

Re: Proposed Assembler Commands

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.design/2005-05/msg00531.html>

- *From:* kensmith@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx (Ken Smith)
 - *Date:* Wed, 4 May 2005 13:56:20 +0000 (UTC)
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In article <pan.2005.05.04.02.28.30.928399@xxxxxxxxxxxx>, Rich Grise <richgrise@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

[...]

>As a matter of fact, I used "credit" (CRt EDITor) on one of Intel's MDSs,
>back in the days when the guy who got a couple of TMS2716 samples had to
>guard them with his life. Of course, in the colleges, they were giving
>away 8086's like popcorn. I'm almost sure the MDS (microprocessor
>development system) was an industrialized 8080/S-100. I was working on
>triple-redundant Naval Ordnance systems. (I had dropped out of college, to
>get a real education.)

The MDS-800 was a card cage which held "multibus" cards. It had room for something like 10 cards. There was a row of switches on the front panel. You could assert an interrupt with 8 of them. One of them swapped a chunk of RAM space with some ROM to boot the machine.

Later came the "series 2". These were a combined terminal and "multibus" rack. It had room for 4 boards mounted horizontally in the bottom. The "series 2" machines had a design flaw where the current in some Molex connectors was more than they could be trusted to handle. The connectors were a cheap single wipe design in a white plastic housing. After a few months of service they would become a zero wipe connector in a brown plastic housing.

After the "series 2" came the "series 3". This was intended to develop 8086 code also. It was a "series 2" sitting on a box for 4 more multibus cards. The new section had a 8086 card in it. It would also run ICE-86.

ICE-86 was an emulator for the 8086. It copied mostly the commands of ICE-80. You could load the program into the RAM inside the ICE-86 and run it on your target hardware. The load operation took (on my project) 4 hours[1] to load the code. If you loaded a small program and then transferred the real code via a RS232 link it was much faster so that is what we did.

[1] No kidding folks.

After the "series 3" came the "series 4" which led us to state that each version is better than the next.

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The operating system was something called ISIS. It was a more advanced operating system than MSDOS was on the day the PC came out.

kensmith@xxxxxxxxx forging knowledge

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