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## DESCRIPTION OF TSCAN

TSCAN is an input/output (I/O) program designed to act as a flexible link in a multi-user system under the Ohio Scientific operating system OS65U Level I. It allows up to 16 microcomputers to be connected to a host computer with a wide variety of I/O capabilities.

### OPERATIONS EXECUTABLE FROM REMOTE COMPUTERS (C1P and C4P)

Among the capabilities is the ability to store and retrieve programs on magnetic disk. It also allows extensive printer control which includes the ability to list and run programs on the microcomputers with the output being sent to a printer. The printer formatting includes any number of spaces between lines and optional pagination. There is also the option of having a terminal identification number printed on the output.

TSCAN also supports data files and is capable of both sequential and random access files. The files may be of any length allowed by the disk. TSCAN is formatted in such a way as to allow great flexibility in data file manipulation.

Among the more advanced capabilities is the ability to switch from one disk drive to another. Also there is the capability to execute other programs on the host such as a remote create program. This allows for a wide range of programs to be available for use on the host computer.

As an aid in protecting programs, TSCAN also supports passwords. the use of passwords is, however, optional. This proves to be of value in a classroom situation when a number of student files are being used.

TSCAN is a comprehensive host program that allows maximum flexibility with minimal complexity. It is operational on what ever level of expertise the user is currently operating. This makes it ideal for educational applications. It has been developed under actual classroom conditions and is currently in use. It is the ideal way to obtain optimum performance from an OS65U Level I multi-user system.

TSCAN

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## OPERATIONAL NOTES ON TSCAN

- NOTE #1: TSCAN is structured in such a way as to provide the proper timing that is required to carry out all of its functions. This means that any tampering with the program statements could result in operational errors.
- NOTE #2: Due to the critical nature of the timing in TSCAN it is necessary to run TSCAN at 1 MHZ on dual speed computers. Operation at 2 MHZ may result in operational errors.
- NOTE #3: The use of the TSCAN commands will result in the generation of syntax errors. This is to be expected due to the fact that these commands are unintelligible to the BASIC interpreter. These syntax errors occur only on the remote microcomputers and should be ignored.
- NOTE #4: During the operation of the system, if more than one remote computer attempts to tie into the host, the remote that attempted to tie in last may lock up. The best way to get out of this is to hit the BREAK key and then W. This will disable the SAVE mode and unlock the computer. This type of jamming occurs only on the remote computers and will cease as soon as the host computer becomes free.
- NOTE #5: When printing an execution of a run, it is important to note that when the printed output has leading spaces, the leading spaces will be suppressed on the printer output. This occurs due to the nature of the input statement that is used on the host computer. The input statement is configured in such a way that it will automatically suppress any leading spaces. One way to get around this problem is to print an insignificant figure such as a period as the first item in a print line. This will make any spaces following the period embedded spaces and thus they will be printed. The SUPPRESS ON function will allow this to be done and will selectively suppress a period if it is the first character in a print line.
- NOTE #6: Two additional programs are provided on the disk: LISTER and PURGER. These two programs are to allow the contents of the TSCAN message file to be examined and then cleared.

## OPERATION OF TERMINAL SCANNING PROGRAM

In order to operate this program it is necessary to address the host computer. This is accomplished by entering SAVE from the remote terminals. This ties the terminals into the host computer which is then able to provide mass storage as well as printer facilities. It is not advisable to remain in contact with the host computer when not performing operations requiring its assistance. The reason for this is that when the terminals are tied into the host computer, they operate at a drastically slower rate than when they are operating independently. Also, the terminals can be brought to a screeching halt by someone else utilizing the host computer while you are still in communication with it. This means that you could be running a program and have your computer suddenly jam up even though you are not directly addressing the host computer. In other words, don't stay tied into the host any longer than necessary.

The next problem is getting "untied" from the host computer. This is accomplished by entering LOAD followed by a carriage return. Then it is necessary to hit the space bar followed by another carriage return. This will now allow you to operate independently of the host.

### COMMANDS

\* NOTE: ALL COMMANDS ARE PRECEDED BY A PERIOD "." .

PLIST - LISTS PROGRAM ON PRINTER.

FORMAT: SAVE  
. PLIST  
LIST

PRRUN - PROGRAM EXECUTES WITH OUTPUT TO PRINTER.

