Mesa Debugger Documentation

Version 4.0 May 1978

The facilities documented here are the workings of an interactive Mesa debugger. It has been designed to support source level debugging; it provides facilities that allow users to set breakpoints, trace program execution, display the runtime state, and interpret Mesa statements.

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Preface

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The facilities documented here are the workings of an interactive Mesa debugger. It has been designed to support source level debugging; it provides facilities that allow users to set breakpoints, trace program execution, display the runtime state, and interpret Mesa statements. Due to the space required to provide all of these capabilities, the Mesa debugger lives a core swap away from the program being debugged.

This documentation is divided into six parts. Section 1 is an overview, Section 2 explains the debugger's input conventions and contains a summary of the command tree structure, Section 3 explains the semantics of each command, Section 4 explains the debugger interpreter, Section 5 explains the debugger's output conventions, and Section 6 explains the signal and error messages. The *Mesa User's Handbook* contains further details on how to obtain, install, and use the debugger.

The Mesa debugger is intended for use by experienced programmers already familiar with Mesa. All suggestions as to the form, correctness, and understandability of this document should be sent to your support group. All of us involved in the development of Mesa welcome feedback and suggestions on debugger development.

The debugging and runtime facilities differ in their relationship to the user program. When you invoke Mesa, the *Mesa Executive* is the code necessary for your program to communicate with the debugger and resides along with the user program. It also serves the function of an executive when the Mesa system is first started (see the *Mesa System Documentation* for further details). The *debugger* resides in a different core image which is loaded when called for (in very much the same way as Swat). The *debugger nub* is used for installing the debugger and primitive debugging operations (Section 3 contains further details).

Invoking the debugger

At system start-up, the *Mesa Executive* is given control in a context from which all the various system utilities are visible. At this point there are several ways of invoking the debugger. The straightforward method is to issue the Debug command to the *Mesa Executive*; this brings you into the debugger, ready to execute a command. If you wish to enter the debugger at any time (i.e., while your program is running), \uparrow SWAT interrupts your program. (Note that if you really get in trouble \uparrow SHIFT-SWAT brings you into Swat, at which point you may boot the machine and reenter the debugger. Section 6 contains further details on bootloading the debugger.)

In the course of running your program, you may enter the debugger for several other reasons, including an uncaught signal generated by your program, execution of a breakpoint/tracepoint that has been placed in your program, or a fatal system error that forces your program to abort (Section 6 contains further details on the messages displayed when entering the debugger in these situations).

Talking to the debugger

The user interface to the debugger is controlled by a command processor which invokes a collection of procedures for managing breakpoints, examining user data symbolically, and setting the context in which user symbols are looked up. The command syntax is tree structured and each character is extended to the maximal unique string which it specifies.

Whenever an invalid character is typed, a ? is displayed and you are returned to command level. Typing a ? at any point during command selection prompts you with the collection of valid characters (in upper case) and their associated maximal strings (in lower case) and returns you to command level. Whenever a valid command is recognized, you are prompted for parameters (Section 2 contains further details on the input conventions). Typing DEL at any point during command selection or parameter collection returns you to the command processor; typing +DEL at any point during command execution aborts the command.

When initialized, the debugger creates three windows: the DEBUG.TYPESCRIPT window (which becomes a log of the debugging session), a source window (which is loaded with the source file when breakpoints are set or the source location is requested), and a local copy of the MESA.TYPESCRIPT window (for easy reference). These windows may be manipulated by installing the window executive (WINDEX) with your debugger (see the Mesa User's Handbook for further details).

Current context

The interpretation of symbols (including displaying variables, setting breakpoints, and calling procedures) is based on the notion of the current context; it consists of the current frame and its corresponding module, configuration, and process. The symbol lookup algorithm used by the debugger is as follows: it searches the runtime stack of procedure frames in LIFO order by examining first the local frame of each procedure (and then its associated global frame) following return links, until the root of the process is encountered.

When you first enter the debugger, the context is set to the frame of whatever process is currently running (i.e., to the *Mesa Executive*, if you enter via the Debug command; to your program, if it is interrupted or at a breakpoint). There are commands which make it simple to change between contexts (SEt Context), to display the current context (CUrrent context), and to examine the current dynamic state (Display Stack).

Leaving the debugger

Once you are in the debugger, you may execute any number of commands that allow you to examine (and change) the state of your program. When you are finished, you may decide either to continue execution of your program (Proceed), terminate execution of your program (Quit), or end the debugging session completely and return to the *Alto Executive* (Kill session). Section 3 contains further details on these commands.

Section 2: Input Conventions

The input conventions of the debugger's command processor are summarized below, along with the tree for the command syntax. The command processor prompt character is ">" for the *debugger* and "/" for the *debugger nub* (actually, the character is repeated once for each nesting level of the debugger). Whenever a valid command is recognized, the debugger prompts for the parameters associated with that command (if any are required) according to the conventions described below. Typing DEL terminates the command; ? gives a list of valid commands. When a command requires a [confirm] (CR), the debugger enters wait-for-DEL mode if an invalid character is typed.

String input

Identifiers are sequences of characters beginning with an upper or lower case letter and terminating with a space (SP) or a carriage return (CR). Type names are accepted as either modulename.type or simply a valid type name terminated by CR. Source text and conditions (for setting breakpoints) must be terminated by CR since spaces (SP) are significant in these strings. The debugger echoes a delimiting character of its own choice in order to minimize loss of information from the display.

Numeric input

A numeric parameter is a sequence of characters terminated by SP or CR which is processed by a *very simple* expression parser; it accepts constants in either octal or decimal and the operators +, -, *, /. Evaluation is strictly left-to-right with no precedence or parentheses allowed. All forms of numeric constants allowed by the Mesa syntax are accepted. The default radix is octal for addresses (and input to octal commands) and decimal for everything else (unless otherwise specified in Section 3). Use the "D" suffix to force decimal interpretation and "B" to force octal.

Default values

The debugger saves the last values used as parameters to all of the commands; these values may be recalled by the escape key (ESC). The following parameters have default values which may be used or inspected by typing ESC: octal read address, octal write address, ascii read address, module, configuration, root configuration, variable, procedure, program, array, array index, string, string index, type, source, condition, expression, process, address, and frame. After the default parameter is displayed by the debugger, the standard input editing characters may be used to modify it. The ESC values for octal read/write addresses (as well as string and array indices) are incremented after each use. Typing ESC to the command processor uses the last command as the default command (i.e., you receive the prompt for the parameters, if any, for the previously executed command).

