in SENDMAIL. (Basically I don't see why the standard array of structural-entity options aren't offered as a matter of course.)
 *****Note: [ACTION] *****

10fw

DCE 3-JUN-74 17:43 23223
 INMES doesn't seem to work yet in New NLS -- cf. 23214
 Message: Susan: re your note (23214, 1b2) about "INMES" now working in New NLS -- I tried it, and I get loading message that says there is no entry point, and when trying to RUN the program, get similar NO-GO message.
 *****Note: [ACTION] *****

10fx

3-MAY-74 1621=PDT LEE: Editor subsystem, delete modifications command

Distribution: FEEDBACK
 Received at: 3-MAY-74 16:21:33

10fy

The screen doesn't refresh after th delete modification command until you type viewspec f. Sort of panics you when you think maybe it didn't work!

10fy1

2) When bugging a link which is the first visable in a statement, the msg "illegal link, left delimiter not found" was consistantly received for all operations on links. The link status was (), The problem did not hold true for < > when these replaced the parens. The same problem existed when there were no characters preceeding the link. Links elsewhere in the same statment worked. Thanks. (23041,) (JHB)

10fz

19-MAY-74 2303=PDT BAIR: New NLS bugs
 Distribution: FEEDBACK, lrby, bair
 Received at: 19-MAY-74 23:03:56

10g@

1) Can't use sendmail. Keeps jumping back to the last message I sent (hrs ago) and throwing me out of message input. Says "SSDA JSYS error litsup" among other things. Tried twice. Reset didnt help. Still cant send original problem which was:
 2) Cannot move boundary in this case from cente vertical to off left. Got "NLS display error" among other things. Tied twice. Could not see bug when bugging boundary positions. I quit for today,..

10g@1

18-MAY-74 1222=PDT JERNIGAN: Bug, Jump to ,e Command

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

Distribution: FEEDBACK, irby, lehtman, kelley, jernigan
 Received at: 18=MAY=74 12:22:59 10ga

Until a few minutes ago the ..positioned on 0, jump to .e command would get me to the last statement in the file. Or position on a top level statement, jump .e would take me to the last statement in that branch. 10ga1

Tried it two minutes ago and neither work now,,so something happened. They don't move at all. I have just ccme into NLS, so a new system may have been brought up since this morning early. (Time now 11:25 AM Sat.). 10ga2

M11 10ga3

JHB 22-MAY-74 21:57 23085

New NLS Bug

Message: GOT "NLS System error" when jumping on link typein. Link was OK, error if it werent' need to have error msg that's meaningful. The link was of the form: COURSESTRUC,3. File and staement number were OK

*****Note: [ACTION] *****

10gb

21-MAY-74 1028=EDT GOULD at BBN=TENEX: BACKSLASH, FRONTSLASH, AND CONTENT ADDRESSING

Distribution: FEEDBACK
 Received at: 21-MAY-74 07:32:53

10gc

%upper case terminal% I TRIED BACKSLASH AND FRONTSLASH AGAIN WITH THE SAME BAD RESULTS. NEITHER CHARACTER IS ECHOED AND NEITHER HAS ANY EFFECT. SINCE THESE THINGS WORK AT SRI, PERHAPS THIS IS AN EFFECT OF COMING IN OVER THE NET.

THE SINGLE QUOTE FOR CONTENT ADDRESSING DOESN'T WORK EITHER. THE STRING IS NOT FOUND, AND NEITHER THE SINGLE QUOTE NOR THE FIRST CHARACTER OF THE STRING IS ECHOED IN ITS COMPLAINT. THAT IS, ASKING FOR 'SOUP RESULTS IN OUP? .

THE DOUBLE QUOTE FOR CONTENT ADDRESSING WILL NOT FIND A STRING WHICH IS IN THE CURRENT STATEMENT, EVEN THOUGH THE STRING IS NOT INITIAL. I HAVE ALSO FOUND CASES IN WHICH THE STRING WHICH IS FOUND IS NOT THE ONE WHICH IS NEXT IN TEXT ORDER.

THE SEQUENCE OF COMMANDS

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

PRINT BRANCH 5
 DELETE BRANCH 5
 RESULTED IN THE MESSAGE "FILE NUMBERS DO NOT MATCH IN
 STORESRRING" IN VERSION 147, I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THIS
 CONDITIONS STILL EXISTS.

10gc1

DVN 29=MAY=74 08:52 23148
 Miscellaneous Nothing
 Message: When I called for Miscellaneous as an option in copy
 directory just now it showed for each file that it had no
 miscellaneous information.
 *****Note: [ACTION] *****

10gd

JHB 16=MAY=74 11:29 23021
 Feedback about Tenex Scrolling
 Location: (MJOURNAL, 23021, 1;W)
 *****Note: tertiary distribution: ACTION*****

10ge

DHC 24=APR=74 14:53 30550

Message: The system recognizes TERM SCO lines length <cr> but
 does not use the info to control printout. That is, it should
 pause after <lines> number of lines have been printed out (if
 there has been no type-in) and wait for me to send a character
 (implying go-ahead).

It is intended to keep text from scrolling past you before you
 can read it.

Thanks for the support. (Also...Dirk did a secondary
 distribution to me.) Dave.