FORMAT: SAVE  
. PRRUN  
RUN

#### SUBCOMMANDS:

P OFF - TURNS PRINTER OFF  
P ON - TURNS PRINTER ON

FSAVE - SAVES CURRENT FILE IN WORKSPACE ON DISK.

FORMAT: SAVE  
. FSAVE FILENAME, PASSWORD (PASSWORD MUST BE 4 LETTERS)  
LIST

FLOAD - LOADS FILE FROM DISK TO WORKSPACE.

FORMAT: SAVE  
. FLOAD FILENAME, PASSWORD (PASSWORD MUST BE 4 LETTERS)  
LOAD

/FLAG - SETS INTERNAL PROGRAM FLAGS.

FORMAT: SAVE

. SFLAG SUBCOMMAND, ARGUMENT (ARGUMENT NOT ALWAYS USED)

SUBCOMMANDS:

ID ON - ENABLES PORT IDENTIFICATION  
ID OFF - DISABLES PORT IDENTIFICATION  
TOP, N - SETS NUMBER (N) SPACES AT TOP OF PRINTOUT  
BOT, N - SETS NUMBER (N) SPACES AT BOTTOM OF PRINTOUT  
SLEW - ENABLES PRINTER TO ADVANCE TO TOP OF NEXT PAGE  
NOSLEW - DISABLES PRINTER ADVANCE TO TOP OF NEXT PAGE  
SS - SINGLE SPACE PRINTOUT  
DS - DOUBLE SPACE PRINTOUT  
TS - TRIPLE SPACE PRINTOUT  
SPCSET, N - (N) SPACE PRINTOUT  
DEV A - SELECTS DISK DRIVE A  
DEV B - SELECTS DISK DRIVE B  
LIB ON - ENABLE BOTH DRIVES TO BE SEARCHED FOR PROGRAMS  
LIB OFF - DISABLE SEARCH ON BOTH DRIVES  
SUPON - SUPPRESSES PERIOD IF FIRST CHARACTER IN FIELD  
SUPOFF - TURNS OFF PERIOD SUPPRESSION

TDATA - TRANSMITS DATA TO HOST COMPUTER ARRAY.

FORMAT: SAVE

. TDATA

SUBCOMMANDS:

P ON - PRINTS DATA  
P OFF - STOPS DATA PRINT  
DUMP - PRINTS DATA ARRAY  
NAME <NAME> - ALLOWS NAME TO BE PRINTED ON PRINTOUT  
DATE <DATE> - ALLOWS DATE TO BE PRINTED ON PRINTOUT  
COMMENT1 <ANY REMARK> - PRINTED ON PRINTOUT  
COMMENT2 <ANY REMARK> - PRINTED ON PRINTOUT  
COMMENT3 <ANY REMARK> - PRINTED ON PRINTOUT  
OK - EXITS

RDATA - RECOVERS DATA FROM A DISK FILE.

FORMAT: SAVE

. RDATA FILENAME, PASSWORD (4 CHARACTERS)

SUBCOMMANDS:

LOAD N - SIGNALS HOST TO TRANSMIT N STRINGS OF DATA  
CLOSE - CLOSES FILE AND EXITS  
RESET - MOVES INDEX POINTER TO BEGINNING OF FILE  
INDEX N - MOVES INDEX POINTER TO LOCATION N  
FIND STRING - FINDS A STRING OF CHARACTERS IN A FILE

SDATA - STORES DATA ON DISK FILE.

. SDATA FILENAME, PASSWORD

SUBCOMMANDS:

CLOSE - CLOSES FILE AND EXITS  
RESET - MOVES INDEX POINTER TO BEGINNING OF FILE  
INDEX N - MOVES INDEX POINTER TO LOCATION N

FIND STRING - FINDS A STRING OF CHARACTERS IN A FILE  
FORMAT - INSERTS AN END OF RECORD MARKER  
MARK - PRINTS "XXX" TO FILE AS A MARKER

DDUMP - DUMPS HOST COMPUTER MATRIX TO PRINTER.

FORMAT: SAVE  
. DDUMP

MSEND - SENDS MESSAGE TO COMPUTER OPERATOR'S MESSAGE FILE.

FORMAT: SAVE  
. MSEND  
<TEXT UP TO 6 LINES>  
END

EXEC\* - EXECUTES A NEW PROGRAM ON HOST COMPUTER

FORMAT: SAVE  
. EXEC\* FILENAME, PASSWORD (PASSWORD MUST BE 4 LETTERS)

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