Editing characters

The standard editing characters accepted as input are: CONTROL- A, CONTROL- H, or BS to delete a character; CONTROL- W or CONTROL- Q to delete a word; CONTROL- X to delete a line; CONTROL- R to retype a line; and CONTROL- V to quote the next character.

Command Tree

This is the command tree structure for the Mesa debugger. Capitalized letters are typed by the user (in either upper or lower case); the lower case substrings are echoed by the command processor. Each command is described in Section 3 along with its parameters.

AScii read ATtach Image Symbols Break Entry Module Procedure Xit CAse off on CLear All Breaks Entry traces Traces Xit traces Break Entry Break Trace Module Break Trace Trace Xit Break Trace COremap CUrrent context Display Configuration Eval-stack Frame GlobalFrameTable Module Process Oueue Stack Variable Find variable **Interpret Array** Ca11 De-reference Expression Pointer String 0

Kill session List Breaks Configurations Processes Traces Octal Clear break Read Set break Write Proceed Ouit Reset context SEt Configuration Module context Octal context Process context Root configuration STart Trace All Entries Xits Entry Module Procedure Xit Userscreen Worry off on

-- comment

The debugger provides facilities for managing breakpoints, examining user data symbolically, setting the context in which the user symbols are looked up, directing program control, low-level utilities, and a debugger nub used for installing (and debugging) the debugger itself. The semantics of the commands are summarized below (Section 2 contains further details regarding input conventions and Section 5 contains details of output conventions).

Breakpoints

The break/trace commands apply to modules and procedures that are known within the current context. All breakpoints/tracepoints may optionally be conditional. If you type a SP after the module (or procedure) name, you receive a prompt for the condition; if you type a CR it terminates the command input (in the case of entry/exit breaks) or prompts for the source (in the case of text breaks). All of the breakpoint commands accept a valid GlobalFrameHandle as input when prompted for a module name.

The three valid formats of a condition are: variable relation variable, variable relation number, and number (multiple proceeds). Conditions include relations in the set $\{\langle, \rangle, \exists, \#, \langle \exists, \rangle =\}$. The variables are interpreted expressions and are therefore looked up in the current context. However, if you are in a module context and wish to specify a local variable of the procedure you are setting the breakpoint in, proc.var may be used.

You may set break or tracepoints at the following locations in your program: entry (to a procedure), exit (from a procedure), and at the closest statement boundary preceding a specific text location within a procedure or module body. When a break/trace is encountered during execution, the debugger types the name of the body being broken, the text corresponding to that code location, and the address of the currently active frame; it also positions the source window with the breakpoint source at the top.

Break Entry [proc, condition]

inserts a breakpoint (optionally conditional) in the procedure **proc** at the first instruction after the code which stores the input parameters in **proc**'s frame (see Break Procedure for further details).

Break Module [module, condition, source]

sets a breakpoint (optionally conditional) in the program body named module at the *beginning* of the statement defined by the line containing the *first* instance of the string source. The search for source commences at the beginning of the module and extends to the end-of-file (see Break Procedure for further details).

Break Procedure [proc, condition, source]

sets a breakpoint (optionally conditional) in the procedure body named proc at the *beginning* of the statement containing the *first* instance of the string source. The search for source commences at the beginning of the text for proc and extends to the end-of-file. When the breakpoint is set, the indicator $\langle \rangle$ appears to the left of the source where

the breakpoint has actually been set (i.e., IF foo THEN <> some statement;).

When a breakpoint is encountered during execution, a nested instance of the debugger is created and control transfers to the command processor, from which you may access any of the facilities described in this document. To continue execution of your Mesa program, execute the Proceed command; to stop execution of your program, execute the Quit command (see the Breakpoints explanation for further details).

Break Xit [proc, condition]

inserts a breakpoint at the *last* instruction of the procedure body for proc (see Break Procedure for further details). Note: this catches all RETURN statements.

CLear All Breaks [confirm]

clears all breakpoints.

removes all entry traces in module.

CLear All Traces [confirm]

clears all tracepoints.

CLear All Xit traces [module]

removes all exit traces in module.

CLear Break [proc, source]

converse of Break Procedure.

CLear Entry Break [proc]

converse of Break Entry.

CLear Entry Trace [proc]

converse of Trace Entry.

- CLear Module Break [module, source] converse of Break Module.
- CLear Module Trace [module, source] converse of Trace Module.
- CLear Trace [proc, source] converse of Trace Procedure.

CLear All Entry traces [module]

Debugger commands

CLear Xit Break [proc]

converse of Break Xit.

CLear Xit Trace [proc]

converse of Trace Xit.

List Breaks [confirm]

lists all breakpoints, their type (entry, exit, source), and the procedure and/or module name in which they are found. For source breakpoints, the source text is also displayed.

List Traces [confirm]

lists all tracepoints (cf. List Breaks).

Trace All Entries [module]

sets a trace on the entry point to each procedure in module (cf. Trace Entry).

Trace All Xits [module]

sets a trace on the exit point of each procedure in module (cf. Trace Xit).

Trace Entry [proc, condition]

sets a trace on the entry point to the procedure proc. When an entry tracepoint is encountered, proc's parameters are displayed and you are prompted with ">" (see Trace Procedure for further details).

Trace Module [module, condition, source]

sets a trace in the program body named module at the *beginning* of the statement defined by the line containing the *first* instance of the string source. The search for source commences at the beginning of the module and extends to the end-of-file (see Trace Procedure for further details).

Trace Procedure [proc, condition, source]

sets a trace (optionally conditional) in the procedure body named proc at the *beginning* of the statement defined by the line containing the *first* instance of the string source. The search for source commences at the beginning of the text for proc and extends to the end-of-file.

When the tracepoint is reached, you may respond to the ">" prompt with the standard replies (cf. Display Stack) for listing the parameters, return values, or local variables. In order to continue execution, execute the Q (or q) subcommand. In addition to the standard replies, you may also type B (or b) which creates a nested instance of the debugger and sends control to the command processor (as in breakpoints), from which you may access any of the facilities described in this document (see the Breakpoints explanation for further details).

