Digital Development Memo #295

To: Internal Program Users of Keyboard and Display Program
From: Alan Green
Subject: Proper Use of Flash by Internal Programs
Date: January 25, 1965

It has recently come to my attention that some confusion exists about
when an internal program using the Keyboard and Display Program may turn
on the flash when using the Please Perform verb, Please Mark verb, or
internally generated display with flash.

The proper place is after the return from NVSUB (or NVSUBWAIT), but
before going to ENDIDLE. It is incorrect to go to FLASHON after the GRABDSP,
but before the call to NVSUB. Before passing the NVSUB test, no program
has permission to do anything to the DSKY. It is possible that the operator
is using the DSKY, and until he releases it, it is obviously improper
for any program to turn on the flash in anticipation of finding NVSUB
available, which in fact may not be the case.

Operationally, the operator would see the flash suddenly come on in
the midst of his manipulation of the DSKY when he is supposed to have it
locked out to internal users.

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