10ge1

16=FEB=74 1228=PDT KELLEY: create file bug
 Received 16=FEB=74 12:28:27

10gf

If one tries to create a file with the same name as another
 file he has
 deleted but not yet expunged, he gets the message: No such
 version.
 This happened in DNLS when trying to create the file into an
 empty vertically split window. After expunging, it worked
 fine. %TENEX feature?%

10gf1

DVN 29=APR=74 09:18 22882
 Problem with XNLS Delete File
 %He was bugging the wrong place in the link%

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8,1

Message: It doesn't seem to want to delete unattached partial copies,

*****Note: * action * *****

1099

JMB 6-APR-74 20:48 22639
New DNLS Useroptions problems
Location: (LJOURNAL, 22639, 1;w)

10gh

%Secondary modes aren't allowed except with expert - May 6%
Useroption's Reset Recognition doesn't work. It takes me back
to Expert all right, but sets the secondary mode back to the
last secondary one I have previously set to go with Expert
(with the Recognition command), not to the default, which I
understand is Expert Expert,

10gh1

Please let me know ASAP (for documentation purposes) if my
assumptions about how this command is supposed to work are
correct!

10gh2

What the user gets before she uses any of the recognition
commands is Expert Expert,

10gh2a

After she changes it with Recognition command, the Reset
Recogniton command will return her to Expert Expert,

10gh2b

RLL 26-FEB-74 14:02 30145

Bugs in output processor

Message: Some bugs(maybe just my misunderstanding) on the output
processor. (1) when having text in a footer which is reset by the
'text' command, if the variable is reset on the very next
statement following the last statement of the preceding page, the
footer in the previous page reflects the change. (2) I used the
command to reset the font for the page numbers; however, it
apparently did not like my setting to lowercase roman and
subsequent resetting to decimal, the commands were correctly
written as is testified by them not printed by the output
processor. Robert Lieberman (RLL)

10g1

7-MAY-74 0755=PDT FEINLER: Jump to Item

Distribution: FEEDBACK, feinler

Received at: 7-MAY-74 07:55:45

10gj

Was not able to get Jump to Item <SP> [typed=text] to work as
it does in oldnls. Can get Jump to Name First to work but not
Jump to Item. Tried it both with and without the <SP>. Am I
doing something wrong or does this no longer work. This was a

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS-8,1

very fast and easy Jump command for going down through a long file, Jake

109j1

SRL 23-APR-74 10:57 22800

Problem Inserting Statement

Message: I was inserting two statements and used CDOT after the first. I was bombed into the Exec with the message ILLEG INST 3240115553 AT 120520, I did a reset and everything seemed to be fine,

109k

RLL 7-MAY-74 18:11 22912

ARC refusing networkers and crashes,

Message: In the last week I have noticed that the ARC computer has ben up but did not permit access via the ARPANET. I guess this is a bug; if not I would like an explanation. Also the machine has 'gone down' severaa times to the network users (at least). This message is intended to let you know of this (If you did not already),

*****Note: * action * *****

109l

DVN 22-APR-74 08:55 22786 %core dump%
 0 PN, xu ,, ,7' p p B @ ?-oww(?-of(
 Location: (LJOURNAL, 22786, 11w)

109m

- - - -

109m1

I just now did a jump to file return after several sucessive jump to link and jump to file returns, and the message above flashed in my teletype window. Everything seems to be working fine however,

109m2

109m3

109m4

KIRK 3-APR-74 08:27 22621 %can't repeat%

PC Loading Bug

Message: When I used Goto Tenex while having a file loaded in XNLS and created a PC to that same file in an inferior nls and then Quit back to my original file in XNLS, it did not load the PC. I tried re-Loading the file (twice) it still would not load the PC. I had to reset before it would work,

*****Note: * action * *****

109n

KIRK 25-SEP-74 00:25 24052

Bug with Compile Program

(J24052) 25-SEP-74 00:25;;; Title: Author(s): Kirk E. Kelley/KIRK;
Distribution: /BUGS([ACTION]) ; Sub-collections: SRI-ARC BUGS;
Clerk: KIRK;

Bug with Compile Program

Bugging (CML,) for the (using) and (filename,CML;) in the Compile
File command results in the message "no such directory" then a second
attempt says filename,cml;1 is busy. Used to work,

1

ARPA Book Chapter Outline

(J24053) 25-SEP-74 12:06;;; Title: Author(s): Elizabeth J. (Jake)
Feinler/JAKE; Distribution: /SRI-ARC([INFO-ONLY]); Sub=Collections;
SRI-ARC; Clerk: JAKE; Origin: < FEINLER, ARPABOOK-OUTLINE,NLS;2,
>, 25-SEP-74 12:00 JAKE ;;;;###;

ARPA Book Chapter Outline

Here is a copy of ARPAS outline for the Arpanet book, This is the list of topics that came out of the meeting held at the ARPA office in Washington, D.C., Sept, 9-11, 1974,

1

2

23-SEP-74 0637-PDT FIELDS at USC-ISI: review of the meeting on the Arpanet book

Distribution: NORTON AT OFFICE-1

Received at: 23-SEP-74 11:24:49

3

Thank you all for working on the book, It looks better and better, Below is the current list of topics and writing assignments, Rough drafts are due January 1, Please Keep sending your bibliography suggestions and remember to include them with your draft, Regarding the assignments, with some there are several names, I expect the first is responsible for the draft submission and coordination, Frank Heart and I will look for a scientist-editor, Until then you can go forward with your writing, sending drafts to me if you receive no other words before you are done,

