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PDP-8 DIGITAL SOFTWARE NEWS

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The PDP-8 Digital Software News (a bi-monthly publication) complements Software Reviews for COS-310, OS/8, and OS/78. New and revised Software Product Descriptions, programming notes, software problems and solutions, and documentation corrections are published here. Much of the material is developed from Software Performance Report (SPR) answers significant to the general audience and is printed here to supplement the maintenance notebook (established by the Software Review).

PRODUCTS SUPPORTED in the PDP-8 DIGITAL SOFTWARE NEWS

COS-310 V8	OS/8 Extension Kit V3D	OS/8 MACREL/LINKER V2A
COS-310/2780 RDCP V6.05, V7	OS/8 FORTRAN IV V3D	OS/78 V2, V3
OS/8 V3D		RTS-8 V3.0
OS/8 V3D Device Extensions		

DISTRIBUTION

The Digital Software News is directed to one software contact for each software product. No Mailing will be made to addresses without a software contact name. Address change requests should be sent to the nearest DIGITAL field office. Include the new address and mailing label from the most recently received publication.

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Eleanor F. Hunter, Editor
Ann Owens, Associate Editor

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SPR USER LETTER

Submitted by Sheila Hatchell, 8/11 Administration

The Dispatch SPR User Letter has been revised to reflect the new SPR form which is now available. These forms can be obtained from your local DIGITAL Office or SPR Center, or by requesting them from SPR Administration.

How to Make the Best Use of the SPR Form

What We Can Do for You:

1. Blank SPR forms are available upon request in the desired quantities through the SPR Administration (P.O. Box F) and your local office/SPR Center.
2. Copies of the SPR acknowledgement and answer are sent to the appropriate DIGITAL Office/SPR Center for their information.
3. STATUS FOR SUBMITTED SPRs IS PROVIDED UPON REQUEST.
4. SPRs marked PROBLEM/ERROR will have a response for DIGITAL SUPPORTED products. These SPRs should refer to suspected deficiencies in the software.
5. SPRs marked SUGGESTION are forwarded to the pertinent software group for information purposes, and are responded to at their discretion.

What You Can Do for Us:

1. Fill out the form completely either by typing or printing clearly. **PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR SOFTWARE SERVICE CUSTOMER NUMBER IN THE ADDRESS BOX.**
2. Limit only one problem per SPR form. Several problems on an SPR can lengthen the turnaround time.
3. **WHENEVER POSSIBLE, SUBMIT AN SPR WITH ATTACHMENTS, SUCH AS MACHINE READABLE DATA, DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO REPRODUCE THE PROBLEM, PROGRAM AND/OR DATA FILES, LISTINGS, AND CONSOLE LOG.**
4. It would be helpful to all concerned if problems with patches are reported as soon as possible.
5. For security SPRs, it is imperative that the DO NOT PUBLISH box be marked.
6. It would be helpful if tapes submitted with SPRs are labeled (track and density), and have a directory attached.
7. Complete the questionnaire that is supplied with each SPR answer. Your feedback is essential in monitoring the quality of our responses.
8. SPRs should not be used for problems concerning software policy, software distribution, or hardware. The local office should be contacted in these cases.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

PDP-8 DIGITAL SOFTWARE NEWS (GLH)

RTS/8 V3.0 (QF028) and OS/8 MACREL/LINKER V2A (QF019) are no longer offered with Digital support. We now offer these two kits as unsupported with license-only (DZ) options. A new MACREL/LINK Software Support Manual, intended for the experienced MACREL user, is scheduled to be available from the Software Distribution Center 20 July 80.

Contact your local sales office for pricing information.

OS/8 COMBINED KIT V3D
FORTRAN IV

Seq 51.3.4 R

1 of 1

RESTRICTION WITH SUBSCRIPTED VARIABLES (KW)

Restriction: FORTRAN IV will not allow subscripting to be used on both sides of an arithmetic expression. The following example:

```
DO 20 I=1,3
20 X(I)=(Y(1),I)+(Y(2),I)
```

Gives incorrect results.

In the above example, X(I) is treated as an arithmetic statement function, where (I) is a dummy argument, rather than a subscript.

