To: MTB Distribution

From: N.S.Davids

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Subject: An electronic filing cabinet for Multics

Comments may be made:
    Via electronic Mail:
                    Davids.Multics

    Via telephone:
                    866-6643
                    HVN: 357-6643

    Via forum (method of choice):
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Introduction:

     The purpose of this paper is to propose a new product an "electronic
filing cabinet" and to gauge people's feelings as to whether such
a product is desirable. This paper does not discuss implementation
issues which will be left to the design document.

What is an electronic filing cabinet:

     The concept of an electronic filing cabinet is very similar to
that of a filing cabinet for paper, i.e. its a place to store
documents, memos, mail, notes, etc. so that they are easy to
retrieve and modify. The use of a computer however allows these
documents to "appear in multiple file folders" and allows the
documents themselves to be searched for special text strings.

A Proposed set of functions:

     1) store arbitrary length text (called document)
     2) associate with a document an index number, date, and an
        arbitrary number of key words (place the document in
        multiple file folders). This can be done by hand and/or
        the document can be scanned for preselected key words
        when it is placed in the cabinet and/or the document
        can contain special delimiters which enclose text that
        should be a key word.
     3) select a set of documents based on their dates of entry,
        index numbers, and associated key words or text strings
        within the document. The selection criterion should be
        arbitrarily complex (first order predicate calculus).
     4) add, delete or change the key words associated with a
        document or set of documents.
     5) modify or delete a document
     6) produce an index of the key words used in a file and a
        cross-referenced list of key words.

Why Multics needs such a product:

     Products such as XMAIL, INTELLECT, and FORUM have ushered Multics
into the area of office automation. These products have been

favorably received by the Multics user community. Increasing
productivity by providing faster and easier document filing and
retrieval is a further step in that direction.

A _very_ _primitive_ prototype:

    A prototype electronic file cabinet was developed over a number
of months and has been in use for a little over a year. It has
many problems which because of lack of resources have not been
corrected.   Documentation   may   be   found   at
>udd>m>Davids>log>log.manual and the system itself is bound_log_
in the same directory.