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Continuity in Computing

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Lockheed Martin Virtualizes Alpha DS15s with Avanti

Lockheed Martin does not limit itself to aviation systems. Amongst many diverse businesses, it supports logistical systems for the U.S. Army. In 2009, Lockheed began researching the long-term viability of a munitions inventory management system supported on two AlphaServer DS15s running OpenVMS. Lockheed's goals were to virtualize the Alpha hardware, improve system reliability, and lower operating costs with minimum impact to the end users.



Lockheed quickly reduced potential upgrade candidates to Migration Specialties Avanti virtual Alpha package. Avanti provided fully compatible virtual Alpha hardware hosted under Windows Server 2008. The solution runs under VMware with vMotion, meeting the virtual system and improved reliability requirements. It could be implemented on existing Lockheed servers, lowering implementation and operating costs. Its rollout required no end-user application or operational changes. End users would not be aware that a major hardware change had taken place.

Lockheed carried out the system ports in 2010. Two Alpha DS15s were ported to equivalent Avanti virtual systems over four days. The Avanti systems were hosted on separate VMware virtual machines hosted, in turn, on hardware in geographically separate data centers. Migration Specialties provided remote support during the port, observing and advising on the Lockheed porting process via a secure remote link. The port was a complete success and the DS15 hardware has been retired. The entire port, including software, services, and an annual support contract, was delivered for \$16,000US.

Migration Specialties' Avanti virtual Alpha solution allowed Lockheed Martin to upgrade a critical legacy system, improve operating efficiency, improve system reliability, and implement virtualization technologies in a very short period of time at a low cost and with no operational impact. The ability of Avanti to virtualize legacy Alpha hardware allows the Lockheed Alpha applications to be maintained indefinitely.

Migration Specialties offers legacy hardware virtualization solutions for Alpha, VAX, PDP-11, and HP1000 systems. Visit the [Migration Specialties Virtual Systems page](#) for additional information.