

November 16, 1971

From: J. H. Saltzer

Subject: New series of bulletins

The series of memos known as Multics Checkout Bulletins has for some time been serving two audiences:

1. Multics staff
2. A few sophisticated users and outside research organizations interested in keeping in touch with Multics

The dual audience has led to some difficulty in deciding whether or not project planning material should be placed in MCB's. To eliminate the difficulty, a second series begins with this note. Bulletins of this series are known as Multics Staff Bulletins, and their distribution will be restricted to members of the Multics project at MAC, IPC, and HISI. (The distribution list used for the SPS, and MOO documents, will be used for MSB's.)

The MCB's will continue to go to the wider audiences, along with the Subsystem Writer's Supplement. In general, all present MCB's should continue to be MCB's, thereby encouraging a free flow of ideas and communication with other interested groups. In particular, system and library installation notices, and group status reports will continue to be MCB's. However, the detailed, line-by-line task reports formerly appended to the group status reports will be issued instead as part of the new MSB series.

As a general rule, a policy of openness will tend to encourage our users and colleagues to think of Multics as a place of action and activity; therefore the MSB stream should be used only for documents which contain project planning information or are completely worthless to an outsider. Questions about whether a particular document should be a MCB or an MSB will be resolved by John Gintell.