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Cover Letter for DECnet–VAX™ Version 5.4
AV–DL04J–TE

DECnet–VAX Version 5.4 is fully integrated with VMS Version 5.4 and does not require a separate media and documentation kit (H-kit). Therefore, all orders that include the VMS Version 5.4 media and documentation kit also include DECnet–VAX images and documentation.

With the purchase of a DECnet–VAX Version 5.4 license, you will receive a Product Authorization Key (PAK), which enables network functionality on a system. A DECnet–VAX license grants the right to use the product as specified in the DECnet–VAX Software Product Description (SPD).

Using the License Management Facility, you can register either a DECnet–VAX end-node PAK (DVNETEND) or a full-function PAK (DVNETRTG). For more information on the License Management Facility, refer to the *VMS License Management Utility Manual*.

VMS Support for TCP/IP

The VMS/ULTRIX Connection (UCX) software can be installed to provide a TCP/IP environment on a VMS system. UCX includes capabilities such as the file transfer protocol (FTP) and virtual terminal support. By purchasing and installing UCX software, the TCP transport can be used without a PAK in the DECwindows environment. To use the FTP application, the UCX PAK must be installed in the License Management Facility (LMF). Refer to the UCX SPD (23.A4) for more information.

New VAX System Support

DECnet–VAX Version 5.4 adds support for the VAX 9000 series, VAX 4000 series, VAXft 3000 series, and VAX 3400 series of VAX systems.

Changes in Device Support

This section describes changes in DECnet–VAX device support.

New Device Support The following devices are supported starting with DECnet–VAX Version 5.4:

- DIV32

  Full-duplex, point-to-point ISDN Basic Rate Access (2B+D) communication interface that supports DDCMP.

- DEC WANcontroller 620

  Synchronous device for VAXft 3000 (DSF32).

- DEMNA

  Ethernet 802.3 to VAXXMI controller interface. Can be used on any XMIbus-based system that currently supports DEBNA or DEBNI communications controllers.

Enhanced Device Support DECnet–VAX Version 5.4 adds support for the concurrent use of multiple Ethernet adapters on different VAX system bus types. This capability expands the current DECnet–VAX multirail Ethernet support by enabling the concurrent use of the newer, faster devices that reside on one bus and the older devices that reside on a different bus. For example, customers who have VAX 9000 or VAX 6000 systems can now operate any combination of DEBNA, DEBNI, or DEMNA adapters, to a maximum of six. This support specifically affects the VAX 9000, VAX 6000, VAX 4000, and VAX 3400 series systems, as well as the MicroVAX 3000 series systems. Please check the DECnet–VAX SPD (25.03) for more information.

The VAXstation 3100 asynchronous port is now supported for asynchronous DECnet–VAX operations.

Digital now supports higher-performance options for both the DELQA and the DESQA Ethernet adapters.

Planned Removal of Device Support In the next 6 to 12 months, VMS, DECnet–VAX, and VAXcluster software support for the DEQNA Ethernet adapter will be withdrawn. For 24 months after that, the DEQNA adapter will be accessible only by user applications using the $QIO interface to the Q-bus Ethernet device driver (XQDRIVER). During that time, when the XQDRIVER recognizes the device as a DEQNA adapter, a console message will be printed specifying that the DEQNA is an unsupported device. However, these user applications will continue to work. At the end of the 24-month period, the DEQNA Ethernet adapter will no longer be accessible.

Digital recommends that customer implementations using the DEQNA upgrade as soon as possible to either the DELQA or the DESQA, whichever is appropriate for the system. Customer upgrade options currently are available from DECdirect. Contact your local Digital sales office for more information.

Also, within the next 12 to 15 months, VMS and DECnet–VAX will drop functional support for the DMV11 synchronous communications device. Customers can continue to use a customer-developed driver to access the DMV11. However, DECnet–VAX and VMS will no longer use this device for any native communication operations. Service contracts for the hardware will be honored for 12 to 24 months after retirement of the software driver. Notification of retirement will be listed in the DECnet–VAX cover letter in a future release. See the VAX Wide Area Device Drivers SPD (29.64) and cover letter for more information.

Digital recommends that customer implementations using the DMV11 obtain the DSV11 synchronous communications device upgrade as soon as possible. Customer upgrade options currently are available from DECdirect. Contact your local Digital sales office for more information.

Planned Additional Device Support DECnet–VAX Version 5.4 does not support the CIXCD adapter. Support for this adapter is planned for a future release of DECnet–VAX. Also, as of Version 5.4, CNDRIVER support for all other CI adapters is limited to a single adapter per VAX system. Multiport support is planned for a future release of DECnet–VAX.

