

VAX Facts for Hacks

...continued from front page

a small amount of space to work with, it can be easily be done with a litte house-keeping.

To see just how much space you are actually taking up, in the root (ie SYS\$LOGIN) directory of your account, at the \$ prompt type:

```
DIR [...] /size/total
```

This will provide you with space usage for each subdirectory (if any) as well as the grand total for your account.

First of all there is MAIL. It takes up space. There, I said it. DELETE your unwanted messages. Type in DIR to get a listing, then the number of the message to read it (one last time), then DEL to kill it off. A very easy way to lose those unwanted pieces of correspondence is to type:

```
DEL 1-6, 8, 10, 12-37
```

This will do what you think it should do. After you have done this, and kept only the ones you really want to keep, type in PURGE/RECLAIM. This will remove the messages from the mail folder, and recover the space they once occupied. To further the effort, you would type in COMPRESS at the MAIL> prompt. This will consolidate the remaining messages, and create a file called MAIL.OLD. You should delete this file once you have exited mail. I am willing to bet that there would be a drastic reduction in the size of your MAIL.MAI file.

Second of all, there are files that exist in your directory that you don't need anymore. I'm talking about temporary and/or intermediate files created by certain applications that get used once and can then can be discarded. Compiler .LIS files are one instance. LaTeX in particular is notorious for doing this. Among others, it will generate .LIS, .AUX, .TOC, .DVI, .DVI-JEP, and .LN3 files that, once the process is completed, have no earthly use other than to clutter up your account. DELETE them. Write a groovy DCL file that automates the process. Contact the Computer Centre, they may already have such a .COM file.

Thirdly, there are probably more versions of your files in your account than you need. Unlike MS-DOS which only allows you one copy of a particular file, VMS is more forgiving, and lets you keep three (maybe more) versions of a file. After some serious editing, you might have in your directory (use DIR/SIZE):

```

THESIS.DOC;3 152
THESIS.DOC;2 52
THESIS.DOC;1 15
    
```

If you don't care to keep previous versions (perhaps check the date first!), type in PURGE. This will remove all but the most recent version. Want to keep a backup copy? I don't really blame you. Try PURGE/KEEP=2. You could even try PURGE/CONFIRM. This will prompt you each time a superfluous file is about to become bit-dust.

Lastly, for those of you who want to work with only a small net (pun unintentional), or none at all, there are these two commands:

```

set directory/version_limit=2 [USERNAME...]
set file/version_limit=2 [USERNAME...]**
    
```

The first command will only allow 2 versions of any new files that will be created from that point on, and the second will set a version limit on already existing files to 2 in number. Neither will reduce the number of versions of the files in your account. You must PURGE or DELETE to do that.

Future articles in this series will include:

Mail etiquette, local and network
Neat and spiffy forgotten VAX Utilities
Is Big Brother really watching you?
Your very own TPU!

For further enlightenment contact the UPEI Computer Centre

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