

What's New in VSE/ESA 2.3?

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Well, VSE/ESA 2.3 has been shipping since December 1997, and perhaps you immediately ordered a copy, dropped it in, tested it, and are already running in production with it. Well, even if you are running 2.3, you might not have taken the time to figure out all of the new commands and parameters that are available to you. This month's column examines the items that I personally liked and didn't like, and lets you see for yourself what is available.

VSE/ESA TIME PROCESSING

Although VSE/ESA is very easy to use (my three-year old granddaughter can shut down CICS and IPL my P370, even when I don't ask her to — just like a real operator), Version 2.3 has several new features that make VSE a lot more user-friendly.

First of all, for those of you who always dread daylight savings time, there are a couple of new parameters for the SET command:

```
SET ZONEDEF,ZONE=WEST/06/00,CDT
SET ZONEBDY,DATE=04/01/1998,CLOCK=02/00/00,CDT
SET ZONEDEF,ZONE=WEST/06/00,CST
SET ZONEBDY,DATE=10/01/1998,CLOCK=02/00/00,CST
```

By using these parameters, you can have the system determine if it is daylight savings time or not as you IPL. You can insert 10 years worth of these statements as part of the IPL process, and not have to worry about it. Of course, you will still need to IPL.

The SET DATE command lets you change the date into the next century by allowing you to enter a four-digit year. This should provide some relief for those of you who are suffering from Year 2000 anxiety.

MEMORY

In the past I've received numerous requests for a copy of a utility that would print out subpool information. Now I can finally get rid of this utility because the GETVIS DETAIL command will provide you with the same data. That's OK, since I didn't want to support that thing forever anyway!

POWER

POWER has some new SET commands. You can now issue these:

```
SET QFILE=VIO (force VIO no matter what)
SET I041I=NO (suppress this informational message about
"wrong printer")
```

```
SET **LINE=n (force one to eight lines of asterisks between
separation pages)
SET FCB=DEFAULT (do not refer to the LTAB, but use the
device's default FCB)
```

And a whole lot more. The list of new options keeps growing. For instance, there are new options on the PSTART command to control how your page separators will work. Additional parameters have

been provided to allow you to create POF-FLOAD tapes for earlier versions of POWER. This will really come in handy when you have multiple versions of VSE that you need to support, or if your microfiche provider won't go to VSE/ESA 2.3 support. However, be warned that your DBLK size can't exceed what is supported in previous releases of POWER. This means that if you use a large block size in VSE/ESA 2.3, and you want to make a POFLOAD tape for an earlier version of POWER that won't support

that blocksize, you will not be allowed to produce that tape.

Finally, have you ever looked at an output and not realized that SYSLST was assigned to IGN before the programmer brought you the report to look at? And if you do assign SYSLIST to IGN, there are now options available to figure out what went wrong with a program. There is a new POWER message that will now tell you how many records were ignored, and for what job.

LIBR

Additional enhancements, as well as a new warning have been made to LIBR. According to IBM (December 1997) if you use FLEE, then you must continue to do so, and LIBR will no longer function on the library managed by FLEE, since FLEE will modify the library structure. VSE will then treat that library as if it were damaged, and you will need to perform standard recovery processes for VSE to use that library again. Be warned!

AR-COMMAND PROCESSING

If you are having some device problems, have I got a command for you! You can monitor device usage and problems by turning on the Channel Report Writer. To activate the monitor, issue the command: SIR CRWMSG=ON. The data will be displayed automatically. To disable to monitor and the displays, issue the command: SIR CRWMSG=OFF.

The STACK command is better than before (which isn't really saying a whole lot!). At long last you can display all of the current settings, or a specific setting. You can also clear one or all of the stack settings. To display the current settings, you can issue: STACK SHOW or STACK SHOW=command. To clear that entry from the stack, you can issue: STACK CLEAR or STACK CLEAR=command. It will also allow you to insert up to 10 replaceable parameters. These are &0 through &9. So if you issued the following to set the stack and define a "DEL" command:

```
STACK DEL|L LST,&0
```

you could then enter:

```
DEL BUBBA
```

and the following command would be performed:

```
L LST,BUBBA
```

And for those of you who want to simplify this even further, you could execute a series of DTRIATTN statements to

automatically set these during each IPL. DTRIATTN is an IBM utility that will pass anything that is in the execution parameter to the VSE console for processing. Now I can get rid of that old STACK utility of mine...

ADDITIONAL ENHANCEMENTS

Most tape drives these days come with an LED display. I used to run a little program (as provided in *Technical Support*, May, 1997) to change some of the settings. Now IBM has added some new facilities to make it easier to determine what job owns which tape drive. The TAPE command has also been enhanced. If you have a tape drive that has an LED display, you can cause that display to change with the following commands:

```
TAPE DSPLY=VOL  
TAPE DSPLY=JNM
```

The default is VOL, which will use the format most familiar to you. If you use JNM, then the display will flash between the job name and the volume information. Of course, you realize that this means that all job names must be useful!

And speaking of volume, the VOL command has also been enhanced. By issuing the VOL TAPE, you can see a display of capacity and processing information that is not part of the normal VOL command output.

Finally, as though the console wasn't complicated enough, we now have a console routing message monitor that will provide you with debugging information. There are some useful parameters that will allow you to force off a user who was in console mode but claims that their console is "hung." The documentation on this is too long to go into here, but for those of you who really have a need to tinker, check out the CORCMD command. 

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