Altair 8K BASIC source restoration project

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Udo Munk

9 Jul 2014, 23:10:29

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All files mentioned are available at: http://www.autometer.de/unix4fun/z80pack/ftp/altair/ Sometime

Steve Nickolas

10 Jul 2014, 04:30:21

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On Wed, 9 Jul 2014, Udo Munk wrote: > one finds some similarities eg in the tables for all the

Dennis Boone

10 Jul 2014, 05:02:08

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> Looks like it was written for a cross assembler running on some > minicomputer, I can't

Udo Munk

10 Jul 2014, 06:48:50

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On Wednesday, July 9, 2014 8:30:21 PM UTC+2, Steve Nickolas wrote: > On Wed, 9 Jul 2014, Udo Munk

Udo Munk

10 Jul 2014, 06:57:14

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On Wednesday, July 9, 2014 9:02:08 PM UTC+2, Dennis Boone wrote: > > Looks like it was written

G. Beat

11 Jul 2014, 03:59:17

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WYLBUR, now there is an application from my distant past (30+ years ago). IBM numbering: 3174 :

glen herrmannsfeldt

11 Jul 2014, 04:31:17

G. Beat <gregor...@gmail.com> wrote: > WYLBUR, now there is an application from my

Udo Munk
11 Jul 2014, 04:35:59

On Thursday, July 10, 2014 8:31:17 PM UTC+2, glen herrmannsfeldt wrote: > G. Beat wrote: > >

glen herrmannsfeldt
11 Jul 2014, 08:22:34

Udo Munk <udo....@freenet.de> wrote: (snip, I wrote) >> 2741 : The terminal I first used

Dennis Boone
11 Jul 2014, 12:56:53

> The ASCII 3101 is the only one in terminfo for unix. It's 80s era though. De

Jeff Jonas
12 Jul 2014, 10:28:00

>WYLBUR, now there is an application from my distant past (30+ years ago). My high school's

glen herrmannsfeldt
12 Jul 2014, 13:25:28

Jeff Jonas <je...@panix.com> wrote: >> WYLBUR, now there is an application from my

Jeff Jonas
12 Jul 2014, 13:56:34

glen: >My 11th and 12 grade high school had CALL/OS access on a >S/370 system (1974 - 1976). I

glen herrmannsfeldt
12 Jul 2014, 14:53:05

Jeff Jonas <je...@panix.com> wrote: (snip, I wrote) >>My 11th and 12 grade high school

Charles Richmond
13 Jul 2014, 12:15:08

"glen herrmannsfeldt" <g...@ugcs.caltech.edu> wrote in message news:lpqevhvvh1@

glen herrmannsfeldt
13 Jul 2014, 14:46:09

Charles Richmond <nume...@aquaporin4.com> wrote: (snip, I wrote) >> In college, we had a

Axel Berger
13 Jul 2014, 15:44:00

Charles Richmond wrote on Sun, 14-07-13 04:15: >You could start all your statements in column 10

dott.Piergiorgio
13 Jul 2014, 20:32:02

Il 12/07/2014 05:25, glen herrmannsfeldt ha scritto: > (I had the PL/I (F) manuals already, and

Udo Munk
13 Aug 2014, 22:25:31

I uploaded new files to the z80pack repository. A few typos have been fixed and the generated hex

billc...@iscmns.org
2 Dec 2014, 06:46:53

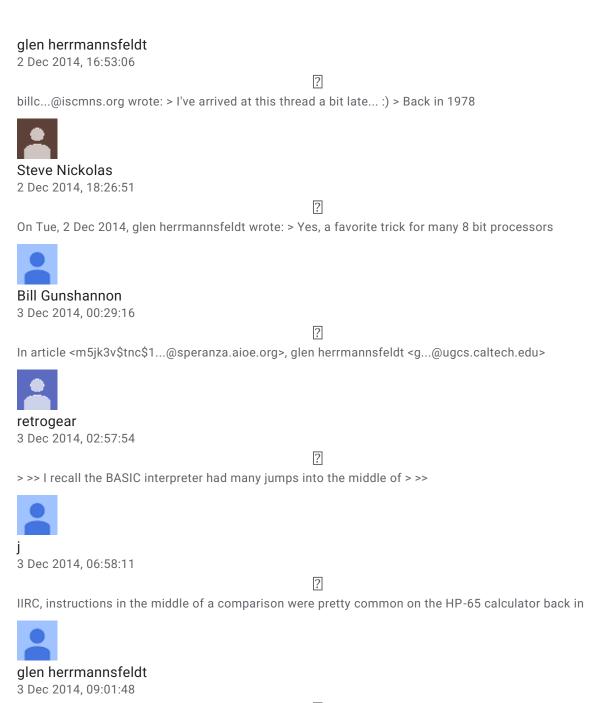I've arrived at this thread a bit late... :) Back in 1978 I was paid to disassemble MITS basic

Udo Munk
2 Dec 2014, 07:03:44

On Monday, December 1, 2014 8:46:53 PM UTC+1, billc...@iscmns.org wrote: > I've arrived at

glen herrmannsfeldt
2 Dec 2014, 16:53:06

billc...@iscmns.org wrote: > I've arrived at this thread a bit late... :) > Back in 1978

Steve Nickolas
2 Dec 2014, 18:26:51

On Tue, 2 Dec 2014, glen herrmannsfeldt wrote: > Yes, a favorite trick for many 8 bit processors