3a

good luck

3b

best

3c

craig

3d

Introduction (Roberts)

The concept (Metcalfe)

Chronology (Karp, BBN)

3e

Implementation

Design decisions (BBN)

Topology (Frank)

Modeling (Kleinrock, Frank)

ATT as a supplier (BBN)

IMPs and HSIMPs (BBN)

NCC (BBN)

Host access (Kirstein)

Terminal access (BBN, Retz)

Protocols (Postel, Cerf, BBN, Crocker)

3f

Operations

Management, administration, accounting (Schelonka)

NIC (Feinler)

Security and privacy (Pogran)

3g

Utilization and resources

ARPA Book Chapter Outline

Data bases (Marill)	
MLP-900 (Uncapher)	
Mail (Burchfiel)	
Forum (Vallee)	
Datacomputer (Marill)	
I-4 (Cracraft)	
NLS (Engelbart)	
I-4 (Cracraft)	
Users (Iseli)	
Servers (assorted)	
Distributed computing (Thomas)	3h
Performance	
Economics (Frank)	
Measurement methods (Kleinrock, BBN)	
Measurements (Kleinrock, BBN)	3i
Future	
Technology (Uncapher)	
NSW (Crocker)	
Legal and regulatory (Baran, Kirstein)	
Social, political, economic (Kuo)	
Related networks (Cerf, Heart, Frank)	
Assessment of ARPANET (Kahn)	3j

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=0,1

(J24054) 25=SEP=74 14:16;;; Title: Author(s): ARC FDBK
Feedback/FDBK; Distribution: /SRI=ARC([INFO=ONLY]) KWAC([INFO=ONLY
]) ; Sub-Collections: SRI=ARC KWAC; Updates Document(s): 24051; Clerk:
KIRK;

User Feedback Decisions leading to NLS=8.1

<HJOURNAL, 24051,> contains the status of user feedback decisions for NLS=8.1. It is over 100 pages long, we advise you NOT to print it. Read it online. For the new features and bug fixes, see the Documented branch. For those suggestions that have been rejected, see the Rejected branch. The items scheduled to be done in the next version are in <NLS,MODS>. Those items which remain as Needs & Possibilities are in <feedback,fdbk,future>.

1

A Plea and a Proposal

(J24055) 25-SEP-74 16:16;;; Title: Author(s): Elizabeth J. (Jake)
Feinler/JAKE; Distribution: /SRI-ARC([ACTION]); Sub-Collections:
SRI-ARC; Clerk: JAKE; Origin: < FEINLER, PLEA-PROPOSAL,NLS;2, >
25-SEP-74 16:08 JAKE ;;;;####;

A Plea and a Proposal

Dear ARCers,

This message is to present a plaintiff plea followed by a practical proposal. First...

-> THE PLEA <-

May I humbly beseech all ARC members who have a sudden urge to send their white elephants to die in what is commonly referred to as the 'NIC room' to think of some other approach. Everyone knows what a pack-rat I am, but now that the junk is past arm-pit level out there, even I am ready to yell 'Uncle'. In spite of the fact that there are only two NIC people, we are still trying to use the table, desk, and shelving in the NIC room to house NIC stuff, and so would appreciate it if you would not reshuffle the stuff, take any piece of paper or equipment that is not nailed down, and not dump all unexplained junk on the first surface that pops up. The problem is compounded by the fact that I inherited many as yet unexplained piles of paper from Mil, Mike, Beau, and others. When you pile yours out there too...need I say more? You're collective co-operation will be greatly appreciated.

-> THE PROPOSAL <-

Lest it appear I am trying to be some kind of space hog, I would like to suggest the following for everyone's consideration. If we lined some of the walls with bookshelves and had possibly one movable partition and a few comfortable chairs, we could turn the NIC room into a combined library, training room, and NIC work space. There is presently nowhere where we can sit and read a journal article or browse through the stuff that comes in. Since money is getting ever tighter, it seems like we are all going to have to share some of the books and reports, and at any rate it would be nice to have a place to look at current journals that has lighting somewhat above one candlepower.

If shelves and furniture are kept out of the middle of the room, the room could easily be converted into a small conference room and/or training room, and with one more hole in the wall the video camera could be swung around to work in either conference room. Jeanne Leavitt and I are limping along trying to do something (ANYTHING!!!) with all the stuff that comes in, but as all of you know organizing a group library is very low on both of our stacks. However, if each would agree to do his/her part by putting things back, leaving a note when things are taken, and putting some of their goodies into the pot, we could have a fairly workable arrangement.

Could we have a little 'dialog' on this idea please.

NLS Task Shopping List for NSW

(J24056) 25-SEP-74 16:57;;; Title: Author(s): Elizabeth K. Michael,
Harvey G. Lentman, Charles H. Irby, Richard W. Watson/EKM HGL CHI RWW;
Distribution: /SRI-ARC([INFO-ONLY]) ; Sub-Collections: SRI-ARC;
Clerk: RWW;

NLS Task Shopping List for NSW

Introduction

1

ARC's proposal for work on the NSW system (SRI No, ISU 74-132) contained three "core" task areas. One task area "NLS as an NSW Tool" contained a number of subtask areas that would:

1a

1) make NLS an example of a tool fully integrated into the NSW environment.

