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VAX & Alpha Replacement Options

This paper discusses options available to support legacy VAX and Alpha applications without modification.

OPEN SOURCE VIRTUAL SOLUTION: SIMH

Replacement of existing VAX hardware with the open source SimH hardware emulator

SimH is suitable to support low end VAX machines back as far as version 3.0 of VMS. It can also be deployed when performance is not a critical issue. There are no licensing costs for SimH software, it is an open source product. Migration Specialties charges an annual support fee of \$1,600US, should ongoing product support be desired. Porting costs and host server costs need to be considered. Migration Specialties typically charges between \$6,000.00 and \$10,000.00US for basic porting services.

Advantages

- Open source emulation solution.
- Runs under multiple O/S's, including Windows, Linux, and OpenVMS.
- Runs on standard, readily available server hardware.

Disadvantages

- Non-commercial product. Higher risk of implementation issues.
- Emulating VAX hardware under host O/S adds operational complexity.

COMMERCIAL VIRTUAL SOLUTIONS

Virtualize existing VAX and Alpha hardware with Migration Specialties Mayfair, FreeAXP, and Avanti hardware emulators.

Mayfair, FreeAXP, and Avanti are commercial solutions to virtualize VAX and Alpha hardware with little or no impact on their software. They permit replacement of legacy hardware with modern commodity servers. They do not handle real time or special hardware requirements. Licensing costs, start at \$5,500.00US. Porting costs and host server costs also need to be considered. Migration Specialties typically charges between \$6,000.00 and \$10,000.00US for basic porting services.

Advantages

- Commercial emulation solution.
- Runs under Windows O/S.
- Runs on standard, readily available server hardware.

Disadvantages

- Emulating VAX and Alpha hardware under Windows adds operational complexity.

HARDWARE REFRESH SOLUTION

Replacement of the existing VAX and Alpha hardware with new and refurbished components

Migration Specialties sells genuine VAX and Alpha hardware upgrade, refresh, and replacement components. These solutions replace legacy VAX and Alpha hardware with new and refurbished components, complete with a factory warranty and up to 10 years of return-to-factory (RTF) support. A refresh is an economical way to retain proven VAX hardware reliability.

Like moving to an emulator, a VAX or Alpha hardware refresh involves a system port. A system port is the transfer of the OpenVMS, Ultrix, DEC UNIX, or Tru64 UNIX operating system and user applications to the new hardware. Migration Specialties porting service charges start at \$6,000.00US.

Advantages

- VAX and Alpha hardware has proven reliability.
- Up to 10 years of RTF warranty support.
- Reasonable cost, no risk.

Disadvantages

- Does not eliminate VAX or Alpha hardware.

VAX AND ALPHA ASSESSMENT

We can provide better information regarding VAX or Alpha replacement options once we understand your existing installation and application support goals. To provide installation information, please execute our VMS_INFO procedure and return the results. The procedure is available at this link: http://www.migrationspecialties.com/VMS_INFO.html

You can contact us to discuss your legacy VAX and Alpha application support goals. We will help you identify the safest, most cost effective way to support your legacy applications.

SOLUTION GUARANTEE

Migration Specialties has a high degree of confidence in our VAX replacement solutions. We stand behind our products and services. Provided we can adequately assess the system in question, we guarantee the solution we supply will provide functional equivalence to the existing VAX computer system. Should our solution fail to achieve this goal, clients will *only be liable for travel expenses* associated with the installation services. The bottom line is that if the solution doesn't work, you don't pay.