

# MCR10145

## Fix Issue With Operator **detach** Command

### Revision 1.0

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## 1 Problem Description

The operator **detach** command, when invoked with a single token parameter, including a bogus parameter, displays an error message on the operator console similar to this one:

---

```
M-> detach foo

\000\234\400#\320\000\000\000\413\400#\612\000\000\000\413\400#\622\000\000\000\000\000
\000\000\000\001\000\000\000\000\016 \000\000\000\000\000\006\001\601\000\000: error:
Usage:
\000\234\400#\320\000\000\000\413\400#\612\000\000\000\413\400#\622\000\000\000\000\000
\000\000\000\001\000\000\000\000\016 \000\000\000\000\000\006\001\601\000\000
(Person.Project|CHANNEL|mpx MPX) {TIME MESSAGE}
The "Person Project" format is obsolete.
Ready
M->
```

---

The source of this garbage display is the implementation of the **detach** command in `operator_process_cmds..pl1`. It appears to call a helper function too early, before prerequisite variables have been initialized. In fact, it appears to mistakenly call this helper function a second time. The first one is prior to setting up the required variables; the second time is after initializing the variables.

Simply removing the first call to the helper function fixes the issue.

The ticket describing the original problem as reported is located here: <https://multics-trac.swenson.org/ticket/140>.

## 2 Proposed Fix

This MCR proposes to update `operator_process_cmds..pl1` to remove the superfluous call to `process_bump_args`. The original code looks like this:

---

```
detach: entry options (variable);
```

---

```
/*** This entry implements the operator "detach" command. It forceably  
logs out a user and makes the tty unresponsive */
```

```
    arg_list_ptr = cu_$arg_list_ptr ();  
    call process_bump_args (arg_list_ptr, "b");  
  
    action = "detach";  
    action_log = "detached";  
    comname = "operator_process_cmds_: detach";  
  
    call process_bump_args (arg_list_ptr, "b");
```

---

As can be seen, the first call to `process_bump_args` occurs before the `comname`, `action`, and `action_log` variables are set. These are used by the `process_bump_args` procedure and procedures called by it.

Simply removing this call addresses the problem, as this procedure is properly invoked (a second time) after the variable initializations.

The fix, therefore, is shown in the following `compare_ascii` output:

---

```
cpa [lpn operator_process_cmds_.pl1] ==  
  
A175          call process_bump_args (arg_list_ptr, "b");  
Deleted by B, preceding:  
B175  
B176          action = "detach";
```

Comparison finished: 1 difference, 1 line.

---

With the fix in place, the output of the command is corrected:

---

```
M-> detach foo  
  
operator_process_cmds_: detach: error: Usage: operator_process_cmds_: detach  
      (Person.Project|CHANNEL|mpx MPX) {TIME MESSAGE}  
The "Person Project" format is obsolete.  
Ready  
M->
```

---

Although the error message is a bit unwieldy, it is formatted no differently than other error messages for commands implemented by this source program. For example:

---

```
M-> terminate foo  
  
operator_process_cmds_: terminate: error: Usage: operator_process_cmds_: terminate  
      (Person.Project|CHANNEL|mpx MPX) {TIME MESSAGE}  
The "Person Project" format is obsolete.  
Ready
```

---

### **3 Documentation**

No documentation changes are needed since there are no changes to the user interface of this operator command.

### **4 Test**

The changes will be tested by running the updated code on a couple Multics systems and executing the command.

### **5 Version History**

|            |     |                             |
|------------|-----|-----------------------------|
| 2025-02-06 | 1.0 | Initial version of the MCR. |
|------------|-----|-----------------------------|