1a1

2) provide modifications and enhancements to NLS yielding user features of particular value to the initial NSW user community.

1a2

The list of tasks presented was based on our understanding of the needs at the time the proposal was written. The major proposed effort would have been concerned with providing a special user interface and set of tools to aid the COBOL coding process. Later discussions at a meeting of NSW contractors and user representatives at the Air Force Data System Design Center indicated that a focus on NLS enhancements to the documentation/publication area, including the ability to provide simple line drawings and other graphic capabilities, might be more valuable.

1b

This document expands the list of possible NLS tasks toward these needs. We are requesting guidance on the focus and priorities of the NLS sub-tasks within available funding. Funding available for the NLS part of the NSW contract is based on manpower resources of about 3 man years of software engineering, 2 man years of documentation, and associated supervision and secretarial support.

1c

We agree with the thrust of Col. McGovern's remarks at the last NSW meeting that some of the biggest problems in the system building process are in the area of documentation and thus favor more focus on documentation/publication and simple graphics as providing greater payoff to initial users than obtainable with a sophisticated COBOL programmers interface. We think such a COBOL interface would be useful and could come later. Note we do propose below to provide the ability to write COBOL programs using NLS and to easily get them compiled.

1d

We have listed suggested task areas below and indicated our recommendations on priority, and minimum resources required. Because of the general and open ended nature of many of the tasks listed below, the estimates are to be primarily taken as indicative of difficulty. As we work with NSW management to create a specific task list we can refine the estimates. When one subtracts the resources estimated to be required for essential tasks from the total available only 1 1/2 man months of software engineering manpower are left for optional tasks. Since estimates

NLS Task Shopping List for NSW

are never perfect we should be optimistic and pick more tasks than estimated resources,

1e

Documentation resources will be fully required to document what is produced. We will discuss later, as an aside, alternate forms of documentation and ask for guidance about preferences in this area then. More general guidelines for the documentation of NSW tools should be developed. It is not now clear how such NSW standards would come into existence,

1f

The tasks proposed are, as mentioned earlier, based on our present understanding of Air Force needs and our knowledge of NLS user experience. We certainly know that more understanding and analysis of present needs and procedures might modify this list. Therefore, the tasks, primarily those listed as optional, should be considered suggestions indicative of the types of thing that are possible and open to modification and discussion. Many of the tasks desired that can not be implemented within resources available in FY 75 can probably be handled in the second year of the NSW program,

1g

The reader is assumed to have read or have available for background our original NSW proposal referenced above,

1h

New NLS-8 to Office-1

2

Introduction

2a

This version of NLS contains the base system structure required for future NLS evolution in the NSW environment. It offers an improved user interface with extensive online help facilities,

2a1

Essential Tasks

2b

This task is essential and almost complete. There are a few known bugs to be fixed and several days of work to be done on the Help system and the calculator. In addition, the NIC Query system must be integrated with NLS-8 before it can be transferred to Office-1. This task will have used, when complete, about 9 man months of NSW NLS resources,

2b1

NLS Frontend Backend Split

3

Introduction

3a

This task is essential to make NLS an example of an NSW tool fully integrated into the NSW environment and to provide a test vehicle for many of the NSW design concepts. In the NSW environment, tools and resources reside on different computers

NLS Task Shopping List for NSW

over the ARPA network; user interaction takes place on a (possibly) separate Frontend mini-computer, in the case of NLS, the NSW frontend will initially be on a PDP-11 while the backend will be on a PDP-10,

3a1

Essential tasks

3b

A clean separation within NLS between those parts of the system which interact with users (Frontend) and those parts of the system which execute his requests (Backend) was begun several months ago. This split has been accomplished within a single machine; the extension of such a split to separate forks on the same machine, to two local machines, and finally to the NSW operating system in which the machines are separated geographically and connected by the ARPA network is now under way. The design and implementation of interfaces and protocols for cross-machine procedure calls and debugging is being accomplished under the NSW Frontend and Protocol Tasks described in the proposal. This task is concerned with the necessary changes to NLS code to make the scheme work,

3b1

Work here overlaps both completion of NLS-8 and the larger NSW Frontend task and should require about 3 additional man months of NSW NLS resources,

3b2

COBOL Programmer's Interface

4

Introduction

4a

The tools in the existing NLS workshop have proven valuable in aiding ARC programmers in designing, coding, debugging, and documenting their code. While some of these tools such as the debugger are applicable only to the specific languages used at ARC, most current NLS tools and usage techniques will be valuable in the Air Force COBOL environment. Additional commands and command interfaces oriented to the specific tasks of COBOL programmers together with specialized training in the proper use of the available tools and in techniques of structured programming could further enhance the value of the system,

4a1

Essential tasks

4b

Make the current NLS available in the NSW COBOL environment

4b1

In its present form NLS can be used to create, structure, and edit COBOL source code. Facilities existing in NLS allow output of sequential files that can be sent over the

