

PDP-1 COMPUTER  
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT  
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PDP-28  
TIME SHARING SYSTEM CHANGES

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The 3-65 version of the PDP-1 time sharing system incorporates several new features as well as providing cures for some of the bugs found in the 1-65 version.

1. The M+2 register (upper bound for searches) in ID is no longer changed to one less than the console's memory bound whenever control is returned to ID. Only when the user requests an ID program is the M+2 register initialized to be one less than the console's memory bound.
2. Expensive Typewriter has been changed in the following manner:
  - a. A new command has been added. M (Merging Macro) calls a version of MACRO similar to N (Nightmare); the program located in ET 11A's text buffer is assembled on pseudo-field 1. However, the field used to store the assembled program is not zeroed before the assembly.
  - b. Field assignments in ET 11A have been changed so that fields assigned to the console but not used for storage of text remain unchanged. Field 1 is still assigned and reserved for storing the assembled program; other fields are assigned sequentially, starting with field 2 for text storage.
  - c. Typing a center dot (·) prior to a command terminator (carriage return or tab) will cancel the command.
  - d. The command "x" (deassignment of punch) no longer changes the current location pointer.
  - e. The use of SS6 has been modified so that blank tape is no longer read in as spaces.

3. There are now two modes of assignment of the external register-- shared and absolute. Absolute assignment is requested by placing the concise code for ax in the AC and then executing an arg. For shared assignment, the concise code for sx is placed in the AC. To deassign the external register, the concise code for -x is used for either mode of assignment. If a user has the external register assigned to him "absolutely", he may change the mode to "shared" by just requesting the shared assignment. Likewise, if a user has it assigned in "share" mode, and is the only assignee, then he may have the register "absolutely" - he doesn't need to deassign the former before the latter request.