Auto-MPF/VSE Fact Sheet

Auto-MPF/VSE is an automatic message processing facility (MPF) for use with the z/VSE operating system. It uses the console facilities of VSE to provide message management and console automation for messages sent to VSE consoles.

The automation features of Auto-MPF provides support for the execution of user written REXX procedures to process console messages and operator commands. Data variables can be shared between REXX procedures to allow complex user processing of events such as automating system startup at IPL and system shutdown.

Auto-MPF allows user definitions for color coding console messages. Message appearance on a console may be controlled by setting message color, highlighting and intensity attributes. Or for undesired messages, they may be suppressed from appearing on a console at all. If the same response is routinely provided for a message, the Auto-MPF autoreply facility may be used to automatically respond to the message, freeing the operator to perform more demanding tasks. Extremely important messages may be held on the console display until manually deleted by the operator.

In addition, Auto-MPF supports user specified rules to control message routing. Messages may be routed to any active console. For those messages containing cryptic numeric codes or unclear instructions, Auto-MPF allows the dynamic replacement of the message text before the message appears on a console. Or, additional lines of text may be added to an existing system or application program message.

Auto-MPF collects statistics about messages and the actions it takes on messages. It also supports the definition and collection of user defined statistics. The gathered information may be printed and used in making decisions about how system messages are managed.

Message Presentation

Color greatly enhances the appearance of a console. z/VSE provides expanded support for color consoles. Unfortunately, it still presents all normal console messages in green.

Auto-MPF may be used to dynamically color code and highlight messages based upon user selected criteria. The color of a message may be set to blue, red, pink, turquoise, yellow or white. Or it may be left the default green.

Message highlighting may be used to set additional presentation attributes. Highlighting may be set to blink, reverse or underline. Or it may be left in the default, normal highlight.

Using a consistent message coloring scheme allows operators to understand what is occurring in the system, with a quick glance at the console. Similarly colored messages from a specific partition or subsystem are easily related in the operators mind without having to read the text of each console line. It quickly becomes obvious where a message originated and how important it is.

Message Suppression

Auto-MPF provides the ability to dynamically suppress unwanted messages from the console. The suppressed messages do not show on the operator console but are written to the hard copy file and may be reviewed in console redisplay mode.

Generous use of the message suppression facility can greatly slow down the rate at which messages scroll off of the console screen. The z/VSE console layout enhances readability but the panel title, PF key legend, and status lines reduce the number of messages that can be displayed on a single screen. Message suppression can be used to offset the effect of the reduced number of lines.

Automatic Console Reply

Often, a data center has production jobs that issue the same messages and require the same operator response day after day. The computer operator has to spend time watching for the console message that tells him its time to type in that same old reply again today. Auto-MPF can be instructed to watch for the triggering message and automatically provide the response. The operator never has to waste time on the redundant reply again.

Message Routing

Auto-MPF can be used to route specific messages to specific consoles. Messages may be sent to any Interactive User Interface console or to a CMS user console. For example, this support may be used to route tape mount messages to a tape operator console. The MPFROUTE operator command can be used to alter the routing codes that are received by a console. User consoles may be altered to receive all console messages.

Text Replacement/Addition

Auto-MPF allows the dynamic replacement of message text before a message appears on a console. Cryptic messages can be replaced with more operator friendly message text. Also, additional text lines may be added to an existing message without altering the original text. A single message may consist of up to twelve lines of text.

Rexx Automation Support

User REXX procedures can be used to provide site specific processing of messages or even define new operator commands. The REXX procedures execute within the Auto-MPF Server partition and are provided with variables containing data about the triggering event. All support provided by VSE/REXX can be utilized by the user written procedures.

Operating Environment

Auto-MPF requires VSE/ESA version 2.1 or above operating system. No other software or specific hardware is required, although color consoles are recommended.

Auto-MPF uses only standard, documented system interfaces. No code hooks or program renames are used.

Try Auto-MPF/VSE in Your Installation

Auto-MPF is available for local installation and testing at no charge. You are encouraged to use it before deciding if it meets your requirements. If it fails to completely please you, remove it from your computer system and pay nothing. The trial test system and documentation may be obtained from our web site.

Product Support

This product was created by Arney Computer Systems. Support, should you ever need it, is provided 24 hours a day by expert technical representatives that are thoroughly familiar with the product, as well as VSE operations and internals.

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