NLS Task Shopping List for NSW

- ARPANET for compilation at sites which offer COBOL compiling tools, 4b1a
- Production of the sequential source file including the creation of the necessary Job Control Cards, connection to the network and the COBOL site, and retrieval of compiler output can be simplified with the addition of some new NLS commands. These commands would utilize the interface to an RJE facility described below. 4b1b
- Replacing existing card-oriented tools with a much more sophisticated and powerful set of tools will require some changes in programming methods and training of personnel. Under this contract we propose to develop a training package. The actual training could be accomplished by us under another contract associated with use of NLS through Office-1. 4b1c
- The required resource for this task is variable depending on the depth of exposure to the system desired and the number of new commands which are essential. The minimum effort would be about 2 man months. 4b1d
- Develop a preprocessor and an interface to a remote job entry facility 4b2
- A Remote Job Entry (RJE) facility will be made available through the NSW Works Manager. This facility will allow the NSW user to, among other things, compile and execute his COBOL programs on various machines available within the NSW environment that provide the required RJE facilities. An NLS preprocessor would take the source code prepared by the NLS COBOL programmer's interface and format it appropriately for further handling by the NSW Works Manager. 4b2a
- About 2 man months will be required to create the user interface to the several command functions. These include connection to the NLS Output Sequential command, development of a simple interface to create the necessary JCL, a function to connect through the RJE protocol, and a process to retrieve diagnostics from the batch machine upon completion of compilation. 4b2b
- Optional tasks 4c
- Develop a special COBOL interface which enforces structured COBOL code 4c1
- This interface, based on an NLS CML user interface, will

NLS Task Shopping List for NSW

recognize COBOL reserved words at the beginning of an expression, do recognition dependent on the user's default recognition mode in NLS, and prompt the user for the syntactically correct options. Upon insertion into the NLS file, these expressions will have NLS structure applied to make the code legible and the logic of the program readily apparent.

4c1a

This would require about 3 man months of effort.

4c1b

Help insure syntactic correctness of the inserted source code

4c2

A syntax checker could be as complex as desired with a corresponding increase in cost. At its most basic, a simple syntax checker would be that built into the COBOL interface described above and could require about 3 additional man months effort.

4c2a

Create a COBOL shorthand facility

4c3

A COBOL shorthand facility could be a simple extension of the NLS substitute command or could be an elaborate MACRO facility. A reasonably powerful system could be provided in about 3 man months.

4c3a

Provide online support for the COBOL program library

4c4

Existing NLS functions for cataloging, searching, and linking documentation to source code could be used to provide support for a program library with about 1 months work.

4c4a

Attempt to use existing data definitions to

4c5

Provide spelling completion when requested

4c5a

request new definitions and documentation when a new identifier is used by the programmer - approximately 2 months effort.

4c5b

Create a test data files generator - 4 months.

4c6

Provide an online debugging facility - at least 3 months.

4c7

Simple Interface for Clerical Personnel

5

Introduction

5a

secretarial and clerical workers typically perform a number of

NLS Task Shopping List for NSW

operations very frequently. Some of these operations are simple but time consuming, and could be made easier and more efficient by use of facilities in NLS. Correspondence is such an operation that can be readily automated; the preparation and publication of documentation is another.

5a1

Two types of interfaces are proposed for these workers. The first, a simple interface oriented toward classes of clerical workers, and infrequent NLS users, is described here. The second, a more sophisticated interface for documentation and publication production, is described below.

5a2

The personnel using the simple clerical support package are assumed to be unfamiliar with the use of computers. In some cases, they may be temporary personnel. The package will be made up of essentially self-contained, self-teaching functional modules each designed to accomplish a particular task, letter writing, for example. The simple clerical support facility suggested here is restricted to the functional units easiest to learn and use. The actual tasks to be supported would be determined by working closely with appropriate Air Force personnel. The tasks listed below are to be considered indicative of the types of possibilities open.

5a3

Essential tasks

5b

None

5b1

Optional tasks

5c

Preparation and output of text

5c1

Typing, correcting and reordering text is a common secretarial task. A simplified subset of the present NLS text editing capabilities could be extracted, and the command language syntax or vocabulary modified, if desired, which is self teaching and easy to learn and use while retaining most of the NLS editing power.

5c1a

Some users will come into the NSW environment experienced in the use of line-oriented text editors. It would be possible to provide this type of editing orientation if it was considered to be of value. Effort required to study work patterns and needs and build simple interface about 1 man month.

5c1b

Preparation and transmission of mail

5c2

A considerable part of a secretaries work is associated with

NLS Task Shopping List for NSW

processing of both incoming and outgoing mail. The NSW environment will add another dimension to this process that will take the form of mail handled completely within the system. That is, envelopes, stamps, post offices, etc. will not be involved.

5c2a

NLS programs can be written that will quickly and easily guide a secretary through all of the steps necessary to process mail carried over the NSW network. These modules can have varying degrees of sophistication. A very sophisticated system could include the ability to route a memorandum sequentially to a list of receivers. Each person in turn could append comments, a coded approval signature, and so forth.

5c2b

The NLS Journal already provides automatic cataloging of mail items in a master Journal index. It is possible, by building on the Journal system, to build a module that will catalog mail in a way that corresponds to existing Air Force filing practices.

5c2c

Included in the NLS user program library is one which helps a person write a letter, either for delivery by the system or by conventional mail. This type of program can be tailored to a particular set of specifications.

5c2d

Effort required in this area could vary from about 1 man month to over 1 man yer depending on facilities desired.