Suggestion: Substitute a variable name for the left hand side of the expression, then move the data from this variable into the subscript desired. For example:

```
DO 20 I=1,3
XA=(Y(1),I)+(Y(2),I)
X(I)=XA
20 CONTINUE
```

OS/78 V3.0
BASIC

Seq 72.60.5 R

1 of 1

NOTES ON "FILE#" STATEMENT (KW)

Restriction: The following program will appear to "hang" at line 110:

```
100 FILEV#1:"SLU2:"  
110 FILE#2:"SLU2:"  
120 PRINT#1:"HELLO"  
130 INPUT#2:X  
140 END
```

The program is not "hung", but is waiting for a "carriage return". When the return key is typed, the program will continue. This is a restriction of the "FILE#" statement when used with non-file structured devices. However this problem does not exist with the TTY (console) device, provided "FILE# 0" is specified.

A little known feature of BASIC allows you to use "#0" for both file statements in the above example (for a TTY).

- Suggestion:
- 1) Open file #2 (above) immediately prior to the input statement.
 - 2) If your configuration permits, set "SLU2" to be a console device prior to execution, and use #0 for both file statements.

PDP-8 Digital Software News, August/September 1980

COS-310 V8.00
(Patch 11)

Seq 81.1.11 M

1 of 3

TIMING PROBLEMS ACCESSING RX01 DRIVES 2 AND 3 (CW)

PROBLEM:

The RX01 handler is dependent upon the speed of the processor for proper operation. Therefore, it will not always function properly on all processors.

SOLUTION:

The attached patch to SYSGEN corrects this problem. It also changes the version number of SYSGEN to V8.00E. SYSGEN/C must be run after the patch has been made to install the modified RX handler in the Monitor.

COS-310 V8.00
(Patch 11)

Seq 81.1.11 M

2 of 3

1. Create a PATCH command file (PT11) using the following editor commands:

```
.ER  
.LN  
0100 SYSGEN  
0110 3  
0120 012  
0130 7166  
0140 024  
0150 7031  
0160 026  
0170 7033  
0180 303  
0190 7000  
0200 310  
0210 7000  
0220 311  
0230 7000  
0240 END  
0250 1303  
0260 20  
0270 314  
0280 2146  
0290 END  
0300 0001  
0310 END  
0320 /X
```

2. Check the PT11 command file by running PATCH without the /C option. PATCH simulates the patching operation but does not change the file on the system device. When run without the /C option, PATCH displays CHECKSUM CORRECT--USE OPTION C TO UPDATE rather than NEW BLOCK PATCHED OK. To check the command file enter the following:

```
.R PATCH,PT11
```

PATCH will respond by displaying the PATCH dialogue and returning to the Monitor. If PATCH does not return to the Monitor, check the PT11 command file to ensure that it was entered correctly.

PDP-8 Digital Software News, August/September 1980

COS-310 V8.00
(Patch 11)

Seq 81.1.11 M

3 of 3

3. Install the patch by entering the following command:

```
.R PATCH,PT11/C
```

PATCH will respond by displaying the PATCH dialogue and returning to the Monitor.

PDP-8 Digital Software News, August/September 1980

COS-310 V8.01
(Patch 7)

Seq 81.2.8 M

1 of 3

TIMING PROBLEMS ACCESSING RX01 DRIVES 2 AND 3 (CW)

PROBLEM:

The RX01 handler is dependent upon the speed of the processor for proper operation. Therefore, it will not always function properly on all processors.

SOLUTION:

The attached patch to SYSGEN corrects this problem. It also changes the version number of SYSGEN to V8.01D. SYSGEN/C must be run after the patch has been made to install the modified RX handler in the Monitor.

COS-310 V8.01
(Patch 7)

Seq 81.2.8 M

2 of 3

1. Create a PATCH command file (PT07) using the following editor commands:

```
.ER  
.LN  
0100 SYSGEN  
0110 3  
0120 012  
0130 7156  
0140 024  
0150 7031  
0160 026  
0170 7033  
0180 303  
0190 7000  
0200 310  
0210 7000  
0220 311  
0230 7000  
0240 END  
0250 1303  
0260 20  
0270 314  
0280 2245  
0290 END  
0300 0001  
0310 END  
0320 /X
```

2. Check the PT07 command file by running PATCH without the /C option. PATCH simulates the patching operation but does not change the file on the system device. When run without the /C option, PATCH displays CHECKSUM CORRECT--USE OPTION C TO UPDATE rather than NEW BLOCK PATCHED OK. To check the command file enter the following:

```
.R PATCH,PT07
```

PATCH will respond by displaying the PATCH dialogue and returning to the Monitor. If PATCH does not return to the Monitor, check the PT07 command file to ensure that it was entered correctly.

