Identification

Purpose of Hardware Deficiency Documentation

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Discussion

Section BC.3 of this manual is devoted to documentation of hardware shortcomings of the GE-645 computer system which lead to awkward or difficult system programs, or must be "programmed around" in some sense in order to implement Multics. The purpose of these sections is not condemnation, but rather to document difficulties that have been encountered so that it is clear which aspects of a program's design are fundamental to Multics and which aspects are ad hoc solutions to not-very-general problems. As hardware deficiencies are corrected, these sections provide "back pointers" to routines which can be removed, simplified, or upgraded, perhaps by someone other than the designer.