5c2e

Calculator Extension

5c3

There is a facility in NLS that serves as a desk calculator. The addition of table and column entities would increase the power of the calculator and make it more useful in supporting most bookkeeping tasks. This feature could be provided with about one man month if tied in with related editing feature extensions.

5c3a

Sophisticated Interface for Support Personnel-- Documentation and Publication System

6

Introduction

6a

Users of the NSW have serious document production problems. They need to produce, in timely fashion, system requirements, manuals, reports, and other documents in hardcopy and in various microforms. In addition some documents must be available for online studying and editing. The documents may

NLS Task Shopping List for NSW

- include extensive tables, diagrams, and complex formats; it must be possible to alter formats for different output media. 6a1
- Conventional production methods based on typewriter, paper, and offset printing are becoming increasingly expensive, and increasingly slow in comparison to the development of the systems they describe. 6a2
- ARC has developed a set of tools and procedures described as the Documentation Development Production and Control System (DDPCS). 6a3
- The DDPCS tools consist of specialized programs to format text for printing (the Output Processor) and procedures for using general NLS tools. 6a3a
- Described below are essential and optional tasks in the DDPCS which would be beneficial to the NSW community. 6a4
- Essential tasks 6b
- Training package for documentation support personnel 6b1
- NLS has satisfactory means for entering text directly into computer files via typewriter-like terminals or two dimensional CRTs and a system based on cassettes to accumulate text offline for later translation into computer files. 6b1a
- The ability to collect, insert, delete and change text is fully implemented. In addition, the structure inherent in NLS text files facilitates studying, searching, extraction of tables of contents, and rapid reorganization and reformatting of files. The use of filtered views, dynamic and sophisticated content searches, and the ability to display text in sequences other than the linear sequence of the file itself give added power in executing these tasks. 6b1b
- A training package oriented toward documentation support personnel should be developed and could be done with about 1 months effort. This package would emphasize those parts of the system which facilitate Air Force documentation and publication practices. 6b1c
- Interface Output Processor to special output devices 6b2
- The NLS Output Processor currently provides users with the ability to produce high quality formatted documents on either hard copy printers or a COMP-80 COM device. We

NLS Task Shopping List for NSW

should provide the NSW community with interfaces between the Output Processor and other desired devices such as the Linatron. These interfaces can probably be built in from 1 to 3 man months for each device. The time required depends on the characteristics of the device.

6b2a

Optional tasks

6c

Interface to other textual input systems: OCR, MTST, Etc

6c1

Optical Character Recognition (OCR) hardware could be used to collect text prepared on standard typewriters for incorporation into computer files. Devices such as IBM MTST could also be used for simple textual input. We could prepare packages for translating sequential files prepared in these modes to structured NLS files which could then be edited or formatted online in NLS. About a months effort should be needed here.

6c1a

Additional editing functions and entities requiring about 3 man months work

6c2

The special requirements for formatting Air Force manuals and documents suggest some added features that would make it even easier to produce the necessary formats.

6c2a

All NLS statements are now equivalent nodes in a tree (outline) structure. It would be easier to produce tables if it were possible to identify certain nodes as 'headings' and to arrange other material as cells in a matrix for table creation.

6c2b

At present the creation of tables in the typewriter version of NLS tends to be as tedious and time consuming as on a typewriter. It is much easier on the display version, but even here enhancements would be useful.

6c2b1

Comment Facility

6c3

It would be of help to people working together on a document to have a way of appending comments. The comments might be an editor's suggested corrections. The file could be viewed with or without these comments or corrections displayed. This could require 2 or more man months work.

6c3a

Special applications packages

6c4

NLS has programs to generate tables of contents, indices, and bibliographies. As we undertake to deal with new

formats and larger documents these programs should increase in flexibility and capacity. Additional packages oriented to the NSW community could be created. Effort here variable based on what is desired,

6c4a

Modifications to the Output Processor = 5 man months

6c5

New directives for specialized formats

6c5a

At present the Output Processor by default formats paragraphs like those in this document. It is possible to create other formats, e.g. Air Force formats that bring the first line of each paragraph to the far left, but it requires 2 or 3 directives per paragraph. That is acceptable in standard documents where a program is inserting directives automatically, but is time consuming otherwise. Addition of a small series of directives calling for various paragraph formats would save a lot of formatting work in the long run.

6c5a1

Footnotes

6c5b

At present the Output Processor can create only pages of text with running headers and footers. Changes to produce footnotes at the bottom of the page on which they are referenced, glosses, or multi-column formats that break across the page can be made.

6c5b1

Formatted COM proofs at terminal

6c5c

Implementation of the graphics display capabilities described below could also allow full page proofs of highly formatted COM output with multiple font faces and sizes to be displayed at the terminal.

6c5c1

Expanded character sets

6c5d

At present the Output Processor can print only members of the 96 character ASCII set. These can be printed on COM in different fonts and sizes. It should be possible in COM to use other characters including braces, boxes, circles, and standard mathematical symbols.

6c5d1

Graphics

7

Introduction

7a

Potential NSW users have expressed interest in incorporating simple line drawings with textual material into NLS files.