PDP-8 Digital Software News, August/September 1980

COS-310 V8.01
(Patch 7)

Seq 81.2.8 M

3 of 3

3. Install the patch by entering the following command:

```
.R PATCH,PT07/C
```

PATCH will respond by displaying the PATCH dialogue and returning to the Monitor.

PDP-8 Digital Software News, August/September 1980

COS-310 V8.02
(Patch 1)

Seq 81.3.1 M

1 of 3

TIMING PROBLEMS ACCESSING RX01 DRIVES 2 AND 3 (CW)

PROBLEM:

The RX01 handler is dependent upon the speed of the processor for proper operation. Therefore, it will not always function properly on all processors.

SOLUTION:

The attached patch to SYSGEN corrects this problem. It also changes the version number of SYSGEN to V8.02B. SYSGEN/C must be run after the patch has been made to install the modified RX handler in the Monitor.

COS-310 V8.02
(Patch 1)

Seq 81.3.1 M

2 of 3

1. Create a PATCH command file (PT01) using the following editor commands:

```
.ER  
.LN  
0100 SYSGEN  
0110 3  
0120 012  
0130 7156  
0140 024  
0150 7031  
0160 025  
0170 7033  
0180 303  
0190 7000  
0200 310  
0210 7000  
0220 311  
0230 7000  
0240 END  
0250 1303  
0260 20  
0270 314  
0280 2343  
0290 END  
0300 0001  
0310 END  
0320 /X
```

2. Check the PT01 command file by running PATCH without the /C option. PATCH simulates the patching operation but does not change the file on the system device. When run without the /C option, PATCH displays CHECKSUM CORRECT--USE OPTION C TO UPDATE rather than NEW BLOCK PATCHED OK. To check the command file enter the following:

```
.R PATCH,PT01
```

PATCH will respond by displaying the PATCH dialogue and returning to the Monitor. If PATCH does not return to the Monitor, check the PT01 command file to ensure that it was entered correctly.

PDP-8 Digital Software News, August/September 1980

COS-310 V8.02
(Patch 1)

Seq 81.3.1 M

3 of 3

3. Install the patch by entering the following command:

```
.R PATCH,PT01/C
```

PATCH will respond by displaying the PATCH dialogue and returning to the Monitor.

PDP-8 DIGITAL SOFTWARE NEWS
 CUMULATIVE INDEX
 AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1980

This is a complete listing of all articles for current products supported in the 8 Digital Software News. Missing sequence numbers may pertain to problems unique to other versions of the same product.

IMPORTANT!

Unassigned articles are indicated: UNASSIGNED.

Flags are currently being installed for all articles. The flags and definitions are as follows.

M = Mandatory Patch. These patches correct errors in the software product. All users are required to apply these patches to maintain consistent "user level" unless the accompanying article specifies otherwise.

F = Optional Feature Patch. These patches extend or configure functionality into the product. These functions will be treated as a supported part of the product for the duration of the current release and will be incorporated with any future release, unless otherwise stated.

R = Restriction. These articles discuss areas that will not be patched in the current release because they require major modifications or because of the product. Restrictions, except those described as permanent, are reviewed and modified when possible as part of the normal release cycle.

N = Note. These articles provide explanatory information that supplements the manual set and provide more detailed information about a program or package. They also provide procedural information to make it easier to use a program or package.

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ComponentSequenceMon/Yr

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OS/8 V3D

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COS-310 V8.02		
TIMING PROBLEMS ACCESSING RX01 DRIVES 2 AND 3	81.3.1 M	Aug/Sep 80
COS-310 2780/3780 RDCP V8.01		
RDCP DATA RECEPTION ERRORS	90.0.1 M	Apr/May 80



WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN DECUS

- SYMPOSIA
- PROGRAM LIBRARY

- TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS
- SPECIAL USER GROUPS

DECUS (the Digital Equipment Computer Users Society), a worldwide association of customers and employees, provides a forum for the exchange of useful information, new program packages, and other innovations among those who use and supply the products of Digital Equipment Corporation.

