

# *Migration Specialties International, Inc.*

217 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Florence, CO 81226-1403

+1 719-371-1711, Fax: +1 888-854-3417

E-mail: [Info@MigrationSpecialties.com](mailto:Info@MigrationSpecialties.com)

[www.MigrationSpecialties.com](http://www.MigrationSpecialties.com)



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## **VAX Replacement Options**

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

### **1. OPEN SOURCE SOLUTION: SIMH**

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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. Deployment to support highly critical systems is only advised at this time with extensive testing.

There are no licensing costs for SimH software, it is an open source product. Migration Specialties charges an annual support fee of \$2,000US, should ongoing product support be desired. Like CHARON-VAX, porting costs and host server costs also need to be factored in. Migration Specialties typically charges between \$5,000.00 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.
- Commodity server hardware does not have the proven reliability of VAX hardware.

### **2. HARDWARE REFRESH SOLUTION**

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Replacement of the existing VAX hardware with new and refurbished components

Migration Specialties sells genuine VAX hardware upgrade, refresh, and replacement products provided by Nemonix Engineering. These solutions replace legacy VAX hardware with new and refurbished components, complete with a factory warranty and up to 10 years of return-to-factory (RTF) support. VAX refresh costs typically run between \$5,000.00 and \$15,000.00US. A refresh is an economical way to retain proven VAX hardware reliability.

Like moving to an emulator, a VAX hardware refresh involves a system port. A system port is the transfer of the VMS operating system and user applications to the new hardware. Migration Specialties typically charges \$5,000.00US for basic porting services

#### *Advantages*

- VAX hardware has proven reliability.

- Up to 10 years of RTF warranty support.
- Reasonable cost, no risk.

### ***Disadvantages***

- Does not eliminate VAX hardware.

## **3. COMMERCIAL SOLUTION: CHARON-VAX**

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Replacement of existing VAX hardware with commercial CHARON-VAX hardware emulator

CHARON-VAX solutions exist for virtually any generic VAX installation running OpenVMS 5.5 or higher. CHARON solutions do not handle real time or special hardware requirements. Licensing costs, including annual support, start at \$8,000.00US and can exceed \$100,000.00, depending upon the class of machine being replaced and the performance requirements of the application. Porting costs and host server costs also need to be factored in. Migration Specialties typically charges between \$5,000.00 and \$10,000.00US for basic porting services.

**Note:** Migration Specialties is not a CHARON-VAX reseller. We cannot sell CHARON-VAX products. We can provide CHARON-VAX installation and porting services.

### ***Advantages***

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

### ***Disadvantages***

- Cost.
- Emulating VAX hardware under Windows adds operational complexity.
- Windows server hardware does not have the proven reliability of VAX hardware.

## **VAX ASSESSMENT**

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We can provide better information regarding VAX 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](http://www.migrationspecialties.com/VMS_INFO.html)

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

## **SOLUTION GUARANTEE**

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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.