

Subject: MCR-10064 Fix azm to handle some early dump tapes it can't handle

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Problem Description

When Multics crashes early in the boot process, the operator is offered to create an “early dump tape”. These dump tapes can be read into >dumps using the `read_early_dump_tape` command. The `azm` program can, in general, read these early dumps, but in some cases, fails. The obsolete command, `ol_dump`, does not have issues reading these early dumps, but `azm` faults with the following:

```
Error: out_of_bounds at amu_fdump_translate_$to_temp_seg|610
(>system_library_tools>bound_amu_)
referencing >dumps>040519.1142.1.1234|776000
Attempt to access beyond end of segment.
r 15:31 0.504 525 level 2
```

`azm` uses the utility procedure `amu_fdump_translate_` to read the segments dumped in the early dump tape, and allow referencing of these segments by `azm` using the segment numbers that these segments had prior to the crash. Specifically, the `locate_segment` procedure scans the regions in the dump image and attempts to match them to a segment mapping table. However, it does the wrong thing if a segment doesn't appear in the dump. This is signaled by the variable `total_lth`'s being set to 0.

It includes the following code:

```
if (offset + total_lth) <= fdump_info.dump_seg_lth (dump_seg_idx) then do;
    lth = total_lth - 1; /* image is whole in single dump segment */
    base_2 = null ();
    lth_2 = 0;
end;
```

The above code uses `total_lth` (which is 0) and sets `lth` to `total_lth - 1`, which is -1.

The variable `base` has been set thus, just prior to the above code:

```
base = pointer (fdump_info.dump_seg_ptr (dump_seg_idx), offset);
```

The `locate_segment` procedure returns to its caller having set `base` to a location in the image, and `lth` to -1.

The caller of `locate_segment` attempts to copy the segment, using the length of -1 and gets the above-mentioned `out_of_bounds` error.

The fix is trivial — simply check to see if `total_lth` is 0, and if so, set `base` to `null()`. Callers of `locate_segment` already properly deal with a `base` of null, so the above fix lets `azm` continue without problems.

Ticket <http://multics-trac.swenson.org/ticket/165> describes this issue.

Proposed Changes

The fix is simple and is illustrated by a comparison of the old and new version of `amu_fdump_translate.pl1`:

```
cpa [lpn amu_fdump_translate.pl1] ==
```

Inserted in B:

```
B252             if total_lth = 0 then do;  
B253                 base = null ();  
B254                 base_2 = null ();  
B255                 return;  
B256             end;  
B257
```

Preceding:

```
A252             if (offset + total_lth) <= fdump_info.dump_seg_lth (dump_seg_idx) then do;
```

Comparison finished: 1 difference, 6 lines.

```
r 17:12 0.752 15
```

The code sets `base` and `base_2` to `null ()` in the case that `total_lth` is zero.

Documentation

No documentation is required.

Testing

I've tested the modified `azm` on several early dumps as well as normal dumps.

Version History

Date	Revision	Author	Comment
2019-05-25	1.0	Eric Swenson	Initial revision of the MCR.