SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH COUNCIL
RUTHERFORD AND APPLETON LABORATORIES
COMPUTING DIVISION

Starlink Project
Starlink User Note 22.1

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Utilities for Analysing, Dumping and Copying Magnetic Tapes

Three utilities are available for analysing, dumping and copying magnetic tapes (usually non-standard or 'foreign').

MTANAL will analyse any number of files on a tape and produce, for each file processed, a summary of: the number of blocks within the file, the minimum and maximum block lengths, and also a hexadecimal/character dump of the first few bytes of the first block within the file.

The user must first MOUNT the tape with the FOREIGN qualifier, e.g. :

```
$ MOUNT/FOREIGN MTA0:
```

To run the process:

```
$ RUN SYS$SYSDISK:[USEREXE]MTANAL
```

The user will then be prompted for certain parameters:

Prompt	Default
>Tape Unit = _MTA?	(no default)
>Number of files to be skipped = ?	(0)
>Number of files to be analysed = ?	(all files on tape)
>Title = ?	(<null string>)
>Translate from EBCDIC = ?	(NO)

If the user wishes a default to take effect for a parameter, he simply enters <carriage return> after the prompt.

The analysis stops when, either the number of files specified by the user have been processed, the physical end of the tape has been detected, or an error condition has occurred.

The summary is written to file MTANAL.LIS in the user's default directory.

MTDUMP will produce a hexadecimal and character dump of any number of physical blocks on a tape.

The user must first MOUNT the tape with the FOREIGN qualifier, e.g. :

```
$ MOUNT/FOREIGN MTA1:
```

To run the process:

```
$ RUN SYS$SYSDISK:[USEREXE]MTDUMP
```

The user will then be prompted for certain parameters:

Prompt	Default
>Tape Unit = _MTA?	(no default)
>Number of files to be skipped = ?	(0)
>Number of blocks to be skipped = ?	(0)
>Number of blocks to be dumped = ?	(all blocks on tape)
>Title = ?	(<null string>)
>Translate from EBCDIC = ?	(NO)

The defaulting mechanism is identical to that used by MTANAL.

The dumping stops when, either the number of blocks specified by the user have been processed, the physical end of the tape has been detected, or an error condition has occurred.

The summary is written to file MTDUMP.LIS in the user's default directory.

MTCOPY will copy a given number of files from one tape to another.

The user must first MOUNT the input and output tapes with the FOREIGN qualifier, e.g. :

```
$ MOUNT/FOREIGN MTA0:
$ MOUNT/FOREIGN MTA1:
```

To run the process:

```
$ RUN SYS$SYSDISK:[USEREXE]MTCOPY
```

The user will then be prompted for certain parameters:

Prompt	Default
>COPY from Tape Unit = _MTA?	(no default)
> to Tape Unit = _MTA?	(no default)
>Number of files to skip on input tape = ?	(0)
>Number of files to skip on output tape = ?	(0)
>Number of files to be copied = ?	(all files on tape)
>Translate from EBCDIC = ?	(NO)

The defaulting mechanism is identical to that used by MTANAL/MTDUMP.

The copying stops when, either the number of files specified by the user have been processed, the physical end of either tape has been detected, or an error condition has occurred.

On termination of all these processes, the magnetic tape(s) on the allocated drive(s) are not rewound. The user must perform this function through DCL, thus:

```
$ SET MAGTAPE/REWIND MTA0:
```

or

```
$ DISMOUNT MTA0:
```

Any problems encountered by users should be reported to:

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