Service Request 12852 was the “umbrella” service request covering date conversion of all PPS programs to avoid problems during the century transition from 1999 to 2000 and beyond. Release 1265 provided a temporary patch for a date problem in PPP851, allowing the program to function during 2000. This was done because it was planned that the program would become obsolete some time during 2000. It has not, and is now scheduled to become obsolete in early 2001.

Since the program will remain operational for some time in 2001, the temporary patch must be replaced with more permanent code. That is the purpose of this release.

**Programs**

**PPP851**

Records on the VSAM Control Table file usually, but not always, contain a date field indicating when that particular record was last updated. Unfortunately, the format chosen for this date is not uniform. For some tables, the date is in MMDDYY format, in others it is in YYMMDD format, and in others both formats actually appear on the same table. This is not really problematic, because those dates are only there as a kind of “audit” trail; there is no real use made of that date within the system.
PPP851 is the program that uses the VSAM Control Table file to load the DB2 Control Tables. The standard adopted for those tables is that each record should have an update datestamp. Where the VSAM record contains no update date at all, PPP851 uses its own run date in the datestamp. Where there is a date, PPP851 attempts to use it.

PPP851 contains a section of code (6000-FORMAT-DATE) which takes a six-character date field of unknown format, and attempts to ascertain the format by examining the values of the individual two-character components. The code as originally written worked through 1999. A temporary patch applied to the code allowed it to continue to work through 2000. Beginning in 2001, however, there are dates, such as ‘011001’ which are ambiguous. Is this 1/10/01 or 10/1/01? There is no exact way to resolve those ambiguities.

It turns out, however, that further code changes can be made which will correctly identify the date format for most dates in 2001. There are a few ambiguous dates, such as the one given above. As long as we restrict our universe of dates to 2001 and earlier, the only ambiguous dates are those which look like ‘01xx01’ where ‘xx’ is in the range 01-12. In those cases, the program will assume that the format is YYMMDD. This assumption was chosen because the majority of records on the VSAM file have dates in that format rather than MMDDYY. Thus, the program will assume that ‘011001’ is 10/1/01, which will be wrong if the update was actually made on 1/10/01 and was recorded in MMDDYY format. Given the options, this defaulting to YYMMDD appears to be the optimal choice, minimizing the number of records actually marked with an incorrect update date.

**Test Plan**

The modified version of PPP851 was tested at UCOP by using it to load all of the DB2 tables and then examining the datestamps on DB2 records from each table to verify that the update dates had been properly translated. It is suggested that campuses perform similar installation testing locally.

**Installation Instructions**

1. Install the modified version of program PPP851
2. Compile PPP851 in batch mode only
3. Bind the plan for PPP851
4. Perform any desired local campus testing
5. Install the modified PPP851 into production, following normal campus procedures.

**Timing of Installation**

The installation of this release is **date-mandated**. The release must be installed prior to any control table updates in calendar year 2001, to avoid recording incorrect update date values on the DB2 Control Tables.

As usual, campuses are encouraged to install this release in as timely a fashion as possible and in the normal numeric sequence.

If there are any questions, please send electronic mail to Jerry.Wilcox@ucop.edu, or call at (510) 987-0516.

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