TO: Distribution

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SUBJECT: Multiline Headers

This MTB proposes and discusses a feature for the Documentation Macros that allows multiple lines in the level headers, particularly in the various "box" headers.

There are a number of applications that require the use of more than one line in a level header. The most familiar (to the Multics Project) of these is the documentation of the vfile_ I/O module, but several have been identified in the GCOS documentation and a few others are known. An informal request has been received from the GCOS Documentation Group to allow up to 5 lines in page and level headers; the value 5 being thought to be sufficient to satisfy their immediate needs. Further, there is a need to redesign the macros to fit lengthy titles into the shorter line length found in multicolumn applications and, still further, there has long been a feature (the so-called "!" convention) that allows a writer to break a Figure caption or Table header at points of his/her choice. These considerations suggest the following implementation.

The current level header macro, llh.compin (and all its added entrypoints), will be modified so as to contruct free format title blocks with .tbb/.tbe (thereby honoring the current linelength) rather than with .tlh and to support the "!" convention for title splitting at user designated points (title splitting for the TOC entries will not be affected by this change). Eight new entrypoints, l(1 2 3 4)hbox and l(1 2 3 4)mhbox, will be defined to satisfy the box header requirement. The "hbox" entries will generate only top-of-page boxes and the "mhbox" entries will generate both page and mid-page boxes. None of these new entrypoints will generate TOC entries.

The proposed implementation is fully compatible with current standard usage. The construct:

```
.ifi l3mhbox "vfile_!add_key"
.ifi l3mh "Name: add_key"
```

will produce the same page and mid-page boxed header that the current private lxh.compin macro does.

User documentation for these changes is somewhat difficult since there is no published documentation from which to start. The reader may rest assured, however, that these features will be adequately described in the documentation when it is finally created (it now appears imminent!).