

**epeisach**

**Release73-rsaix.system.PS**

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## Athena System Release 7.3

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### 1 Introduction

This document describes the software changes in Athena System Release 7.3. It contains an overview of the changes made to the release since the initial deployment of the RISC/6000 systems.

Many programs maintained by third-parties have not yet been ported to the RISC/6000 system. Please continue to send suggestions for improvements and requests for desired software to `<rs6000-comments@Athena.MIT.EDU>`.

*[The release letter has been omitted in case multiple revisions of the bugfix release are required. It is expected that this will not be necessary, and will be 7.3S. However, to avoid confusion in documentation, the letter should be omitted.]*

### 2 Major User-Visible Changes

- **tcsh.** The Cornell tcsh 6.00.03, with some basic Athena enhancements, has been installed as `/bin/athena/tcsh`. This provides users with line editing and prompt setting capabilities similar to what currently exists on the other Athena platforms.

Keymaps are different in this version of `tcsh`. One can change existing keymaps with the `bindkey` command, but this version of `tcsh` lacks the ability to add user-defined keymaps.

Many new shell variables that control various shell functions have been added. Some variables have been renamed (`print_exit_status` is now `printexitvalue`). Completion semantics can be controlled by a number of shell variables - see the `tcsh` manual page for a complete explanation.

Line editing is always enabled, so the variable `linedit` is not used. One difference in line editing is the use of the "transpose characters" sequence. In the Athena `tcsh`, this would transpose the two characters preceding the cursor. In the Cornell `tcsh`, it behaves like Emacs, and transposes the character at the cursor position with the previous character.

In the user's `.cshrc` file, one can test which shell is in use by either of the two following syntaxes:

```
if ($?tcsh) then
  # This is either the Athena or Cornell tcsh
  if ($?version) then
    # This is the Cornell tcsh
```

```

else
    # This is the Athena tcsh
endif
else
    # This is standard vendor csh
endif

if ($?tcsh) then
    # This is either the Athena or Cornell tcsh
    if ("\$tcsh" == 1) then
        # This is the Athena tcsh
    else
        # This is the Cornell tcsh
    endif
else
    # This is standard vendor csh
endif

```

The above examples demonstrate how to differentiate all versions. One can simplify the tests, based on how much the script is required to do.

The following is a list of differences between the key bindings of the various shells:

Key	Standard csh	Athena Tcsh	Cornell Tcsh
---	-----	-----	-----
CTRL-D	list	delete-char	delete-char or list
TAB	-	-	complete
CTRL-L	-	clear screen	clear screen
CTRL-T	load average	transpose	transpose
CTRL-U	kill line	repeat	kill line
CTRL-W	kill word	kill line	kill word
CTRL-X	-	load average	ctrl-x prefix
ESC	complete	meta prefix	meta prefix (ESC-ESC=complete)

The Cornell tcsh more closely resembles the standard csh key map.

For more details about the features of this shell, type *man tcsh* on any machine running this new shell. */bin/csh* has not been changed on the RISC/6000 systems, which may affect some scripts that try to use some Athena-specific shell commands. These scripts should be changed to reference *#!/bin/athenaltcsh*.

In the global Xsession file, the user's SHELL environment variable will be changed to */bin/athenaltcsh*, if it is */bin/csh*, so as to provide transparency to the user and cause future windows that are spawned to use the Athena shell.

This release obviates the need to change one's .environment file, as is suggested in the OLC stock answers, and for efficiency, it is recommended that the change be removed.

- **Default mouse speed.** The default mouse acceleration has been changed from 4 to 2, to be like the speed on the other Athena platforms. The user may select his own desired mouse speed using the command `xset m <acceleration> <threshold>`. The values interpreted by `xset m` remain unchanged; only the default value has changed.
- **Default font.** The default X font has been increased. The font *fixed* now corresponds to a 7x13 font, rather than its previous 6x13 font. To use a different font, the user should edit his `.Xresources` file.

### 3 Other Changes

- **Ethernet driver.** A new ethernet driver and a hardware modification have been made to all RISC/6000 systems to prevent them from “dropping off the network.”
- **/etc/termcap.** A termcap file has been installed for the benefit of certain programs that may have been compiled incorrectly. To compile programs such that the terminfo database is used by the termcap routines, simply link in the curses library (`--lcurses`). Using `--ltermcap` requests that the terminfo database not be used, and should therefore be avoided.
- **attach.** A new version of `/bin/athena/attach` has been installed that reduces the number of potential causes of corruption of the `attachtab` file. Such corruption could lead to the inability to attach more filesystems.
- **enscript.** A compatibility program, `/usr/athena/bin/enscript` has been installed that understands the `-P` argument and will translate it appropriately before calling the IBM version of the program.
- **OLC and OLH.** The Motif-based clients of OLC and OLH (`xolc`, `xbrowser`, and `olh_motif`) now exist. In addition, the ASCII `olh` client has been improved to avoid constant refreshing of the screen.
- **write and writed.** The Athena network `write` client now exists. This is used by the OLC server in the event that user cannot be contacted via Zephyr. The configuration file `/etc/inetd.conf` has been changed by the update.
- **f77.** A shell script has been installed that explains to users that Fortran is available, but is not 100% f77 compliant, and is called `xf` on the RISC/6000 systems.
- **Boot information.** The default boot device list has been changed on the RISC/6000 systems so that the machines can be re-installed without requiring the keyswitch to be placed in the Service position.
- **more.** The Athena version of `more` has been installed in `/usr/athena/bin`. This version fixes several problems with the wrapping of long lines.
- **whois.** A new version of `whois` that references the correct host (NIC.DDN.MIL) has been installed.
- **from.** This version of `from` will now report that the user has no new mail when selected from the *Electronic Mail Check* Login Option. In addition, `from -t` will now disconnect gracefully from the Post Office servers (it was previously violating the protocol).