

OS/78 System Release Notes

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This document describes the differences between OS/78 V2 and OS/78 V3. These differences consist of new and revised features for V3 and corrections of known software problems.

SUPERSESSSION/UPDATE INFORMATION: This is a new manual.

OPERATING SYSTEM AND VERSION: OS/78 V3

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1.0 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OS/78 V2 AND V3

- V3 supports RX02 and RL01 devices.
- V3 has two page handler support in Commercial BASIC V7A. (This feature uses about 6% of the program space available for program execution.)
- V3 FORTRAN Language supports LQP printers and SLUx/VLUx handlers (x= 2 or 3).
- V3 SET command is enhanced to allow static replacement of device handlers in the OS/78 monitor.
- V3 has two new commands:
 - BOOT - to boot from RX01 and RX02 system devices to RL01 system disks and vice-versa
 - FORMAT - to allow formatting of RL01 disk packs for drives 0 and 1
- V3 has seven new logical device names:
 - RXAx - to support both RX01 and RX02 drives (x=0,1,2,3)
 - VXA0 - to use above 32K as a non-system pseudo-device
 - SLU2, - for hardcopy terminal on the SLU ports
SLU3
 - VLU2, - for video terminals on the SLU ports
VLU3
 - RLxx - to support system and non-system RL01 disks (xx= 0A, 0B, 0C, 1A, 1B, 1C)
- V3 spooler symbiont (for DECstation 78's only) has been enhanced for RX02 devices. It supports a parallel port and line printer (serial printer support is not included).
- V3 RESEQ.BA utility has been largely modified and enhanced to resequence up to 500 program lines for BASIC programs. ON (exp) statements are now handled properly.
- V3 HELP has been modified to reflect all command changes/additions. Each time the utility is invoked, HELP automatically issues an escape sequence to set VT100 terminals to the VT52 mode and clear the screen.
- V3 has a new standard monitor. Configured to satisfy most users' needs, it is easily modified by the new SET HANDLER command.
- The DUPLICATE command has two new options:
 - /S - for single-density formatting (RX01)
 - /D - for double-density formatting (RX02)

NOTE: These options implement hardware directives that work only on RX02 double-density drives, and cannot be used for RX01 (single density) drives.

- On A machines, five BASIC files can be open at one time.
- The demo is started as follows:

```
.SUB DEMO/H/T
```

2.0 MAINTENANCE

- V3 has been patched at the source and binary levels to repair all bugs in V2. No patches are required before using V3.

3.0 RESTRICTIONS

- The default handlers for the standard distributed system are configured for DECstation/78's.

CAUTION

If you have a DECstation 88/70 configuration (4 RX02's), you must issue the following command before using the second diskette controller (RXA2: and RXA3:):

```
SET HANDLER RX78C<RX28C
```

to get the correct diskette handlers in your OS/78 monitor. The command:

```
SET HANDLER/L
```

verifies that the replacement has taken place.

- The VT-100 terminals on the DECstation 88 systems should be run at 4800 baud only in the normal scroll mode.
- If a handler is invoked for which no physical device exists, the monitor will "hang" (attempt to access the non-existent device). Recovery consists of halting and rebooting the system.
- Although SLU2 and SLU3 can be used in place of LPT for most functions, serial printers are not supported for BATCH LOG.