NLS Task Shopping List for NSW

Examples include simple graphs, organization charts, block diagrams, and flow charts,	7a1
Essential tasks	7b
None	7b1
Optional tasks	7c
Simple drawings = 5 man months	7c1
While we must study the optimum configuration, a low cost graphics work station might consist of a standard alpha-numeric display and a graphics storage display connected directly to the frontend PDP-11 or through the Line Processor serving the alpha-numeric display. A file appearing on the alpha-numeric display would show all text in the file and would have a special notation to designate areas where drawings would appear on the graphics terminal. The graphics terminal would display line drawings and any text associated with them,	7c1a
In graphics mode the user could make or modify simple line drawings by using the mouse, keyboard, and graphics display,	7c1b
The user could insert/delete/move a line or entire figure and perhaps change the size of a figure or subfigure,	7c1c
The work station could include a graphics hardcopy unit to allow hardcopy of the line drawings and text shown on the graphics display. Several work stations could share such a unit,	7c1d
In cases where the final output is to be from a photocomposition device, the edited file could be processed and a proof of the final product displayed at the graphics terminal. The user could modify format control information in the file using the alpha-numeric display and view a new proof at the graphics display.	7c1e
Graphics input from other tools = 1 man month assuming simple drawing facility	7c2
We could provide an interface to a commonly used graphics device (for example, a CALCOMP plotter software package) or perhaps to a to-be-developed NSW graphics protocol. This would allow a user to generate a graphical entity using some other tool, bring that graphical entity into NLS, and store it with some explanatory text. Thus, graphs, bar charts,	

NLS Task Shopping List for NSW

etc, based on management or other data could be integrated with text and other drawings into memos, reports, system documents and so forth. The tool generating the graphics would, for example, generate commands in CalComp plotter output format, which would be stored in a file which could then be processed by NLS to produce the picture to be stored in an NLS file.

7c2a

Flow-chart production - 1 man month assuming simple drawing facility

7c3

Flow chart production would require a new set of entities (built-in figures) that offer flow charting symbols, e.g, a diamond shape to indicate a decision point, a special shape to indicate printed output, etc,

7c3a

In addition to the standard set, the user should be able to define new symbols.

7c3b

The user should be able to change the size of each occurrence of a symbol, associate text with the symbols and manipulate connecting lines between symbols.

7c3c

Perform any modifications to the NLS file system that may be necessary to integrate it most efficiently into the larger NSW file system and conventions.

8

Essential tasks

8a

while we do not anticipate any necessary changes to the current NLS file structure, we should be prepared for modifications made necessary by the design of the NSW Works Manager and limited Network bandwidth,

8a1

This table summarizes minimum estimates of resources required for implementing the simplest approach to each task,

9

Figures are in man months,

10

ESSENTIAL TASKS: Estimated resources

11

New NLS-8 to Office-1

9

11a

NLS Frontend Backend Split

3

11b

COBOL Programmer's Interface

11c

Make current NLS available in

2

NLS Task Shopping List for NSW

the NSW COBOL environment and develop a basic training package		11c1
Develop a preprocessor and an interface to a remote job entry facility	2	11c2
Documentation and Publication		11d
Training package	1	11d1
Interface Output Processor to special output devices	1-3 per device depending on its characteristics	11d2
Modifications to NLS file system	0 no changes expected to be required	11e
TOTAL ESTIMATED REQUIRED	18-20	12
OPTIONAL TASKS: Estimated Resources		13
COBOL Programmer's Interface		13a
Develop a special COBOL interface which enforces structured COBOL code	3	13a1
COBOL syntax checker	3	13a2
COBOL shorthand facility	3	13a3
Online COBOL program library	1	13a4
Spelling completion	2	13a5
Test data files generator	4	13a6
Online debugging facility	3	13a7
Interface for Clerical Personnel		13b
Preparation and output of text	1	13b1
Preparation and transmission of mail	1	13b2
Calculator Extension	1	13b3

NLS Task Shopping List for NSW

Documentation and Publication System		13c
Interface to other textual input systems: OCR, MTST, Etc		13c1
Additional editing functions and entities	3	13c2
Special applications packages	-	13c3
Modifications to the Output Processor	5	13c4
Graphics		13d
Simple drawings	5	13d1
Graphics input from other tools: 1 assumes above		13d2
Flowchart production	1 assumes above	13d3
TOTAL ESTIMATED OPTIONAL	40	14

RLL 25-SEP-74 17:00 24057

Ident request: RLL to PROF

(J24057) 25-SEP-74 17:00;;; Title: Author(s): Robert N.
Lieberman/RLL; Distribution: /MLK([ACTION]); Sub-Collections:
SRI-ARC; Clerk: RLL;

Ident request; RLL to PROF

Could you please append my ident to the PROF group , I think other new member of ARC might also be put on this group, Are there other groups I should know about? JCN said ok for PROF. Thanks,

1

show directory command toooooo long.

(J24058) 25=SEP=74 17:19;;; Title: Author(s): Robert N.
Lieberman/RLL; Distribution: /FDBK([ACTION]) ; Sub=Collections:
SRI=ARC; Clerk: RLL;

Show directory command toooooo long.

What good is the show directory command if it take considerably longer to see ones directory using ths NLS command than using the tenex dir command? I have found myself going to Tenex almost always because of the time. P.S. Thanks for 'paging' the directory. That makes the NLS command a bit better for long dirctories (over the tenex comaand.)

1

where to find architects minutes.

(J24059) 25=SEP=74 17:21;;; Title: Author(s): Robert N.
Lieberman/RLL; Distribution: /JCN([ACTION]) ; Sub=Collections:
SRI=ARC; Clerk: RLL;

where to find architects minutes.