Trace Xit [proc, condition]

sets a trace on the exit of the procedure proc. When an exit tracepoint is encountered, proc's return values are displayed and you are prompted with ">" (see Trace Procedure for further details).

Display runtime state

The scope of variable lookup is limited to the current context (unless otherwise specified below to be the current configuration). What this means is the following: if the current context is a local frame, the debugger examines the local frame of each procedure in the call stack (and its associated global frame) following return links until the root of the process is encountered; if the current context is a module (global) context, just the global frame is searched. If the variable you wish to examine is not within the current context, there are commands provided which change between contexts. Upper/lower case distinction is not observed in looking up variables (you may change this default setting with the CAse command); however, case shifts are always significant in source strings used in setting breakpoints.

In all commands (unless otherwise specified below), variables are simple identifiers as distinguished from expressions that are evaluated by the debugger interpreter. As the interpreter becomes more fully integrated into the debugger, interpreted expressions will be valid for all commands, and the Interpret commands will be removed from the debugger's command processor.

AScii read [address, n]

displays n (decimal) characters starting at address (octal).

CAse off [confirm]

ignores the distinction between upper and lower case during symbol lookup. This is the default state when you enter the debugger, except that upper and lower case are always significant in source strings for breakpoints (see Display runtime state explanation).

CAse on [confirm]

observes the distinction between upper and lower case during symbol-lookup. Once set, this state persists until you execute a CAse off command.

Display Configuration

displays the name of the current configuration followed by the module name, corresponding global frame address, and instance name (if one exists) of each module in the current configuration.

Display Frame [address]

displays the contents of a frame, where address is its octal address (useful if you have several instances of the same module.)

Display GlobalFrameTable

displays the module name and corresponding global frame address, pc, codebase, and gfi of all entries in the global frame table.

Display Module [module]

displays the contents of a global frame, where module is the name of a program in the current configuration.

Display Process [process]

is a specialized version of Display Variable that displays interesting things about a process. This command shows you the ProcessHandle and the frame associated with process, and whether the process is waiting on a monitor or condition variable (waiting ML or waiting CV). Then you are prompted with a ">" and you enter process subcommand mode. A response of N displays the next process in the array of psbs; S displays the source text; R displays the root frame of the process; P displays the priority of the process; and Q or DEL terminates the display and returns you to the command processor. Note that either a variable of type PROCESS (returned as the result of a FORK) or an octal ProcessHandle is acceptable as input to this command (note that process is an interpreted expression).

Display Queue [id]

displays all the processes waiting on the queue associated with id. For each process, you enter process subcommand mode. The semantics of the subcommands remain the same as in Display Process, with the exception of N, which in this case follows the link in the process. This command accepts either a condition variable, a monitor lock, a monitored record, a monitored program, or an octal pointer (as in a pointer to the ReadyList). Note that id is an interpreted expression; if id is simply an octal number, you are asked whether it is a condition variable in order for the debugger to know where to find the head of the queue (i.e., Display Queue: 175034B, condition variable? [Y or N]).

Display Stack

follows down the procedure call stack. At each frame, the corresponding body's name and frame address are displayed. You are prompted with a ">". A response of V displays all the frame's variables; P displays the input parameters; R displays the return values (those which are "named" in the RETURNS part of the body declaration); N moves to the next frame; J, n(10) jumps down the stack n (decimal) levels (note that if n is greater than the number of levels it can advance, the debugger tells you how far it was able to go); S displays the source text; and Q or DEL terminates the display and returns you to the command processor. When the current context is a global frame, the Display Stack subcommands J and N are disabled. When the debugger cannot find the symbol table for a frame on the call stack, only the J, N, and Q subcommands are allowed. For a complete description of the output format, see Section 5.

Display Variable [id]

displays the contents of the variable named id, limiting the scope of its search to the current context.

Find Variable [id]

displays the contents and module location of the variable named id, searching through all the modules in the current configuration.

Interpret Array [array, index, n]

displays the value(s) of n (decimal) elements starting with array[index].

Interpret Call [proc]

calls the procedure proc, after prompting for parameters one word at a time. The parameters must be constants (the default radix is decimal) or simple identifiers. Note that no type checking is done.

Interpret De-reference [ptr]

chases the ptr one level. Note: ptr must be a pointer type.

Interpret Expression [exp]

evaluates exp using the simple numeric parser described in Section 2 and prints out the value in octal and decimal. This can be used for quick calculations or for octal to decimal conversions.

Interpret Pointer [address, type]

symbolically displays (according to the type) the value(s) stored at location address. The type should be the type of the data, rather than the type of the pointer; it may be of the form modulename.type. In searching for type, if the modulename is omitted, the debugger first examines the current local frame and then the corresponding global frame and its included modules.

Interpret String [string, index, n]

displays n (decimal) characters of string beginning at index.

Interpret @ [var]

returns the address of var.

Current context

The current context is used to determine the domain for symbol lookup. There are commands provided which make it simple to display the current context, to display all the configurations and processes, to restore the starting context, and to change between contexts.

CUrrent context

displays the name and corresponding global frame address (and instance name if one exists) of the current module, the name of the current configuration, and the **ProcessHandle** for the current process.

List Configurations [confirm]

lists the name and instance name (if one exists) of each configuration that is loaded, beginning with the last configuration loaded. If you wish to see more information about a particular configuration, use the Display Configuration command.

List Processes [confirm]

lists all processes by **ProcessHandle** and frame. If you wish to see more information about a particular process, use the **Display Process** command.

Reset context [confirm]

restores the context which this instance of the debugger had upon entering the session.

SEt Configuration [config]

sets the current configuration to be config, where config is nested within the root configuration that is current. This command is useful for "jumping" further into the nested block structure of a configuration.

SEt Module context [module]

changes the context to the program module whose name is module (within the current configuration). If there is more than one instance of module, the debugger lists the frame address of each instance and does *not* change the context. You may use the SEt Octal context command to set the context to a frame address.

SEt Octal context [address]

changes the context to the frame whose address is address (cf. SEt Module context). This is useful when there are several instances of the same module.

