6.0R Changes that Affect the General User

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In September of 1988, Project Athena installed the **6.0C** release of its workstation software on all public workstations in the Athena environment. Project Athena will install the **6.0R** release on all public workstations during the first weeks of November. This new release contains fixes to bugs found in the **6.0C** release.

This document describes those **6.0R** changes that may affect Athena's general user community. If you are a systems hacker, you may also want to look at the **6.0R** release document written by Athena's System Development Group. See the final section of this document for more information about that document.

The changes listed below are those that are likely to affect the general user.

- The *mh* mail system used to destroy your mail if you tried to incorporate it when your file system storage was over quota. The system now saves mail messages that cannot be incorporated, and you can incorporate them after you taken care of the quota problem. See Section 2 of this document for more information.
- Your workstation will not "hang" indefinitely should it lose contact with the server machine that contains your file system. See Section 3 of this document for more information.
- In the past, the *Network File System* occasionally destroyed files that the user was editing by rewriting them as empty files (zero length files). This bug has been fixed. For more information, see the System Development Group's **6.0R** release document referred to above.

1 Making Sure You Get the Updated Programs

Login to a workstation and use the *echo* command to examine the value of your **$path** variable:

```
athena% echo $path
```

The command displays something like the following:

```
. /mit/username/vaxbin /srvd/patch /usr/athena /bin/athena
/usr/bin/X /usr/new /usr /new/mh/bin /usr/ucb /bin /usr/bin
```

where *username* is your username.

If the first part of your **$path** value looks like this:

```
.  /mit/username/vaxbin  /srvd/patch
```

or this:

```
.  /mit/username/rtbin  /srvd/patch
```

you don't need to read the rest of this section. Otherwise, continue reading.

If you are still reading, your **$path** variable is different because you have an old version of the Project Athena initialization files *.login* and *.cshrc*, or because you have customized these files in such a way that you no longer get the Athena default **$path** value.

In either case, you need to copy Project Athena's prototype user *.login* and *.cshrc* files into your home directory. Proceed as follows:

```
athena% cd                                   <-- Move to your home directory.
athena% mv .login .login.old                 <-- Save your old dot files in case
athena% mv .cshrc .cshrc.old                     something goes wrong.
athena% cp /usr/prototype_user/.login .      <-- Copy the new files.
athena% cp /usr/prototype_user/.cshrc .
```

Now logout and login again, and you're in business. If you have customized your previous dot files, examine the new dot files carefully. Place your customizations in *.login.mine* and *.cshrc.mine* files, and they'll be run from within the standard dot files each time you login.

2 The New Version of the inc Command

The *inc* command now handles file system quota problems correctly. If your file system doesn't have room to store all of the incoming mail, the *mh* mail system saves the mail that won't fit. You can *inc* it later when you have made room for it.

What follows is an example of how the new *inc* works:

```
athena% inc
Incorporating new mail into inbox...

  40+ 10/19 cowhand@athena.mit.  Party invite!
  41  empty
inc: can't write to 41: I/O error      <-- inc has exceeded your quota.
```

You remove some unneeded files, then try again:

```
athena% inc
Incorporating new mail into inbox...

  41+ 10/19 sylv@athena.mit. Blah, blah, blah that test.
  42  10/19 rcat@athena.mit. Where are those books you borrowed?
```

For more information about how to manage your file system quota, check out the document *Athena Accounts*. You can read this document as follows:

```
athena% attach athenadoc
athena% cd /mit/athenadoc
athena% viewdoc athena.accounts.PS &
```

3 No More Workstation Hangings (Well, Almost)

In the previous release of the system, your workstation would "hang" anytime it lost contact with your file system's server machine. You could pound on the keyboard all you wanted, but to no avail. You couldn't even logout. The workstation would unjam only when the file server machine returned to the network. That could happen in five minutes, or in five hours, or in five days.

This isn't the case anymore. If the workstation and the file server lose contact now, the workstation tries to recontact the fileserver for ***five minutes***. The workstation still hangs, **but only for this period of time**. If contact is not established after five minutes, the workstation gives up and unjams itself. If you are on a Vaxstation, the workstation will display a **black bar error message** telling you what's going on. **RT workstations do not display this message.**

If the workstation hangs when you are trying to write a file to your personal filesystem, you need to save the file locally and mail it to yourself. For more information, see page 12 of the document *Essential Emacs*. To read *Essential Emacs* online, proceed as follows:

```
athena% attach athenadoc
athena% cd /mit/athenadoc
athena% viewdoc emacs.ess.PS &
```

4 For More Information About 6.0R

If you want to read about the release's system-level changes (and there are a lot of them), use the **attach** command to attach the *release* locker, move to the directory */mit/release/6.0*, and use the *viewdoc* program to examine the contents of the file *sysnotes.PS*:

```
athena% attach release
athena% cd /mit/release/6.0
athena% viewdoc sysnotes.PS &
```

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