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Title:

MASS USERS GUIDE

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Abstract: A manual for the use of the disc program 'MASS' which is descriped to handle RC3689 channel connected discs.
The program is able to back up and restore (labelled or non-labelled) tapes, copy, verify and initialize a disc-kit with address marks.

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1. PURPOSE 1.

To provide the user with a general purpose program for handling discs connected to the RC3689 channel.

2. FUNCTION 2.

The program is able to back up and restore (labelled or non-labelled) tapes, copy, make a byte to byte comparison between two disc-kits and initialize a disc-kit with address marks.

The disc size is either 12/18/33/66/125 or 250 M Bytes.

The source and destination drive can be any number (0 - 3).

3. DESCRIPTION 3.

When loaded the following list of functions will be displayed on the system console:

0) Help !
1) Disc-copy program
2) Dump a disc to magtape
3) Restore a disc from magtape
4) Verify a disc-kit
5) Initialize a disc-kit.

0) Help :

Is a summary of this users guide.

1) Disc-copy program:

The simple copying will be followed by a read check to assure the disc pack to be error-free.

2) Dump a disc to magtape:

The operator is asked whether he wants to write a label tape. The label size is fixed and equal to 80 characters. The disc backup is stored as a single file on tape terminated by an End of File mark. The block size is equal to 4096 bytes or 8 disc sectors.

The tape must be mounted and positioned at load point before calling the tape program.

If the disc volume exceeds 33 MBytes it has to be handled multi-reel.

With the specified block size, the maximum which can be stored on a single 2400 feet tape is 33 Mbytes. The label will thus include a tape number which is automatically updated before the label is written on the next reel.

3) Restore a disc from magtape :

The operator is asked whether the tape is non-labelled or labelled. In the latter case the label will be displayed allowing the operator to confirm the tapenumber before the disc is further restored.

The errormessage 'Blockcount error' will be displayed, if the operator is handling a label tape as a non-label tape or vice versa.

4) Verify a disc-kit:

This is a mere read of the specified disc. In case of any CRC error the process will be break'ed and the usual error message will be displayed.

5) Initialize a disc-kit:

Address information (cylinder, head, and sector number) will be transferred to the specified dirve number. When the initialization is completed a verify phase as described in 4) will follow in order to catch any disc-kit defects.

4. ERRORHANDLING 4.

Emphasis has been placed on an easy and informative operator communication. Thus all the operator correctable errors are described in detail. In case of a hard error the process will be break'ed and the usual error message will be displayed.

The program generated error messages are:

Block count error
Driver missing
Write ring not mounted
Magtape station off-line.

5. DOCUMENTATION 5.

RCSL: 43-GL 5310 ASCII Source.

RCSL: 43-GL 5311 Listing.

RCSL: 43-GL 5312 Relocatable Binary.