SEt Process context [process]

sets the current process context to be process and sets the corresponding frame context to be the frame associated with process. Upon entering the debugger for the first time, the process context is set to the currently running process. Note that either a variable of type PROCESS (returned as the result of a FORK) or an octal ProcessHandle is acceptable as input to this command.

SEt Root configuration [config]

sets the current configuration to be config, where config is at the outermost level (of its configuration). This command is sufficient for simple configurations of only one level. It is also useful in getting you to the outermost level of nested configurations, from which you may move "in" using SEt Configuration.

Program control

There are commands provided which allow you to determine the flow of control between the debugger and your program.

Proceed [confirm]

continues execution of the program (i.e., proceeds from a breakpoint, resumes from an uncaught signal).

Quit [confirm]

returns control to the dynamically enclosing instance of the debugger (if there is one). Executing a Quit has the effect of cutting the runtime stack back to the nearest enclosing instance of the debugger. Quitting from the outermost level of the debugger returns you to the *Mesa Executive*; Quitting from the *Mesa Executive* returns you to the *Alto Executive*.

STart [address]

starts execution of the module whose frame is address. Unlike the language START statement, no parameters may be passed.

Userscreen [confirm]

swaps to the user world for a look at the screen. Control is returned to the debugger with the SWAT key.

Low-level facilities

There are additional commands provided which allow the user to examine (and modify) what is going on in the underlying system.

ATtach Image [filename]

specifies the filename to use as an image file when the debugger has been bootloaded. It is useful when the user core image has been clobbered. The default extension for filename is ".image".

ATtach Symbols [globalframe, filename]

attaches the globalframe to filename. This is useful for allowing you to bring in additional symbols for debugging purposes not initially anticipated. The default extension for filename is ".bcd".

COremap [confirm]

prints the following information (in octal) about the segments currently in memory: memory page number, memory address, file page number (if it is a file), number of pages, state {busy, free, data, file}, serial number (if it is a file), class {code, other}, access {Read, Write, Append}, lock. If the class is code, the module name is also given. Typing +DEL terminates the printout.

Display Eval-stack

displays the contents of the Mesa evaluation stack (in octal), useful for low-level debugging or for displaying the (un-named) return values of a procedure which has been broken at its exit point. This command is only useful when reaching octal breakpoints

because the eval-stack is empty between statements.

Kill session [confirm]

ends your debugging session, cleans up the state as much as possible, and returns to the Alto Executive. Use this command instead of SHIFT-SWAT or the boot button to leave the debugger.

Octal Clear break [globalframe, bytepc]

converse of Octal Set break. (Note: these *octal* commands are low-level debugging aids for system maintainers who must diagnose the higher-level debugging aids and system.)

Octal Read [address, n]

displays the n (decimal) locations starting at address.

Octal Set break [globalframe, bytepc]

sets a breakpoint at the byte offset bytepc in the code segment of the frame globalframe.

Octal Write [address, rhs]

stores rhs (octal) into the location address; the default for rhs is the current contents of address.

Worry on [confirm]

taking a breakpoint in worry mode brings you into the debugger with the user core image undisturbed (i.e., no cleanup procedures are invoked, no frames are allocated, and memory is left unchanged). All of the debugger commands are allowed, with the exception of Interpret Call, STart and Quit.

Worry off [confirm]

turns off worry mode (this is the default state upon entering the debugger).

-- [comment]

inserts a comment into the debugger's typescript file. Input is ignored after the dashes until a carriage return (CR) is typed.

invokes the *debugger nub* which prompts with a "//". See Debugger nub for further details about the capabilities of the nub.

Debugger nub

The *nub* is a part of the debugger that contains primitive facilities for debugging and installing the debugger as well as providing a minimal signal catcher and interrupt handler. It is possible to install a different version of the debugger to use for debugging the debugger itself (see a

member of the Mesa Group if you are interested in knowing more about how this works).

Typing $\uparrow D$ (to the command processor of the *debugger*) brings you into the *nub* with a "//" prompt. The following limited set of commands are available in the *nub*: Bitmap, Install, New, Octal Read, Octal Write, Proceed, Quit, and Start. The semantics of Bitmap, Install, and New are explained below; the other commands have already been explained above.

Bitmap [n]

reallocates the bitmap to n (decimal) pages. The default upon starting is about 50 pages.

Install [confirm]

installs the current core image as the debugger.

New [filcname]

is just like the language statement NEW.

Section 4: Debugger Interpreter

The Mesa debugger contains an interpreter that handles a subset of the Mesa language; it is useful for common operations such as assignments, dereferencing, indexing, field access, addressing, and simple type conversion. It is a powerful extension to the current debugger command language, as it allows you to more closely specify your variables while debugging, thus giving you more complete information with fewer keystrokes. A specific subset of the Mesa language is acceptable to the interpreter (see below for details on the grammar). Several new notations (abbreviations) have been introduced into the debugger interpreter grammar; note that these are not part of the Mesa language itself (valid only for debugging purposes).

Statement Syntax

Typing space (SP) to the command processor enables interpreting mode. At this point the debugger is ready to interpret any expression that is valid in the (debugger) grammar.

Multiple statements are separated by semicolons; the last statement on a line should be followed by a carriage return (CR). If the statement is a simple expression (not an assignment), the result is displayed after evaluation.

For example, to perform an assignment and print the result in one command, you would type foo \leftarrow exp; foo.

Loopholes

A more concise LOOPHOLE notation has been introduced to make it easy to display arbitrary data in any format. The character "%" is used to denote LOOPHOLE[exp, type], with the expression on the left of the %, and the type on the right.

For example, the expression foo % short red Foo means LOOPHOLE the type of the variable foo to be a short red Foo and display its value.

Subscripting

There are two types of interval notation acceptable to the interpreter. The notation [a . . b] means start at index a and end at index b. The notation [a ! b] means start at index a and end at index (a+b-1).

For example, the expressions MEMORY[4..7] and MEMORY[4!4] both display the octal contents of memory locations 4 through 7. Note that the interval notation is only valid for display purposes, and therefore is not allowed as a LeftSide or embedded inside other expressions.

