

Subject: MCR-10055, Fix master.ec unwanted prompt

Author: Eric Swenson

Date: May 20, 2019

Problem Description

The master.ec exec_com is used by system and accounts administrators to perform various administrative tasks. One of these tasks examines the output of the “crank” absentee process (the daily absentee process that performs system and accounting operations) and deletes the crank.absout segment once the reviewing administrator has seen the output. master.ec is an exec_com with multiple entry points and is invoked using a command like:

```
cwd >udd>sa>a
ec master day
```

The first command ensures the administrator is in the correct (expected) directory and the second command invokes the “day” entry point in master.ec. This command uses qedx to perform some cleanup on the >udd>sa>a>crank.absout segment and then displays relevant output to the administrator. That output ends with something similar to this:

```
...
logout

Absentee user Swenson SysAdmin logged out 12/13/17 0300.5 pst Wed
CPU usage 31 sec, memory usage 27.0 units
Modified buffers exist:
    69 ->      (0) >udd>sa>a>crank.absout

qedx: Do you still wish to quit and lose these changes?  y

Delete?  y
r 09:01 1.230 8
```

Operator input is shown above, in bold. The second input, a response to the “Delete?” Prompt is quite reasonable. It is asking the administrator to confirm deletion of crank.absout.

The first input (y) in response to the question from qedx is really superfluous and should be eliminated. The exec_com is attempting to write out the updated crank.absout. The updates are made in order for the output to the administrator to not include extraneous information. Answering “n” to this prompt leaves the administrator in the qedx editor and causes the exec_com to malfunction. Consequently, there is no reason for this prompt.

Proposed Changes

The proposed change is to modify the “q” qedx command to use the “Q” command. This quits qedx without saving the changes. If the administrator then answers “y” to the “Delete?” prompt — the normal case. The crank.absout is deleted. It doesn’t matter whether the edits made by master.ec for the purpose of cleaner display are saved or not since the segment is deleted. If the administrator answers “n”, the crank.absout segment is not deleted, and the original contents are retained. This is preferable than the edited contents — which has deleted some of the lines, making the altered crank.absout less faithful to the original.

The only real impact of this change is one fewer prompt that must be answered each day when “ec master day” is run.

Comparison of Code Pre-fix versus Post-fix

The following provides a `compare_ascii` of the change:

```
cpa >t>master.ec master.ec
```

```
A414      q
Changed by B to:
B414      Q
```

```
Comparison finished: 1 difference, 2 lines.
r 17:27 0.157 0
```

Documentation

No changes to the documentation are required. AK50-03, page 38-2, only documents the need to answer “yes” (or “y”) to the “Delete?” prompt and never mentions the first prompt, which is presumably unintended.

Testing

This change is tested by running the nightly crank and then invoking the “ec master day” command.

Version History

Date	Revision	Author	Comment
2019-05-20	1.0	Eric Swenson	Initial revision of the MCR.