
Subject: Re: AT&T and the 3B*2
Posted by [agk](#) on Fri, 24 May 2013 01:28:58 GMT
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This is going a little too far. People are jumping to all sorts of conclusions with too little information. (I know, I know, so what else is new on the net? :-)

Command partitioning is happening. Period. It makes a lot of sense (\$\$\$ savings) to a lot of people. If *you* want lex(1) and yacc(1), then *you* can buy it. Someone trying to run a business probably doesn't need it, although they can buy it.

And, yes, some commands will be deleted. Where commands don't make sense, they won't be offered. Release 1.0 of the AT&T 3B2 system does not offer a phototypesetter interface. Therefore, the 3B2 software does not include commands to talk to a phototypesetter. It also lacks an RP06 disk driver. It also lacks a blender interface. Big deal. If someone builds an RP06 or blender interface to the 3B2, they will sell any necessary commands.

In the end, the average user will end up spending less. Software developers, I guess, will end up spending more than average (far more people use vi(1) than cc(1), so cc is optional), but less than they might otherwise. For example, a software developer need only buy their favorite language, they don't have to pay for all the others.

Finally, if there is enough demand for a product (a command), I feel sure that it will be offered. Of course, I AM NOT SPEAKING FOR THE COMPANY, but business sense will prevail.

By the way, the back end of the SGS (software generation system) was disconnected from the front end because almost all the front ends use the same back end (assembler, linker, loader,...). When you buy your first compiler, be sure to order the back end. When you buy your next compiler, you don't have to buy the back end again.

-andy kegel

just one more employee of AT&T Bell Labs
