

From: ron Fri Sep 28 13:59:45 1984

To: cutler

Subject: Re: z80ctl

Cc: xenix

From: Ron Light at x-2364

Sent: Fri Sep 28 13:59:28 1984

> From: cutler Fri Sep 28 13:03:58 1984

> To: ron

> Subject: z80ctl

>

- > Good to hear that you feel you will still make it. I think
- > that byte for byte on floppy is very important. That is
- > what a time sharing system is all about; one user doing serial
- > while the other user is doing floppy. They should have no
- > interdependencies other than response time and memory limitations.
- >

I understand your design thinking, but some times it's impossible to implement non-dependent routines. In the case of z80ctl, I am having a very hard time of keeping the hard and floppy disk interrupt handlers from fighting over the dma and crashing the system. z80ctl, as it stands now, is functional and is faster than it has ever been in the past, but boy, is it ever a piece of hacked up sh*t.

<FLAME ON>

We (you, I, John, Frank, etc) wanted to re-write the code very much so that it was easier to work with, written properly, and worked reliably. We have achieved none of these. We have succeeded in taking something that should never have been allowed to leave Tandy in the first place, and we've made it work faster. We were not able to re-write this code because of the many decisions that were made, all of which revolved around getting the job done as quickly as possible because merch decided to release the lcc for Christmas. These decisions made by merch, have in the past, set the schedule dates for which our software is to be released. This is just one of the countless thousands of times that it has happened, and I see no reason why it won't continue to be this way in the future. Where are the schedule dates we're supposed to set. They are non-existent, they've always been, and they always will be. Every time that a software project is started off, there "seems" to be plenty of time. The path that the project takes is so predictable that I can give you an exact flow chart of what its history will be. All of us are tired of this. It is the main reason that many of the people left Tandy to begin with. As long as the target dates are being set by someone other than the people involved with the project, there is going to be a problem. Nothing has been done it insure that this is being done. I am not blaming you, but don't be surprised if another mass exodus occurs from Tandy. There are many grumbings now. I am sorry to bitch, but I really feel bad about the crap that we're putting out. Tandy COULD be the leader with IBM trying to catch up with us, instead of the other way around.

<FLAME OFF>