Bell Laboratories

subject: Referencing Standard
UNIX Documentation

date: August 23, 1974

from: G. C. Vogel

ABSTRACT

A meeting was held at Holmdel on August 20, 1974 to
discuss UNIX documentation. The primary objective was
to agree on mechanisms for calling out parts of the
standard UNIX system and identifying those portions of
the system which have been altered by modifications,
additions or deletions to suit a particular system.
This objective was met. Details of the proposed
mechanisms are included in this memorandum.

As a consequence of these mechanisms the UNIX Support
Group will assume responsibility for assigning
project-designation numbers as well as producing the
documentation for "standard UNIX".

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

I. Introduction

A meeting was held at Holmdel on August 20, 1974 to establish mechanisms for documenting UNIX based systems. This memorandum summarizes the proposals and agreements made at that meeting. Appendix A is a list of the people who attended.

From the information gathered at a prior UNIX documentation meeting (August 13, 1974), it is apparent that UNIX based projects destined for operating telephone companies will require modifications to the standard UNIX system. In some cases, these systems may be strict subsets of standard UNIX. In general, however, it is necessary to provide for modified programs and added programs. Also, it seems unlikely that reasonable sized subsets of standard UNIX can be defined which would be universally accepted. In general, the modifications required by projects seem to be widely distributed. With this factor in mind, we seek a convenient method for the projects to document their systems with minimum redundancy.

Throughout this memorandum reference is made to terms defined in "Program Documentation Standards" published by Bell Labora-

tories. Briefly the definitions are:

PG   - Program Document Index

PR   - Program listing

PD   - Program Specification

Pident - Program Indentification

II. Standard UNIX

Standard UNIX will be defined and documented by the UNIX Support Group (USG). Documentation for this system will be officially issued to the Western Electric Company to serve as masters for distribution of documentation required for UNIX based systems. Bell Laboratories projects using UNIX will reference only those documents of the standard UNIX system which are applicable. Projects will only reference documents which are part of "standard UNIX". It was agreed that modified UNIX documents that are produced for a specific project shall not be referenced by other projects. The purpose of this agreement is to keep central control of shared UNIX system programs within the USG. Programs which are desired by more than one project will thus become candidates for inclusion in the standard UNIX system.

III. Proposed Mechanism for Documenting UNIX Based Systems

A proposed mechanism for referencing parts of the standard UNIX system was verbally agreed to by representatives from the Bell Labs standards organization (Dept. 8251) and Western Electric Co. Perhaps the best way of describing this mechanism is by

constructing an example. In this example we use PRs, however, other documents would be handled in a similar manner.

Figure 1 shows a portion of the standard UNIX PG. For the sake of clarity, only two PRs are shown. The actual standard UNIX PG will be composed of many PRs, PDs and other documents. The suffix, -01, indicates that the PRs have been produced by the USG as part of the standard UNIX system. The suffixes -01 through -09 are reserved for releases of standard UNIX systems.

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PG-1C300           issue 3              (Standard UNIX)

    PR-1C320-01        issue 2
    PR-1C325-01        issue 3
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Fig. 1 - A portion of the Standard UNIX PG.

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PG-1B350           issue 2              (UNIX Based System - e.g. FAS)

    PR-1C320-01        issue 2              (Standard UNIX PR)

    PR-1C325-22        issue 2              (Modified UNIX PR)

    PR-1B351-01        issue 2              (Application PR)
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Fig. 2 - A Portion of the PG for a UNIX Based Project e.g. FAS.

The PG issued by a UNIX based project may contain standard UNIX PRs, modified UNIX PRs, and application program PRs. Figure 2 is a sample portion of a PG issued for a UNIX based project.

Three categories of PRs are shown:

1. Standard UNIX PRs which are taken in their entirety without modification.
2. Standard UNIX PR's which have been modified.
3. PRs containing application pidents.

Standard UNIX PR's are designated by listing the PR number, complete with an issue number, as it appears in the standard UNIX PG.

Standard UNIX PR's may be modified in several ways:

1. Pidents are omitted.
2. Pidents are changed.
3. New pidents are added.

Standard UNIX PR's that have been modified are listed with the same PR number as the corresponding standard UNIX PR except for the suffix which has been assigned to that project by the USG. In this example, the project has been assigned the suffix -22.

PR-1C325-01	issue 2	PR-1C325-22	issue 1
a01	issue 1	a01	issue 1
b01	issue 2	b01	issue 1
c01	issue 1	c22	issue 1
d01	issue 1	x22	issue 1

Fig. 3 - Comparison of a Standard UNIX PR with a Modified UNIX PR.

Figure 3 shows the PR index sheets for the standard UNIX PR and the modified PR. The index sheet for the modified PR is generated by the project making the modifications. It includes references to those pidents from the standard UNIX PR which have not been changed. In this example, pidents a01 and b01 are in this category. Note that issue 1 of pident b01 is called for in the modified PR. This is permitted so long as that issue has been given to Western Electric. The project will not have to produce the listings or other related documents for these unchanged pidents. Pidents which have been changed or added will have the suffix assigned to that project. Thus, in this example, the pident c01 was modified by the project and renamed c22. The pident x22 was generated by this project and added to this PR. Those pidents which are contained as part of the standard UNIX system but not used by this project are simply omitted (as pident d01 in fig. 3). The project supplies the PR index page and all added or modified pidents but does not have to supply any of the standard UNIX pidents called for since Western Electric has access to these from the standard UNIX documentation.

G. C. Vogel

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UNIX Mailing List

Appendix A

Meeting Attendance
UNIX Documentation Meeting — August 20, 1974

Carr D.

Cebak J. J.

Ferron L. A.

Imagna C. P.

Menzel F. S.

Pan J.

Pierson H. L.

Schepp G. R.

Tinley D. J.

Vogel G. C.

Walters R. W. H.

Winckelmann W. A.