Module Qualification

To improve the performance of the interpreter, the \$ notation has been introduced to distinguish between module and record qualification. The character \$ indicates that the name on the left is a module, in which to look up the identifier or TYPE on the right. If a module cannot be found, it uses the name as a file (usually a definitions file). A valid octal frame address is also accepted as the left argument of **\$**.

For example, FSP\$TheHeap means look in the module FSP to find the value of the variable TheHeap. In dealing with variant records, be sure to specify the variant part of the record before the record name itself (ic., foo % short red FooDefs\$Foo, not foo % FooDefs\$short red Foo).

Type Expressions

The notation "@ type" is used to construct a POINTER TO type. This notation is used for constructing types in LOOPHOLES (ic., @foo will give you the type POINTER TO foo).

Sample Expressions

Here are some sample expressions which combine several of the rules into useful combinations:

If you were interested in seeing which procedure was associated with the third keyword of the menu belonging to a particular window called **myWindow**, you would type:

myWindow.menu.array[3].proc

which might give you the following output:

CreateWindow (PROCEDURE in WEWindows, G: 120134B).

The basic arithmetic operations are provided by the interpreter (with the same precedence rules as followed by the Mesa compiler).

3+4 MOD 2; (3+4) MOD 2

would produce the following output:

3 1.

Radix conversion between octal and decimal can be forced using the loophole construct; for example, exp%CARDINAL will force octal output and exp%INTEGER will force decimal.

A typical sequence of expressions one might use to initialize a record containing an array of **Foos** and display some of them would be:

rec.array ← DESCRIPTOR[FSP\$AllocateHeapNode[n*SIZE[FooDefs\$Foo]], n]; InitArray[rec.array]; rec.array[first..last].

Grammar	
StmtList	::= Stmt StmtList; Stmt
AddingOp	∷= + -
BuiltinCall	::= LENGTH [LeftSide] BASE [LeftSide] DESCRIPTOR [Expression] DESCRIPTOR [Expression , Expression] SIZE [TypeSpecification]
Expression	::= Sum
ExpressionList	:: = Expression ExpressionList, Expression
Factor	::= - Primary Primary
Interval	:: = Expression Expression Expression ! Expression
LeftSide	::= identifier Literal MEMORY [Expression] LeftSide Qualifier (Expression) Qualifier identifier \$ identifier numericLiteral \$ identifier
Literal	<pre>::= numericLiteral stringLiteral all defined outside the grammar characterLiteral</pre>
MultiplyingOp	::= * / MOD
Primary	::= LeftSide (Expression) @ LeftSide BuiltinCall
Product	::= Factor Product MultiplyingOp Factor
Qualifier	::= . identifier * % % TypeSpecification [ExpressionList]
Stmt	::= Expression LeftSide ← Expression MEMORY [Interval] LeftSide [Interval] (Expression) [Interval]
Sum	::= Product Sum AddingOp Product
TypeConstructor	::= @ TypeSpecification
Typeldentifier	::= INTEGER BOOLEAN CARDINAL CHARACTER STRING UNSPECIFIED identifier identifier \$ identifier identifier TypeIdentifier
TypeSpecification	::= Typeldentifier TypeConstructor

Section 5: Output Conventions

The debugger uses information about the types of variables to decide on an appropriate output format. In general, compile-time constants are not displayed (with the exception of Display Variable). Listed below are the types which the debugger distinguishes and the convention used to display instances of each type.

ARRAY, ARRAY DESCRIPTOR

displays the first, second and last values of the array, unless the number of elements is "small", e.g., a=(10)[Vector[x: 0, y:0], Vector[x: 1, y: 1], ..., Vector[x: 9, y:9]]. The parenthesized value to the right of the "=" is the length of the array.

BOOLEAN

displays TRUE or FALSE. Since BOOLEAN is an enumerated type = {FALSE, TRUE}, values outside this range are indicated by a ? (probably an uninitialized variable).

CHARACTER

displays a printing character (c) as 'c. A control character (X) other than BLANK, RUBOUT, NUL, TAB, LF, FF, CR, or ESC is displayed as $\uparrow X$. Values greater than 177B are displayed in octal.

ENUMERATED

displays the identifier constant used in the enumerated type declaration. For example, an instance c of the type ChannelState: $TYPE = \{ disconnected, busy, available \}$ is displayed as c=busy. If the value is out of range (probably an uninitialized variable), a ? is displayed.

INTEGER

always displays a decimal number. Uniformly, numeric output is decimal unless terminated by "B" (octal).

POINTER

displays an octal number, terminated with an " \uparrow ", i.e., p=107362B \uparrow .

PORT

displays two octal numbers, i.e., p = PORT [0, 172520B].

PROCEDURE, SIGNAL, ERROR

displays the name of the procedure (with its local frame) and the name of the program module in which it resides (with its global frame), e.g., GetMyChar, L: 165064B (in CollectParams, G: 166514B). Procedure variables which do not contain valid

descriptors generate a "?".

PROCESS

displays a ProcessHandle (pointer to a ProcessStateBlock), i.e., p = PROCESS [2002B]. See the process section of the *Mesa System Documentation* for further details.

RECORD

the record's type identifier is followed by a bracketed list of each field name and its value. For example, an instance v of the record Vector: RECORD [x,y: NTEGER] is displayed as v=Vector[x: 9, y: -1].

STRING

displays the name of the string, followed by its current length, its maximum length, and the string body, e.g., s=(3,10)"foo". If the string is longer than 60 characters, the first 40 and the last 10 are displayed. If the string is NIL, s=NIL is displayed.

SUBRANGE

displays an octal number if the upper limit exceeds 77777B, decimal otherwise.

Section 6: Signal and Error Messages

The following messages are generated by the debugger. Wherever possible, there is also an explanation of what might have caused the problem and what you can do about it.

Breakpoints

-- not allowed here!

An attempt was made to set a breakpoint on an opcode on which it is not allowed (check the code for your program).

-- does not return!

An attempt was made to set an exit breakpoint on a procedure in which the return statement is not in the correct location (check the code for your program).

Breakpoint not found!

You have swapped to the debugger when the breakpoint information (frame, pc, etc.) cannot be found (check the code for your program).

Command Execution

... aborted

Execution of the current command has been aborted (*TEL* has been typed).