Founded in 1961, DECUS is one of the largest and most active associations of its type in the world. Its objectives are to advance the effective utilization of computers, computer peripheral equipment, and software manufactured and marketed by Digital Equipment Corporation, by promoting the interchange of information concerning their uses; advance the art of computation through mutual education and exchange of ideas of information; establish standards and provide channels to facilitate the exchange of computer programs among DECUS members; provide feedback to the computer industry on equipment and software needs; and to reduce the duplication of development efforts.

DECUS membership is free--upon application--to owners of DIGITAL computers and to their computer-interested employees. Membership carries important benefits and opportunities; among them are access to the program library; membership in local, regional, and national organizations; invitations to symposia dedicated to optimal use of DIGITAL equipment; opportunity to present papers and workshops on your own new ideas; and, finally, access to special interest groups dedicated to particular uses, languages, operating systems, and hardware configurations.

The program library maintained by DECUS contains over 1700 active software packages written and submitted by members and DIGITAL employees, and available to members for the media fee and reproduction cost only. Programs in the library range from enhanced editors and cross compilers to statistics packages and games. Of particular interest to college and university customers, for example, might be a package of programs for registration, class scheduling, dormitory management, and annual giving records. A laboratory user could take advantage of various statistical packages, or programs that perform Fourier transforms or least squares fitting. There are programs for circuit analysis, resonance simulation, blood-count evaluation, and stress testing, and scores of others which medical, scientific, or engineering customers could employ. Business people can find accounting packages, data analysis and

payroll programs among the library's offerings. In addition, of course, there is a wide range of text editing, display graphics, and enhanced utility programs available.

Local, regional, and national DECUS organizations give members the opportunity to meet other DIGITAL customers and employees in an informal setting. From the monthly local meeting to the semiannual national symposium, the members can discuss their ideas, can learn what others are doing, and can give DIGITAL feedback necessary in improvement and future development of important products. Often, the national meetings in the various countries also provide the stage for major new product announcements by the company, and a showplace for interesting developments in both hardware and software technology. At any meeting a member might describe ideas and programs he has implemented, or fine tuning that has been achieved for a particular application. Members give papers, participate in panel discussions, lead workshops, or conduct demonstrations for the benefit of other members.

DECUS also publishes newsletters focusing on special interest, technical books that contain the compilation of symposia presentations; and a society newsletter.

Many members derive a particular benefit from joining DECUS Special Interest Groups. Special Interest Groups often meet as subsets of regional and national meetings, or they may meet on their own, to discuss their special interest. Here, all RSTS/E users, or everyone interested in COBOL, for example, can have a chance to get together and discuss topics of mutual importance. At present there are more than 20 Special Interest Groups (SIGs) in the U.S. alone. Many of the SIGs print newsletters and disseminate valuable technical information to members. The SIGs really are the front-line of mutual help and problem solving.

DIGITAL provides DECUS with administrative personnel and office space around the world, but the organization is run by its members, who act as speakers for conferences, planners for meetings, editorial and production talent for newsletters and minutes, and the inventors of the ideas and new programs necessary to keep the library up to date. Belonging to DECUS is a valuable adjunct to owning DIGITAL equipment on both the program exchange and the information exchange fronts.

continued

To obtain a DECUS membership form, complete the form below and return it to the appropriate chapter office.

CHAPTER

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NSW 2067
Australia

CANADIAN (Canada)

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Kanata, Ontario K2K 2A6
Canada

EUROPEAN (Europe, Middle East, North Africa, Russia)

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CH-1213 Petit-Lancy 1/GE
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July 1980

SOFTWARE PROBLEMS OR ENHANCEMENTS

Questions, problems, and enhancements to DIGITAL software should be reported on a Software Performance Report (SPR) form and mailed to the SPR Center at one of the following Digital Offices: *(SPR forms are available from the SPR Center).*

