

April 5, 1996

MEMORANDUM

To: Dennis Stropes
From: W. David Wimberly
Copy: Bill Moody
ISM-L
Subject: March Status Report

General

Report Output Destinations

The distributed print support facilities were finally completed in March. Activities included:

- Working with Michael on the final programming, testing, and cleanup of the University Systems Administration (USA) application where the MVS-OUTPUT-DESTINATION file is maintained;
- Modifying the User Profile to accept and validate a report destination, and provide help;
- Modifying the Logon program to retain the user's default report destination in *COM;
- Developing the application independent command RODS (Report Output Destination Selection) to permit selection or change of an output destination;
- Developing the copycode UACRODIB to validate an output selection for online JOBS submission;
- Modifying the template GDA and testing the above facilities for batch and online use in LEAVE and LABOR;
- Documenting the steps required to implement these facilities and presenting these to the tech team; and
- Developing programs and JCL to copy the production definitions to DEMO and TEST.

Initially I plan to be the *user* that sets up these output destinations on a request basis. The first attempt to do this has revealed that there may be a configuration problem with some Netware printers, and I have requested assistance from Tech Services in determining why some Novell print queues will work while others do not. Given we can overcome this hurdle and get a few printers in core offices working, I would like to move these facilities to PROD and post a notice to BASIS-L. The notice would include a simple request form to collect the necessary data to setup a printer.

Field Attribute Change

A modification was made to the user profile to set the color of output default intensity fields to that of the user selected *conditionally protected field attribute*. This makes screens much more readable by color differentiating the tags (labels) for fields from the field values. This is most noticeable on lists or other non-update screens. Since some tags are occasionally displayed conditionally by using variables, the Logon program was also modified to set within *COM a new variable, #TV-FA, that carries the color of the output default intensity fields. This control variable must be added to the GDA and used on these conditional tags. These changes were implemented on DEMO without notifying our users in order to see if anyone noticed or complained. I've heard no comment to date, but presume we should have a session with the team leaders to outline these changes before they are implemented in production.

SAG Product Updates

I have held several conversations with Don Barnett regarding SAG product updates that are in process. They have already implemented ADABAS v6 on TEST, which caused some facilities I've used to manage files on TEST to no longer work. The fix to this problem is to upgrade Predict and Natural, which they currently plan to do next Tuesday. The new Predict manages *extended descriptions* in a different manner, which will force us to recode our facilities dealing with screen help (since this is where we store this text). Update and access will now be done via a user exit, which I have not yet been able to access and so cannot comment on the level of effort that may be required to complete the necessary changes. Hopefully there won't be too many other *gotchas* related to this cycle of updates, but that is not normally the case.

Labor Distribution

Yet another problem has emerged in the LOAD1 program. This time data for different employees was combined and another employee's data left out entirely. I wrote an update program to fix the data. This is the third identified instance of a problem with LOAD1, plus the fact that actual fringe benefits are often scrambled. I think re-writing this program and breaking it into two steps (one to appropriately classify and categorize data and the second to aggregate it) should be high priority.

All the online JOBS submission routines were upgraded for the new *Report Output Destination* except for the load trigger job and the Res Life extract (which should be replaced by the general extract). These are in DEMO.

I have worked with Pete to define, and he has requested, three new flavors of the general extract. The existing one reports the current distribution based upon Cost Center selection. One of the new ones will do the same except based upon Occupation Code selection. The other two will be similar except they will report only transactions (changes that have been made). Michael is currently working on the development of the Cost Center based transaction extract. These will address needs of the Graduate School and Research Accounting, and hopefully prove to be useful to others as well.

I investigated a problem reported with LLEC and identified the cause.

Purchasing

I participated in two meetings, coordinated some of the PO file conversion on DEMO, and consulted with Paul on approaches for building POs from reqs, bids, and contracts.

Accounts Payable

I reviewed and participated in seven meetings discussing the Accounts Payable overview prepared by Colleen. Some new ideas and approaches to many issues are being proposed, although we are not sure whether we will be permitted to implement these. Documentation regarding these is being prepared for review by Little Rock. Based upon input from David Whitmire in the last meeting, I have concerns that our objectives for this system aren't clear. I would hate to see us, after years of effort, unveil a new system and only hear complaints of 'why doesn't it do x'. On the other hand, it is critical that expectations be kept realistic and we not try to do everything right out of the gate.

I anticipate participating in additional, more detailed meetings to flesh out, at a minimum, accounting issues, credit memo processing, and vouchering.

Position Control

I coordinated the migration of changes to ADABAS file UA-Data-3 and PSB from DEMO to PROD; participated in 4 large group meetings and two tech meetings; changed the Position files again on test; updated POS, POSI, and POSF functions so they wouldn't bomb; consulted with Ava on PA and LTPA; added GDA variables for the various rates that have been defined; and discussed *control* maintenance functions with Randy. I need to clean-up and complete the POSx functions, write the List Different Than Paid and List Retroactive Deleted Position functions, and write a salaries and fringe benefits encumbrance routine.

Budget

I participated in seven meetings discussing budget concepts and developed conceptual files to support the latest design.

Leave Accounting

I upgraded LAEB and LLSB to super-lists that work with Michael's monthly leave print routine, developed a batch job and submission routine to generate monthly leave reports for all employees in a BU, and tutored Becky and Bill in writing an adhoc Natural report to meet an urgent information request. The system changes were moved to DEMO for user testing. There are several changes currently on DEMO awaiting approval to move to PROD.

Administration

I participated in ten administrative meetings regarding the fax server, personnel, project roles and responsibilities, progress towards FY '96 objectives, budget and objectives for FY '97, use of the LCD panel, and other management briefings. I was also involved in some long discussions and long e-mails regarding the connection drop problem for folks using FTP Corp's PCTCP v2.3.