

APPENDIX 2 FURTHER FEATURES OF polyFORTH

polyFORTH is a total software development environment designed especially for the professional programmer. polyFORTH is currently available for the most popular minicomputers and microprocessors.

In this book we've covered all the polyFORTH commands that might be used in a high-level, single-task application. We've left out several categories of words that are also included in polyFORTH. These categories are:

The Assembler

All versions of FORTH, not just polyFORTH, include an assembler vocabulary. Using the assembler, it is possible to code directly in the assembly language of a particular processor.

The assembler is primarily used to code time-critical words in a real-time application. Often an entire application can be coded in high-level FORTH, then after the application has been tested, critical low-level words can be redefined in machine code.

polyFORTH's assembler vocabulary includes interrupt-handling capability.

Printing Utility

polyFORTH provides a multiprogrammed task that sends output to a printer instead of your terminal. Among the printing utility commands are several which list disk blocks in the standard format of three to a page.

Date and Time Support

The current date and, when supported by a system clock, time of day are maintained by the system.

The Multiprogrammer

As many tasks as are needed, either terminal or control tasks, can be easily added. A single command builds a new task, given certain size parameters. Another command activates the task and gives it a specified behavior.

Disking Utility

polyFORTH includes commands for copying entire disks or portions thereof, for error checking, and for formatting when it is needed by the system.

Target Compiler

polyFORTH provides the capability to develop an application that ultimately will run on a different processor, in some cases even a different variety of processor. The compiled code can either be executed directly or be compressed and burned into ROM.

FORTH, Inc., which licenses and sells polyFORTH, was founded in 1973 by the inventor of FORTH, Charles H. Moore, and his associates. FORTH, Inc. also provides full documentation, hot-line support, educational services in all parts of the country, software options, and custom application programming. For further information write or call FORTH, Inc., 2309 Pacific Coast Hwy., Hermosa Beach, CA, 90254, 213/372-8493, TWX 910 344-6408.