<u>Areas Covered</u>	<u>SPR Center</u>	<u>Areas Covered</u>	<u>SPR Center</u>
United States; remainder of Far East, Middle East, Africa Latin America	Administrative Services Group, SWS P.O. Box F Maynard, Ma 01754	Japan	Digital Equipment Corp. INTL 3rd Floor Kowa Bldg. 8-7 Sanban Cho Chiyoda Ku Tokyo 102 Japan
Canada	Digital Equipment Canada P.O. Box 11500 Ottawa, Ontario Canada K2H 8K8	New Zealand	Digital Equipment N.Z. LTD P.O. Box 17093 Greenlane, Auckland 5, New Zealand
United Kingdom, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Arab Republic.	Digital Equipment Corp. LTD Fountain House Butts Centre GB - Reading RG17QN England	Belgium, Holland, Luxemburg	Digital Equipment B.V. KAAP Horndreef 38 NL - Utrecht/Overvecht Holland
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Italy	Digital Equipment S.P.A. Viale Fulvio Testi 117 I-20092 Cinisillo Balsamo Milan, Italy	Israël	DECSYS Computers LTD. 4, Yirmiyahou Str. P.O. Box 6359 IL - Tel-Aviv 63505 Israël

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(Morocco, Algeria,
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Turkey, Malta)

SPR Center

Digital Equipment Corp. SA
9, route des Jeunes
1211 Geneva 26
Switzerland

DIGITAL EQUIPMENT CORPORATION, Corporate Headquarters: Maynard, Massachusetts 01754, Telephone: (617)897-5111—SALES AND SERVICE OFFICES: UNITED STATES—ALABAMA, Huntsville • ARIZONA, Phoenix and Tucson • CALIFORNIA, El Segundo, Los Angeles, Oakland, Ridgecrest, San Diego, San Francisco (Mountain View), Santa Ana, Santa Clara, Stanford, Sunnyvale and Woodland Hills • COLORADO, Englewood • CONNECTICUT, Fairfield and Meriden • DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, Washington (Lanham, MD) • FLORIDA, Ft. Lauderdale and Orlando • GEORGIA, Atlanta • HAWAII, Honolulu • ILLINOIS, Chicago (Rolling Meadows) • INDIANA, Indianapolis • IOWA, Bettendorf • KENTUCKY, Louisville • LOUISIANA, New Orleans (Metairie) • MARYLAND, Odenton • MASSACHUSETTS, Marlborough, Waltham and Westfield • MICHIGAN, Detroit (Farmington Hills) • MINNESOTA, Minneapolis • MISSOURI, Kansas City (Independence) and St. Louis • NEW HAMPSHIRE, Manchester • NEW JERSEY, Cherry Hill, Fairfield, Metuchen and Princeton • NEW MEXICO, Albuquerque • NEW YORK, Albany, Buffalo (Cheektowaga), Long Island (Huntington Station), Manhattan, Rochester and Syracuse • NORTH CAROLINA, Durham/Chapel Hill • OHIO, Cleveland (Euclid), Columbus and Dayton • OKLAHOMA, Tulsa • OREGON, Eugene and Portland • PENNSYLVANIA, Allentown, Philadelphia (Bluebell) and Pittsburgh • SOUTH CAROLINA, Columbia • TENNESSEE, Knoxville and Nashville • TEXAS, Austin, Dallas and Houston • UTAH, Salt Lake City • VIRGINIA, Richmond • WASHINGTON, Bellevue • WISCONSIN, Milwaukee (Brookfield) • INTERNATIONAL—ARGENTINA, Buenos Aires • AUSTRALIA, Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney • AUSTRIA, Vienna • BELGIUM, Brussels • BOLIVIA, La Paz • BRAZIL, Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo • CANADA, Calgary, Edmonton, Halifax, London, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver and Winnipeg • CHILE, Santiago • DENMARK, Copenhagen • FINLAND, Helsinki • FRANCE, Lyon, Grenoble and Paris • GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC, Cologne, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Hannover, Munich, Nuremberg, Stuttgart and West Berlin • HONG KONG • INDIA, Bombay • INDONESIA, Djakarta • IRELAND, Dublin • ITALY, Milan, Rome and Turin • IRAN, Tehran • JAPAN, Osaka and Tokyo • MALAYSIA, Kuala Lumpur • MEXICO, Mexico City • NETHERLANDS, Utrecht • NEW ZEALAND, Auckland and Christchurch • NORWAY, Oslo • PUERTO RICO, Santurce • SINGAPORE • SPAIN, Madrid • SWEDEN, Gothenburg and Stockholm • SWITZERLAND, Geneva and Zurich • UNITED KINGDOM, Birmingham, Bristol, Epsom, Edinburgh, Leeds, Leicester, London, Manchester and Reading • VENEZUELA, Caracas •