Documentation

For systems that you will use to manage your network, Digital recommends that you purchase the VMS Extended Documentation Set, which includes all manuals for VMS, DECnet–VAX, and VAX-cluster software. Individual DECnet–VAX manuals or the DECnet–VAX volume can be ordered separately. For more details about DECnet–VAX documentation, see the *Overview of VMS Documentation*, which describes all the VMS documentation components and provides information about ordering these components.

VMS V5.4 Software Product Services Cover Letter, Including Instructions to Update Your VMS Extended and DECwindows Documentation Sets

AV-LS18D-TE

Dear Customer,

We are pleased to provide your VMS Version 5.4 update kit. This letter contains notices on Service Update Product Authorization Keys (SUPs), media retirements, and standalone Backup, instructions for updating your VMS Extended and DECwindows Documentation Sets, and information about Software Product Services available to assist you.

Service Update PAKs (SUP)

A Product Authorization Key (PAK) or a Service Update PAK (SUP) is required for new installations of VMS, VAXcluster Software, and other VMS System Integrated and Layered Products. If you have already received Product Authorization Keys (PAKs) for those products for which you are licensed or if you are following an upgrade path from V5.0 or greater, you may disregard the remainder of this section on Service Update PAKs (SUPs).

Please note, however, that VMS V5.4 is planned to be the final VMS release for which a SUP will be provided as part of your update kit. If you have not yet received your permanent License PAK, please contact your local office.

The use of a SUP is authorized for purposes of Software Service update only, pursuant to a valid software license for the software product. The SUP described within this cover letter does not represent a license and will be replaced with a permanent License PAK some time in the future for entitled Software Product Service customers. SUPs are furnished for the convenience of properly licensed contract and warranty customers who have not yet received a permanent License PAK.

VMS V5.4 Service Update PAK (SUP) Digital is providing a VMS SUP to all service contract customers for VMS software, with the exception of those customers who receive updates on CDROM media. CDROM media customers planning a new installation of VMS V5.4 who have not received a permanent VMS License PAK should contact their local office for assistance. For all other media types, installation of the Version 5.4 Warranty Mandatory Update automatically creates and registers a SUP. Refer to the License Management chapter of *VMS Version 5.4 Release Notes* for additional information.

VAXcluster Software Service Update PAK (SUP) VAXcluster Software has been compliant with the License Management Facility since VMS V5.2. A VAXcluster SUP on paper was distributed with your VMS V5.2 and V5.3 update kits. For your convenience, the same SUP is being distributed again as part of your VMS V5.4 media kit. Register your paper VAXcluster Software SUP using the VMS License Management Facility, if you have not already done so. Refer to the License Management chapter of *VMS Version 5.4 Release Notes* for additional information.

Service Update PAKs (SUPs) for other System Integrated Products SUPs for DECnet-VAX, RMS Journaling, and VMS Volume Shadowing are included in the service update kits for these products. Refer to the information contained in these kits and the License Management chapter of *VMS Version 5.4 Release Notes* for additional information.

Media Retirements

Software Product Services is retiring VMS and Layered Product update distribution on the following media:

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MEDIA TYPE          END SERVICE DATE
RL02                December 1990
RX33                December 1990
RA60                March 1991
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We recommend you convert your contract to another media type such as magnetic tape, TK50 or CDrom media.

Standalone Backup

VMS Version V5.4 magnetic tape update kits do not contain Standalone Backup. If you are planning to install VMS V5.4 rather than follow an upgrade path from VMS V5.3, you will need to use the Standalone Backup media provided with your VMS V5.3 kit. If this media is not available, you may build a Standalone Backup kit using the STABACKIT.COM command procedure, as described in the *VMS Installation and Operations* Manual for your specific VAX computer model.

Updating Your VMS Extended and DECwindows Documentation Sets
Services Available to Assist You

DSNlink and Digital Software Information Network (DSIN) provide electronic access to up-to-date information on Digital Software products. Customers with DSNlink or DSIN access are encouraged to review these databases for the most up-to-date information on VMS V5.4. DSNlink and DSIN are not available in all areas outside of the United States. Please contact your local sales representative regarding the availability of these services within your country.

Customers who currently have a DECsupport or Software Update Installation Service contract are entitled to Digital Customer Services installation of VMS V5.4. Digital Installation service may also be purchased separately for this update.

If you use VMS DECwindows and have a VMS DECwindows Programming Documentation set (part number QA-001AM-GZ), you may wish to upgrade your Software Product Services contract to include VMS DECwindows Programming Documentation updates (part number QT-001AM-KZ) based on DECwindows system programming needs. This documentation is recommended for customers developing DECwindows application programs.

Please contact your local Software Product Services Representative for additional information on any of the items noted within this letter.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your commitment to Digital Equipment Corporation and look forward to continuing to provide services to you in the future.

Software Product Services Management