Bill Gunshannon
3 Dec 2014, 00:29:16

In article <m5jk3vtnc1...@speranza.aioe.org>, glen herrmannsfeldt <g...@ugcs.caltech.edu>

retrogear
3 Dec 2014, 02:57:54

> >> I recall the BASIC interpreter had many jumps into the middle of > >>

j
3 Dec 2014, 06:58:11

IIRC, instructions in the middle of a comparison were pretty common on the HP-65 calculator back in

glen herrmannsfeldt
3 Dec 2014, 09:01:48

Bill Gunshannon <bi...@server3.cs.scranton.edu> wrote: (snip, I wrote) >> Yes, a favorite

hl351ge
3 Dec 2014, 19:36:47

Am 02.12.2014 um 08:27 schrieb Steve Nickolas: > On Tue, 2 Dec 2014, glen herrmannsfeldt wrote:

Johny B Good
4 Dec 2014, 04:11:40

On Wed, 03 Dec 2014 09:36:45 +0100, hl351ge <hl3...@gmx.net> wrote: >Am 02.12.2014 um 08:27

Steven Hirsch
4 Dec 2014, 10:24:34

On 12/03/2014 12:11 PM, Johny B Good wrote: >> It's even worse on Z80; not only the use of

Ed
4 Dec 2014, 18:31:08

Johny B Good wrote: > ... > If you mean you prefer Zilog's > assembly language mnemonics

dottor Piergiorgio M. d' Errico
4 Dec 2014, 20:25:35

Il 04/12/2014 00:24, Steven Hirsch ha scritto: > I'm glad it's not just me. I've never

Udo Munk
4 Dec 2014, 21:24:09

On Thursday, December 4, 2014 10:25:35 AM UTC+1, dottor Piergiorgio M. d' Errico wrote: > side

hl351ge
5 Dec 2014, 02:03:11

Am 03.12.2014 um 18:11 schrieb Johny B Good: > On Wed, 03 Dec 2014 09:36:45 +0100, hl351ge <

Johny B Good
5 Dec 2014, 04:03:18

On Thu, 4 Dec 2014 18:31:18 +1100, "Ed" <inv...@nospam.com> wrote: >Johny B Good

Ed
5 Dec 2014, 14:55:35

Johny B Good wrote: > On Thu, 4 Dec 2014 18:31:18 +1100, "Ed" <inv...@nospam.com>

billc...@iscmns.org
5 Dec 2014, 19:54:39

?

Alas I threw out my ISIS 8" floppies and listings 25 years ago! Nevertheless I recall 2 key

Jon Saxton
6 Dec 2014, 01:03:56

?

On 2014-12-05 03:03, Johny B Good wrote: > On Thu, 4 Dec 2014 18:31:18 +1100, "Ed" <

Steven Hirsch
6 Dec 2014, 02:38:54

?

On 12/05/2014 09:03 AM, Jon Saxton wrote: > Yes. Consider these > > mvi b,38 ld b,38 >

dottor Piergiorgio M. d' Errico
6 Dec 2014, 05:04:58

?

Il 05/12/2014 16:38, Steven Hirsch ha scritto: > On 12/05/2014 09:03 AM, Jon Saxton wrote: >

Steve Nickolas
6 Dec 2014, 05:20:00

?

On Fri, 5 Dec 2014, billc...@iscmns.org wrote: > Alas I threw out my ISIS 8" floppies and

Steven Hirsch
6 Dec 2014, 08:06:09

?

On 12/05/2014 01:04 PM, dottor Piergiorgio M. d' Errico wrote: > ... until someone gives you a

John Elliott
6 Dec 2014, 10:15:08

?

Steven Hirsch <snhi...@gmail.com> wrote: > Someone, somewhere must have written a utility

Steven Hirsch
6 Dec 2014, 10:53:31

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On 12/05/2014 06:14 PM, John Elliott wrote: > Steven Hirsch <snhi...@gmail.com> wrote: >

Ed
6 Dec 2014, 12:13:10

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to

Jon Saxton wrote:
> ...
> Using Intel mnemonics you need to remember nine different instructions
> which all do the same thing, namely copy 8 or 16 bits from one place to
> another. Using Zilog mnemonics you have one instruction.
> ...

Which requires additional parameters and syntax to distinguish one from
the other - all of which must be learnt, remembered and used.

If the 'hard to remember/use' argument held any water, Zilog mnemonics
would be in there alongside Intel!

> Now to the supposed inconsistency with instructions which sometimes
> specify the recipient register and which sometimes do not. From the
> list above, we have
>
> sub e ; Recipient register not specified
> sbc a,e ; Recipient register named
>
> That may seem inconsistent but specifying the recipient register is only
> necessary in the case where there is a matching 16-bit instruction,
> ...

It's an inconsistency that you have to 'remember' - but why if Zilog
mnemonics were meant to be intuitive and easy to learn?

> For what it is worth, the SLR assembler allows sub a,e and similar. M80
> is more pedantic.

Multiple standards. What a mess. You don't get that with Intel mnemonic
assemblers.

> There is no reason to program for an 8080 using Intel mnemonics. All
> you need do is avoid Z80-specific instructions.

I do that ... and worry I've inadvertently put in some Z80 code that will
come back to bite me later e.g. the Altair Clone which only supports 8080.

Each argument for Zilog mnemonics can be countered with another against.

It's the same for Intel. Like it or not, CP/M users are stuck with two mnemonic systems. It's the legacy of having a Z80.