!Command not allowed

Execution of the current command is not allowed since the loadstate (source of debugger bcd information) appears to be invalid.

Core image not healthy, can't swap!

You may only Quit or terminate the session (Kill session) after the debugger has been bootloaded.

Displaying the stack

No previous frame!

The end of the stack has been reached.

No symbol table for nnnnnB

The symbol table file corresponding to the frame nnnnnB is missing; any attempt to symbolically reference variables in this module will fail. (In general, this message is a warning.)

Entering the debugger

*** Debugger Bootloaded! ***

Appears at the top of the DEBUG.TYPESCRIPT window after you have booted from the MESADEBUGGER file (by typing Bootfrom MesaDebugger to the *Alto Executive*). This gets you into the debugger and allows you to look at what was going on. However, you may not proceed after the debugger has been bootloaded.

```
*** Fatal System Error (Punt) ***
```

Appears when the system can no longer continue, often a result of running out of memory or frame space. (The most helpful thing for you to do at this point is to Display Stack for several levels and look at the variables to try to figure out what was going on.)

*** Interrupt ***

Appears at the top of the DEBUG.TYPESCRIPT window after you have entered the debugger via interrupt mode.

ResumeError!

You have attempted to continue execution from an ERROR. This may occur both in the situation described below or as the result of a programming error. (The debugger does not support resuming SIGNALS which return values.)

*** uncaught SIGNAL SoS (in MayDay)

The user program has raised a SIGNAL (ERROR) which no one dynamically nested above the SIGNAL invocation was prepared to catch. The debugger prints the name of the SIGNAL, lists its parameters (if any), creates a new instance of the debugger, and gives control to the command processor. At this point you may, for example, display the stack to see who raised the uncaught SIGNAL.

If the semantics of the situation permit, you may proceed execution at the point of the SIGNAL's invocation by issuing a Proceed command. Alternatively, you retire to the dynamically enclosing instance of the debugger by issuing a Quit command. If the SIGNAL actually was an ERROR and you elect to Proceed, you get a ResumeError.

Interpreter

Invalid Type.
 Invalid Expression.
 Invalid Character.
 Invalid Number.
 Not Implemented.

The interpreter has been given an invalid expression.

Parameters

-- is an invalid identifier!

The first character of your identifier is not an upper or lower case letter of the alphabet.

!Number

An invalid number has been typed.

!String too long

The string you have just typed is too long. String parameters are subject to the following restrictions: identifiers and string constants are limited to 40 characters, source-text parameters are limited to 60 characters, and conditions and expressions are limited to 100 characters.

Symbol Lookup

lxyz

The variable named xyz has not been found.

!File: xyz

The file named xyz has not been found.

!File: --compressed symbols--

The symbol file has been compressed.

--- has incorrect version!

The symbol file has an incorrect version stamp.

!String: xyz

The search for the string xyz has failed.

Validity checking

--- is not a frame!
--- is not a global frame!
--- is a clobbered frame!
--- has a NULL returnlink!
--- has a clobbered accesslink!
--- is an invalid ProcessHandle!
--- is an invalid image file!

The structure in question appears to be clobbered (invalid in some way).

Debugger Summary

Version 4.0

AScii read [address, n] ATtach Image [filename] Symbols [globalframe, filename] Break Entry [proc, condition] Module [module, condition, source] Procedure [proc, condition, source] Xit [proc, condition] CAse off [confirm] on [confirm] CLear All Breaks [confim] Entry traces [module] Traces [confirm] Xit traces [module] Break [proc, source] Entry Break [proc] Trace [proc] Module Break [module, source] Trace [module, source] Trace [proc, source] Xit Break [proc] Trace [proc] COremap [confirm] **CUrrent context Display Configuration** Eval-stack Frame [address] GlobalFrameTable Module [module] Process [process] - n,p,q,r,s Queue [id] Stack - j,n,p,v,r,s,q Variable [id] Find variable [id] Interpret Array [array, index, n] Call [proc] De-reference [ptr] Expression [exp] Pointer [address, type] String [string, index, n] @ [var]

Kill session [confirm] List Breaks [confirm] Configurations [confirm] Processes [confim] Traces [confirm] Octal Clear break [globalframe, bytepc] Read [address, n] Set break [globalframe, bytepc] Write [address, rhs] Proceed [confirm] Quit [confirm] Reset context [confirm] SEt Configuration [config] Module context [module] Octal context [address] Process context [process] Root configuration [config] STart [address] Trace All Entries [module] Xits [module] Entry [proc,condition] Module [module, condition, source] Procedure [proc, condition, source] Xit [proc, condition] Userscreen [confim] Worry off [confirm] on [confirm] -- [comment]

Debugger Interpreter Grammar Version 4.0

StmtList	:: =	Stmt StmtList; Stmt
AddingOp	:: =	+ -
BuiltinCall	:: =	LENGTH [LeftSide] BASE [LeftSide] DESCRIPTOR [Expression] DESCRIPTOR [Expression , Expression] SIZE [TypeSpecification]
Expression	:: =	Sum
ExpressionList	:: =	Expression ExpressionList, Expression
Factor	:: =	- Primary Primary
Interval	:: =	Expression Expression Expression ! Expression
LeftSide	::=	identifier Literal MEMORY [Expression] LeftSide Qualifier (Expression) Qualifier identifier \$ identifier numericLiteral \$ identifier
Literal	:: =	numericLiteral stringLiteral all defined outside the grammar characterLiteral
MultiplyingOp	:: =	* / MOD
Primary	:: =	LeftSide (Expression) @ LeftSide BuiltinCall
Product	:: =	Factor Product MultiplyingOp Factor
Qualifier	:: =	. identifier ↑ % % TypeSpecification [ExpressionList]
Stmt	:: =	Expression LeftSide ← Expression MEMORY [Interval] LeftSide [Interval] (Expression) [Interval]
Sum	:: =	Product Sum AddingOp Product
TypeConstructor	:: =	@ TypeSpecification
Typeldentifier	:: =	INTEGER BOOLEAN CARDINAL CHARACTER STRING UNSPECIFIED identifier identifier \$ identifier identifier Typeldentifier
TypeSpecification	:: =	Typeldentifier TypeConstructor

.

