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Enabling a TSO Logon Exec for Your Users

By Lionel Dyck

How many times have your users come to you, or perhaps you yourself have had the need, to customize the data sets allocated by a TSO LOGON Proc?

Wouldn't you like to have the ability to create a LOGON CLIST or EXEC that would be executed automatically every time you, or your users, LOGON to TSO?

Well you can and it is very easy.

First, in your TSO LOGON Proc change the execute statement by adding a PARM:

PARM='EXEC ''***hlq.clist(tsologon)***'''

Where ***hlq.clist*** is the name of a system library that contains CLISTs or REXX EXECs and ***tsologon*** is the name of a simple CLIST that will test for the existence of a LOGON CLIST or REXX EXEC. If one exists, then it will execute it. The reason the EXEC command is used with the fully qualified data set name and member is that this allows you to have the ***tsologon*** member reside in your SYSEXEC library and be executed from there without causing the SYSEXEC concatenation to be opened. This is useful in case the user wants to reallocate the SYSEXEC concatenation to add their own unique libraries.

Another reason to use the EXEC in the PARM is that this allows you to have a minimal TSO LOGON Proc which will significantly speed up your TSO Logons and then within the ***tsologon*** CLIST you can dynamically allocate the libraries that are required. In testing years ago it was found that this technique is faster and uses fewer system resources than having the libraries in the Proc. I have not seen any validation or re-validation of this since the early 1990s. However, the added flexibility outweighs, in my humble opinion, any potential extra overhead if indeed there is any.

Here is a simple example of the *tsologon* CLIST:

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```
PROC 0
SET &DSN = '&SYSUID..LOGON.CLIST'
IF &SYSDSN(&DSN) = OK +
    THEN EXEC &DSN
    ELSE ISPF
```

What this simple CLIST does is:

1. Set a variable to the name of the desired sequential data set. In this case LOGON.CLIST with a high level qualifier of the active TSO user's user-id (&SYSUID).
2. If the data set exists then execute it
3. Otherwise invoke ISPF

Within the LOGON.CLIST your users can now reallocate any existing allocation by using the TSO ALLOC command or using one of the concatenation commands available on the CBT Tape (http://www.cbttape.org and look for CONCAT or KONCAT). These concatenation commands allow an existing allocation to be altered provided that it has not already been opened. As mentioned earlier, the explicit long form of EXEC is used in the PARM statement to ensure that SYSEXEC is not opened in case a user might want to reorder it.

The additional library can be added either in front of existing allocations or after giving the user flexibility to override any existing allocations with their own versions of libraries. This is useful for testing new releases or products.

To improve upon the ***tsologon*** process you can add in the allocation of the users ISPF Profile data set. This allows more flexibility in allocating the profile in that you can use the TSO PREFIX (which you cannot do in static JCL) or the Userid. Here is an example of an enhanced ***tsologon*** CLIST:

```
PROC 0
SET &PROF = '&SYSPREF..ISPF.PROFILE'
IF &SYSDSN(&PROF) NE OK +
    THEN DO
         WRITE *** ALLOCATING NEW &PROF
         ALLOC F(ISPC) DS(&PROF) NEW SPA(15,15)
+
               DIR(42) TRACKS RECFM(F B)
LRECL(80) +
               DSORG(PO)
         FREE F(ISPC)
         END
ALLOC F(ISPPROF) DS(&PROF) SHR REUSE
ALLOC F(ISPTABL) DS(&PROF) SHR REUSE
KONCAT ISPTLIB &PROF BEFORE
SET &DSN = '&SYSUID..LOGON.CLIST'
IF &SYSDSN(&DSN) = OK +
    THEN EXEC &DSN
    ELSE ISPF
```

This enhanced ***tsologon*** CLIST will:

1. Set the &PROF variable to the data set name that you use for your ISPF PROFILE library.
2. Test if the ISPF PROFILE library exists.
3. If not then allocate it NEW.
4. Then allocate it to the ISPPROF DD.
5. And allocate it to the ISPTABL DD to be used as a personal ISPF Table library.
6. Use the KONCAT command to add this library to the head of the ISPTLIB concatenation (where existing tables are opened).
7. Then the original code to test for a users LOGON.CLIST

As you can see, there is a lot of additional flexibility that can be gained by using this technique to allocate data sets early in the TSO LOGON process. Both the installation and the user gain additional capabilities.

This article is one in a series that will address issues related to different aspects of working with TSO/ISPF. To make this series more 'user friendly' we solicit ideas from you, our readers, on topics that would be of interest to you. Please send your ideas to jbmoore@tsotimes.com.

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