(lieberman,arch,liweb) = the architects minutes for Thursday.

1

New (Experimental) version of L10 Compiler

(J24060) 26=SEP=74 09:23;;; Title: Author(s): Don I. Andrews/DIA;
Distribution: /SRI-ARC([INFO=ONLY]); Sub-Collections: SRI-ARC;
Clerk: DIA; Origin: < META, XL10,NLS;3, >, 25=SEP=74 17:08 DIA
!!!!###!

New (Experimental) version of L10 Compiler

Notice:

A new version of the L10 compiler is available for experimental use as <SUBSYS>XL10.

The differences between the current L10 and the new XL10 are described here.

There may be more changes in the future, before a new L10 is adopted.

This is a very brief description of the changes and will be smoothed out and incorporated in what L10 documentation we have as time permits.

Additions:

In DECLARES's

Values can be expressions

Initial values to be stored in declared items can be of the same syntax as expressions, with the exception of the CASE expression and the bit-AND/OR/XOR functions (i.e., A, V and X). All items in the expression must however be defined by the time that declaration is compiled (one pass compilation, you know).

Also, the symbol "=" to assign a value to a declared variable may be replaced with the symbol "_". They are equivalent. The symbol "_" is not allowed for declarations of symbols that are not variable, as in CONSTANT, ADDRESS and REGISTER declarations.

Use ADDRESS, not SET

As a more descriptive declaration, use the word ADDRESS where you now use SET. "SET" is still accepted however.

New declaration: DECLARE CONSTANT

Symbols can be declared to represent a constant value (given by an expression). The symbols are then used in a program as tho they were variables containing the specified value, but they take up no memory and the compiler takes advantage of the situation if possible.

External constants function just like non-external constants for the file they are declared in, but they do take up

New (Experimental) version of L10 Compiler

memory and are available to other code-files. Incidentally, code in other files may store into an external constant if it is not in a write protected page,

2a3b

Declared items may be NLS names

2a4

An alternate form for declaring symbols has been included. The general form is:

2a4a

```
'( ,ID ' ) declareword ';
```

2a4a1

The declareword may be preceeded by "EXTERNAL" if desired. Definitions follow:

2a4b

```
declareword =
```

2a4b1

```
"STRING"
```

2a4b1a

```
which must be followed by '[ expression ' ] or
```

2a4b1a1

```
( '= / ' _ ) ,SR for actual initial value,
```

2a4b1a2

```
"CONSTANT" '= expression
```

2a4b1b

```
"TEXT" "POINTER"
```

2a4b1c

```
"STACK" '[ expression [', expression] ']
```

2a4b1d

```
"RING" '[ expression [', expression] ']
```

2a4b1e

```
"ADDRESS" '= expression
```

2a4b1f

```
"DECLARE"
```

2a4b1g

```
which may be followed by '[ expression ' ] or
```

2a4b1g1

```
( '= / ' _ ) expression for actual initial value or
```

2a4b1g2

```
( '= / ' _ ) '( #<' ,> itemval ' ) for a list of values,
```

2a4b1g3

or the declareword may be absent,

2a4b1h

which is the same as writing "DECLARE".

2a4b1h1

```
itemval =
```

2a4b2

```
,SR to get that string into memory (not an A=string)
```

2a4b2a

New (Experimental) version of L10 Compiler

's .SR to get the address of that string	2a4b2b
's .ID to get the address of that symbol	2a4b2c
or an expression (defined of course).	2a4b2d
In Procedure LOCAL's	2b
LOCAL CONSTANT is allowed	2b1
The constant symbol is a local but takes up no memory. It is discarded at the end of the procedure, as are locals.	2b1a
Runtime assignment is allowed at LOCAL declaration time	2b2
An initial value for locals may be specified. The syntax is the same as assignment of values to declared symbols, but the expression need not contain defined symbols; it is evaluated at runtime.	2b2a
It is equivalent to declare a local to be an expression, and to assign store an expression in a local at the start of the procedure.	2b2b
In FORMAL arguments	2c
You may specify the type of argument	2c1
Symbols of type REF and POINTER can be specified to be so right in the formal argument list. For example:	2c1a
(p) PROCEDURE (REF arg1, POINTER arg2);	2c1a1
This is equivalent to saying the following after the procedure heading:	2c1b
REF arg1;	2c1b1
POINTER arg2;	2c1b2
In primary symbols	2d
Three new symbols builtin	2d1
The new uppercase identifiers are to help out when programming both the PDP-10 and PDP-11. They are essentially constants that are builtin:	2d1a
WORD = 36 on PDP-10, 16 on PDP-11	2d1a1

New (Experimental) version of L10 Compiler

ADDRESS or ADDR = 18 on PDP-10, 16 on PDP-11 2d1a2

CHARACTER or CHAR = 7 on PDP-10, 8 on PDP-11 2d1a3

They should be helpful in record field declarations. 2d1b

Deletions:

3

Special syntax of the following forms have been deleted because they are no longer used or desirable:

3a

DSP ... 3a1

INPUT ... 3a2

DEFINE ... (use DECLARE CONSTANT) 3a3

GROUP - ... 3a4

STATE - ... 3a5

ENTITY - ... 3a6