Windex Summary

Version 4.0

WHAT WINDEX MOUSE BUTTONS DO:

RED YELLOW BLUE YELLOW/BLUE Scroll Bar ScrollUp Thumb ScrollDown NormalizeSelection

Text Area

Select/Extend characters Select/Extend words Menu Commands

MENU COMMANDS:

Create [window]	Find [selection, window]
Destroy [window]	Set Brk [selection]
Move [window]	CIr Brk [selection]
Grow [window]	Set Trc [selection]
Load [selection, window]	Set Pos [index, window]
Stuff It [selection, window]	Keys On/Off

WHAT MENU MOUSE BUTTONS DO:

RED	"Do it" - in this window/ at this spot
BLUE	Reset to previous state

WHAT KEYSET BUTTONS DO:

BS DEL	ESC	CR	STUFF IT
--------	-----	----	----------

DURING TYPE IN:

BS	Backspace character
CONTROL-W	Backspace word
FL4	Stuff current selection into default window

Fetch Command Summary

Close connection [confirm] DElete filename [filename] DUmp from remote file [dumpfile] Free pages LIst remote file designator [filelist] LOad from remote file [dumpfile] Open connection [host, directory] Quit [confirm] Retrieve filename [filename] Store filename [filename]

Inter-Office Memorandum

То	Mesa Users	Date	May 31, 1978
From	Barbara Koalkin	Location	Palo Alto
Subject	Debugger - Extended Features	Organization	SDD/SD

KEROX

Filed on: [IRIS] <MESA>DOC>XDF.BRAVO

There are three extended features available with the Mesa 4.0 debugger on an experimental basis. One of these provides access to FTP to allow a user to retrieve files from remote locations from within the debugger. Another new debugger command allows a user to invoke a special debugging package. The window manager (WindEx) has been expanded in an attempt to extend the user interface to the debugger. Each feature is described below in further detail. We encourage feedback on these features and remind you that due to their experimental nature, they are subject to change.

Debugger FTP

The Mesa 4.0 debugger has the capability to invoke a subset of the standard FTP commands from within the debugger environment without having to exit to the Alto Executive. The debugger's FTP command is built on top of the standard Mesa FTP package and therefore any comments and/or problems regarding FTP itself should be addressed to the SDD Communications Group. \uparrow Ftp (control-F) enables the following commands (see the FTP documentation for further details):

Close connection [confirm]

closes the currently open FTP connection.

DElete filename filename

tries to delete filename from the local disk, regardless of whether the file is in use. If it finds it impossible to delete the file due to some of its own pointers that would be left dangling, it does not allow you to do so (e.g., you cannot delete XDEBUG.IMAGE). Beware of your own references!

DUmp to remote file dumpfile

bundles together a group of files from the local file system into a 'dump format' file and stores the result as dumpfile. FTP asks you for the names of the local files to be included. Terminate the dump by typing a carriage return (CR).

Free pages

tells you how many free pages are left on your disk.

LIst remote file designator filelist

lists all files in the remote host corresponding to filelist. This must conform to the file naming conventions on the remote host. You may designate multiple files by the use of "*" expansion.

LOad from remote file dumpfile

performs the inverse operation of DUmp, unbundling a dump-format file in the remote system and storing the constituent files in the local file system.

Open connection host, directory

opens a connection to the FTP Server in the specified host and (optional) specified directory.

Quit [confirm]

takes you out of FTP mode and returns you to the debugger command processor. The debugger closes your connection when you leave FTP, if you have forgotten to do so.

Retrieve filename filename

transfers filename from the remote host to the local host. The filename must conform to the file naming conventions on the remote host. You may designate multiple files by the use of "*" expansion if the remote server supports them (currently Maxc and IFS do). Note that the byte count is printed out truncated to 16 bits.

Store filename filename

transfers filename from the local host to the remote host. Alto filename conventions apply to the local file; "*" expansion is not supported.

Warning: Be careful not to change any files out from under the program you are debugging; the debugger makes no provisions for checking this when you ask to delete or update a local file!

In order for you to be able to use the FTP commands, you must retrieve the file FETCH.BCD and load it into your debugger. This may be done when you are installing your debugger, in the same way as installing the window manager. Once you are inside the debugger nub, before you install, type New - FETCH which will load the FTP package. You may later invoke FTP at any time by typing control-F to the debugger. If you wish to load the FTP package at some later time, simply enter the debugger nub (control-D) and then load FETCH. If you do not have the FTP package loaded, you may still use the Delete, Free pages, and Quit commands. However trying to use any of the other FTP commands will give you the message "-- FTP not installed".

Debugger User Procedures

The new \pm UserProc (control-U) command allows you to load a debugging package into the debugger and invoke it at any time simply by typing control-U. The mechanism for loading is the same as for loading the window manager. Simply enter the debugger nub; then do a >New YourOwnFileName, followed by an (optional) Start. Your program must

Debugger - Extended Features

IMPORT DebugUtilityDefs and make a call to:

AddCommand: PROCEDURE [tag: STRING, proc: PROCEDURE].

which expects the name of the command and the procedure to call when this command is invoked.

Internally, things work as follows: When a user makes a call to AddCommand, the procedure gets added to the list of user procs that have already been loaded. When the *tUserProc* command is invoked, the debugger looks to see if there have been any procedures loaded. If there is only one, it will be invoked automatically. If several user procs have been loaded, typing "?" displays a list of the available commands. The message "!No user procs." is displayed if the debugger can't find any procedures that have been loaded.

The debugger gives you added help in gaining more access to the information it already knows about your programs. Taking advantage of the configuration format for grouping modules, the debugger's configuration EXPORTS all of the debugger's interfaces: DebugBreakptDefs, DebugConfigDefs, DebugFtpDefs, DebuggerDefs, DebugInterpretDefs, DebugMiscDefs, and DebugUtilityDefs. A user program can get access to any of the debugger's PUBLIC procedures simply by IMPORTing the definitions modules of the procedures that you want to use. When writing your own debugging routines, look carefully at some of the utility routines that the debugger already provides (eg., ModuleNameToFrame, FrameToModuleName, SREAD, etc.). You should also look at the <MesaLib> directory for UserProcs that other Mesa users have already written and debugged.

Warning: The Mesa Group makes no guarantees about the stability of these interfaces. Use at your own risk!

Window manager

The new window manager (WindEx) has the ability to handle long files (over 64K characters), set breakpoints by selecting, position a file in a window using a character index, and (optionally) use the keyset as an input device. Several bugs have been fixed and performance has been improved. The documentation that follows is the complete documentation for WindEx.

Loading WindEx

To load WindEx, execute a New - Start sequence on the file WINDEX.BCD before installing the debugger. Alternately, you may enter the debugger nub at some later time (using control-D) and load WindEx. You may also load WindEx from the command line by typing XDebug WindEx/I to the Alto Executive which loads WindEx when installing the debugger (additionally, you can use the L switch to load WindEx with code links to save space).

Current window

Using WindEx, the concept of "the current window" is clearly visible. A window is current until the cursor is moved to another window and a mouse button is clicked. As a result, a window is not repainted until it is made current. After any action is taken, the current window is repainted and its selection is updated.

Text area

Selections are made by depressing either the RED or YELLOW mouse buttons while in the text area. RED selects a character and extends selections by characters; YELLOW selects a word and extends selections by words. Characters typed into a scratch window are automatically selected as they are typed.

Scroll bar

The scrolling commands are activated by moving the cursor into the scroll bar (left margin of a window) and clicking some combination of mouse buttons. In all cases, scrolling is activated when the mouse buttons are released. Moving out of the scroll bar before releasing the buttons returns you to text selection mode without repositioning the file. The thermometer in the scroll bar shows the current position of the window in the file. The positioning commands are as follows:

scrolling up [RED button] moves the line next to the cursor to the top of the window. relative scrolling [YELLOW button] moves to the position in the file corresponding to the relative position of the cursor

in the scroll bar (also called "thumbing").

scrolling down [BLUE button] causes the line at the top of the window to be moved next to the cursor.

normalize selection [YELLOW and BLUE buttons] causes the line containing the current selection to be moved next to the cursor.

Menu Commands

When the BLUE mouse button is pressed in the text area of a window, the WindEx menu appears and the cursor changes to a left arrow. Select a menu command by pointing at it (causing it to video reverse) and releasing the mouse button. If you do not wish to execute the command, release the cursor outside the region of the menu. In all cases (except where otherwise noted below) clicking the RED mouse button causes the command to be executed; clicking the BLUE mouse button resets the window to its previous state. After seeing the menu, if you do not wish to execute a menu command, just move the cursor away from the menu and release the BLUE mouse button. The menu commands are as follows:

Create

creates a new scratch window (that accepts keyboard input) at the place selected by clicking RED. Note that a maximum of four scratch windows may exist at the same time.

Destroy

destroys the window selected by moving the bullseye cursor into a window and clicking RED. Note that windows belonging to the debugger cannot be destroyed by the user.

Debugger - Extended Features

Move

changes the position of the current window; the window sticks to the cursor as it is moved around. Clicking RED positions the upper-left hand corner of the window to the cursor location; clicking BLUE returns the window to its previous position.

Grow

changes the size of the current window; the lower right-hand corner of the window sticks to the cursor and the window turns gray. Clicking RED fixes the size of the window (subject to the minimum size restriction); clicking BLUE resets the window to its previous size.

Load

loads a file into the window selected by clicking RED, using the selection of the current window as a filename. Alternately, if you type a filename terminated by the escape character (ESC) into a scratch window, the window is automatically loaded with that file. Note that the user cannot load into the window containing DEBUG.TYPESCRIPT or any other windows belonging to the debugger.

Stuff It

takes the selection of the current window and stuffs it into the input stream of the window selected by clicking RED. The lower left function key on Alto II keyboards (FL4) stuffs the current selection into the default window (the debugger's typescript).

Find

finds the selection of the current window in the window selected by clicking RED. The search begins at the end of the selection of the window being searched. If the search is successful, the text becomes the new selection and is scrolled to the top of the window; otherwise, the selection remains the same.

Set Brk

uses the selection of the current window to set a breakpoint. If you select the word "PROCEDURE", a breakpoint is set on the entry to the procedure; if you select the word "RETURN", a breakpoint is set on the exit of the procedure; otherwise a breakpoint is set at the closest statement enclosing the selection. Confirmation is given by the selection being moved to the place at which the breakpoint is actually set. The window must contain the source file for a module in the current configuration; in the case of multiple instances of a module, the name of the current context must be the same as the source file.

Clr Brk

clears the breakpoint or tracepoint as specified above.

Set Trc

sets a tracepoint as specified above. Confirmation is given by the selection being moved to the place at which the tracepoint is actually set.

Debugger - Extended Features

Set Pos

takes the selection of the current window as a character index and positions the file in the window selected by clicking RED to that character position.

Keys On/Off

activates/deactivates input from the keyset as described below.

When WindEx is actively working on a command, the cursor is in the shape of hourglass. When it is done with the current task, the cursor returns to its normal shape.

Keyset

The keyset can be used as an additional source of text input to WindEx. Keyset chords are described as octal numbers with 1B corresponding to the rightmost key and 20B to the leftmost. The keyset forms a chord by ORing all keys depressed and returns the chord when all keys are released. Be careful not to have any books on the keyset when it is active!

Keyset Commands

The keyset commands involve stuffing characters and selections into the default window (which is the DEBUG.TYPESCRIPT window when WindEx is loaded with the debugger). In all cases, the default window is made the current window at the end of the command. The keyset commands are as follows:

1B stuffs the selection of the current window.

2B stuffs a carriage return (CR).

3B stuffs the selection of the current window followed by a CR.

4B stuffs an escape (ESC).

10B stuffs a delete (DEL).

20B stuffs a backspace (BS).

Keyset Input

Holding down the RED and YELLOW mouse buttons puts the keyset into text input mode. For each chord typed, the corresponding character is put into the input stream of the current window. The characters supported are 'A..'Z (1B..32B), '+ (33B), BS (37B). Attached is a label that can be taped to your keyset and used as a guide to the appropriate codes.

ABCDEFGH	•		•	x		JKLMNOPQR		****	x	x x · · x x · · x	x	STUVWXYZ+	x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x	Х	. × × × × · · · ·		x	
В	S			DEL	· .		I	ES	с			CR				;	STUFF	: