

# VMS Tech Tidings

Susan Skonetski

*Regarding the VMS Update email*

My Dear Friends

To avoid confusion I have decided to rename the VMS Update that I have been sending out for the last decade or so to the , ‘VMS Tech Tidings’. VMS Tech Tidings is co-written by Amanda Skonetski, whom many of you know from the VMS Boot Camp , Ambassadors meetings and HPTF. I am certain that she will do an outstanding job. Her passion for VMS runs, in many ways, as deep as mine.

This journal will be focusing the majority of it’s articles on VMS as a whole as well as the companies and partners that work to support our beloved operating system. Some of your favorites will still be included.

In addition as the journal grows we will be looking for new things to add.

To make this a success however; we are going to need your help! Please continue to send your feedback. As always your satisfaction is of utmost importance to us. Please tell me if this is the way you want me to format, we can always go back to what we were doing.

Warm Regards as always,  
Sue and Amanda Skonetski  
[Susan\\_Skonetski@hotmail.com](mailto:Susan_Skonetski@hotmail.com)



## 2010 ECUBE ROADMAP

You will be excited to know that eCube Systems has announced a very detailed 2010 product roadmap for NXTware Remote; its Eclipse-based, cross-platform Remote Development Environment (RDE). The recently released roadmap contains outlines of major releases and VMS product enhancements scheduled through the first quarter of 2011.

*Continued on page 4*

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## THE NEMONIX NICHE

Nemonix Engineering Inc. headed by Beth Bumbarger (CEO) and Daniel Bumbarger (Head of Engineering) have certainly found themselves the perfect spot in the technology world. This dynamic business duo work with HP and their



partners keeping the hundreds of thousands of VAX and Alpha environments running better than new. By refreshing your VAX and Alpha it is possible to get far better performance than you ever thought possible. Keep reading for additional details.

*Continued on page 4*

## NETWORKING DYNAMICS *New Product - Sysgem UNIX File Synchronize*

The Sysgem UNIX File Synchronizer gives easy control over the distribution of configuration files on UNIX servers. Files such as: /etc/hosts; /etc/crontab; /etc/sudoers and similar configuration files, or indeed any text files required for distribution on multiple UNIX servers.

The content of the files is defined centrally, and a change to the central file definition may then be distributed to hundreds of remote servers.

Potentially, each server may require a slightly different content or contain server names and server-specific values, or need specific shell commands to be run as part of

the update. How, then, is it possible to maintain the uniqueness on hundreds of remote servers?

A simple meta-language conveniently manages the central file definition in a single file, and controls the variants needed for each distinct server. Target servers are grouped into like categories that have similar content. "Variables" define server specific names and values.

For flexibility, options allow exceptions per server while minimizing the variations maintained centrally. Not only can textual content be defined, but shell commands specific to a server

may also be invoked. The SEM user interface conveniently selects and controls the list of central definition files.

The Sysgem 'custom-scripts' interpret the meta-language statements; translate these into the target files for comparison against the existing files on the target servers, and when necessary update the target files.

To schedule a WebEx demo, please e-mail:

[Sales@networkingdynamics.com](mailto:Sales@networkingdynamics.com)

As for VMS, our latest product is KeyCapture, a companion product to our renowned software Peek & Spy. Also, the folks at Sysgem have received a request to extend the support for the file synchronizer product to VMS. Annette tells me that one of their technicians used to consult for DEC in London, and all of their main line of products are supported on IA64, Alpha and VAX.

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

### DEC LEGACY EVENT APRIL 17-18 2010(TIME SENSITIVE)

The DEC Legacy Event is on 17th & 18th April 2010. Some of the people giving presentations and/or demonstrations include:

**Kevin Murrell**, Director of the National Museum of Computing

**Colin Butcher**, XDelta systems/OpenVMS Ambassador giving an overview of OpenVMS 8.4 & mini-bootcamp

**Dave Goodwin**, giving a talk on "Digital Equipment, its Rise and Fall"

**Derek Holloway**, UK Supplier of VT terminals and Keyboards.

Equipment that will be demonstrated so far includes a PDP/8, DECmateIII, DEC Professional, MicroVAX II & various VAX, Alpha & Itanium Hardware.

In addition to several demonstrations there will be a mini-bootcamp, coding competition and plenty of time to chat to people with similar interests.

I'm hoping the event will appeal to a broad cross-section of those previously involved or still involved in DEC & its' legacy.

The website URL is: <http://declegacy.org.uk>

# Sue's Favorites

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## HP PRESENTS: VMS TECHNICAL UPDATE DAYS IN AMERICAS

Mark your calendars Technical Update Days are two days of deep technical information presented by OpenVMS engineering and its partners. Provides a wonderful opportunity to learn about new features in OpenVMS 8.4, our plans for the future, and much more. Also provides a unique opportunity to interact with the OpenVMS engineering folks and get all your OpenVMS questions answered. HP acknowledges support for these events from their partners, Software Concepts International at [www.sciinc.com](http://www.sciinc.com) and Nemonix Engineering at [www.nemonixengineering.com](http://www.nemonixengineering.com)

*Brought to you by Sujatha Ramani  
HP OpenVMS Engineering*

## LONG LIVE DEC!

Some of you may be interested to know that a new documentary about Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) is currently under development.

For the handful of you out there who don't know about DEC, it was a computer company founded in the 1970's by Ken Olsen and Harlan Anderson. DEC blazed a technology trail that few companies today could even attempt to match.

The documentary includes interviews with alumni, historic images and all kinds of great stuff

Also stay tuned for two new books from Gordon Bell and Harlan Anderson, coming to shelves near you soon!

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## BIRTH OF THE PDP-11

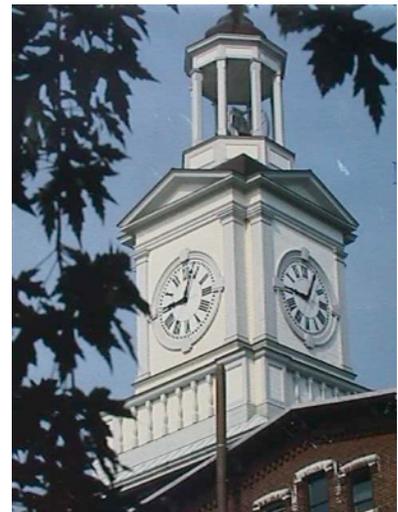


<http://hampage.hu/pdp-11/birth.html> - How the PDP-11 Was Born (according to Larry McGowan)

If you want to connect into a DEC community LinkedIn has a great DEC Alumni forum. There are a number of members and the community itself is very active. I have found LinkedIn to be a great way to stay connected. For example: on the

DEC forum there are over 9,000 people signed up. There are Groups for all kinds of other interests as well. Connect is also using LinkedIn.

*DEC Alumni, Connect HP User Group, OpenVMS Community  
Oracle Rdb Enthusiasts*



**NEMONIX NICHE CONT.**

These refreshes are done with brand new, and updated hardware. No more hand-me-downs for your systems. And there is new hardware including batteries for your VAX hardware. Take a look for another article in this journal about new flash drives that go back to VMS V5.1 (before flash was invented).

Need a new drive for your VAX but can't find one? Don't sweat it, Nemonix will build it for you! In addition all Nemonix's products come with a minimum guaranteed 3 year warranty. Nemonix also holds it's own patents so there is no retail mark up. Nemonix's custom crafted parts will get your computing environment running the way it did when it first rolled off the factory floor. Then again, with all the technical updates Nemonix is able to integrate into

their hardware, it may just run even better!

Everyone knows how reliable these machines are. Why should anyone need to say goodbye to such pieces of mechanical art? Choose the Nemonix Solution and watch your computing environment soar!

*“We would rather walk away....than compromise our quality or our integrity; and our customers know that”*

Nemonix is also proud of it's standards. In an interview with their new Director of Marketing, Susan Skonetski, we are told to “Expect big things from Nemonix

in 2010”, and with partners like Multis, Thales, SCI and HP it looks like this company is shaping up to be a real powerhouse. Skonetski also placed a good deal of stress on her customers, and wants to reassure them that they will always come first. “Nothing is more important than a company's commitment to it's customers. Nemonix stands by that age old truth. We would rather walk away from a deal than to compromise either our quality or our integrity; and our customers know that”

*-Amanda Skonetski*

**2010 eCUBE ROADMAP**

The plan also includes new releases of NXTware Remote for OpenVMS, NXTware Remote for UNIX/ Linux, NXTware Remote for Windows Server and NXTware Remote for Mac OS Server.

In a quote from Peter Marquez, Sr. Partner eCube Systems we learned "NXTware Remote breaks down development silos based on specific platforms," says Peter Marquez, Sr. Partner at eCube Systems. "Now, using NXTware Remote and Eclipse, teams

*“...Teams can be productive in multiple software development environments from a single IDE”*

*-Peter Marquez, Sr. Partner at eCube*

can be productive in multiple software development environments from one IDE” The highlight for OpenVMS in 2010 from eCube Systems is NXTware Remote for OpenVMS V 2.0 with Enterprise Class Remote For additional information and the full roadmap please visit: <http://www.ecubesystems.com/>

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## ANNOUNCEMENT FROM CA CONSOLE MANAGEMENT!

Announcing CA(r) Console Management for OpenVMS r3.1 Beta : CA would like to announce the beta of CA Console Management for OpenVMS r3.1 is about to begin. We are looking for beta sites on both OpenVMS Alpha and OpenVMS I64 platforms. Clients who are using the Console product and are interested in learning more or signing up for the beta can do so at: <http://supportconnectw.ca.com/public/beta/cnslmgt31/cnslmgt31beta.asp> (note you need to log into your [supportconnect.ca.com](http://supportconnect.ca.com) account to reach the beta site)

This release includes support for SSH to connect to remote consoles, and for communication with the failover server. Other features include:

- \* IPv6 support
- \* Support for 500 console connections
- \* Full support of system halt sequences
- \* Scan profiles for OpenVMS V8 and for Integrity servers
- \* System icons for the latest Integrity servers

This limited beta is filling up fast, so don't delay putting in your application. If you have questions or need more information I can be reached at [Elaine.Ritchie@ca.com](mailto:Elaine.Ritchie@ca.com)



## MULTIS SUPPORT TO THE INSTALLED BASE

Multis Group Limited has recently become the EMEA Distributor for Nemonix Engineering. We support the VAX & Alpha product range with new RZ disks, systems refresh, SCSI adapters, Ethernet controllers, memory etc.

At the "Connect" event in Darmstadt, Germany last month it was great to meet so many folks interested in legendary VAX & Alpha products. Thank you very much for your support.

## HP RENEW PROGRAMME

If your customers require Alpha's, from DS10 to GS1280 you can purchase directly from Multis. All configurations are tested under the "HP Renew" brand. We ship worldwide and all our products include 12 months HP warranty.

Contact details:

Tom Hogan

e-mail:

[thogan@multisgroup.com](mailto:thogan@multisgroup.com)

Website: [www.multisgroup.com](http://www.multisgroup.com)



**SURVEY FROM VMS AMBASSADOR**

Dear VMS Champions,

I am putting together material (to be shared when complete) on the goodness of VMS compared to other OSES (including our x86 based brethren) but I need some VMS user data in order for this information to be complete and show the entire story. Please complete the following 4 questions as best you can for your environment. Please email me back in private so your data will not be shared in public (Note: some email clients automatically reply back to a distribution list when you press "REPLY" only and not "REPLY TO ALL" - please check).

1. For VMS users/systems; how long does it take you to apply a patch (security related) once received from DEC/Compaq/HP? Or maybe stated another way; how long is it from the time you receive a security related VMS patch to the time it is installed.

Risk Type VMS

Servers (application & other) Database Servers

Low ? days ? days  
Medium ? days ? days  
High ? days ? days  
Critical ? days ? days

2. Staffing levels (servers to System Administrator ratio - e.g. 30:1 - 40:1); How many systems does your VMS System Manager manage in your environment or maybe put another way; how many VMS servers would you

have to have before you hired another VMS System Manager?

VMS HP-UX Linux  
Client (desktop systems) N/A N/A ?  
Servers ???  
Database Servers ???

3. Average cost of a VMS system Manager (I have average national numbers, I am just wanting to check its validity - names are not used in my material just the value).

4. Average cost of a VMS system Manager with DB experience if different from above (I have average national numbers, I am just wanting to check its validity - names are not used in my material just the value).

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thanks,

*Eddie O.*  
*-Ambassador*

## MIGRATION SPECIALTIES PREPARES FREEAXP BETA

Migration Specialties will soon be providing the beta version of FreeAXPTM, our free AlphaServer 400 hardware emulator, to select testers. FreeAXP is a cross-platform virtualization solution that allows users to create a virtual Alpha environment under Microsoft Windows to support native TRU64 and OpenVMS applications. FreeAXP will be available for both personal and commercial use. You read that right; ***the FreeAXP license will not restrict commercial use.***

FreeAXP creates a virtual machine that emulates legacy Digital, Compaq, and HP Alpha hardware. It is binary compatible with OpenVMS and TRU64 operating systems and layered products. FreeAXP will provide the following features:

- Simple configuration interface
- System console
- EV4 CPU
- 32 – 128MB memory

- 1 SCSI Controller supporting up to 7 devices
  - 1 NIC running at 100Mb or better
- FreeAXP will eventually be provided in two versions, FreeAXP-32TM and FreeAXP-64TM to respectively support 32-bit and 64-bit Windows host environments. FreeAXP-64 will be released first. FreeAXP is a useful tool and an introduction to the commercial Alpha emulators Migration Specialties has under development. If you are looking to test an Alpha emulation solution, FreeAXP provides a no cost, risk free test bed. FreeAXP will be free to download and use. Ad hoc product support will be provided via a user forum. Direct product support will be available for a small annual fee. Avanti, our upcoming commercial AlphaServer 400 emulator, will provide additional performance, capacity, and support options. Once FreeAXP completes beta testing, we will announce a public download link.



## HP RECOGNIZES DRIVES

*Northborough, MA, December 15, 2009*

Hewlett Packard has recognized Nemonix as a key supplier of components, subsystems and life-and-value-extending services, all fully compatible with the original equipment they replace or enhance. Nemonix disk drives can now be purchased through HP's Global Services group, in addition to through Nemonix and other of its partners.

Nemonix designs and manufactures Extreme Heritage Solutions and Services for owners of equipment originally manufactured by Digital, Compaq, HP and other vendors.

## PROCESS SOFTWARE SEEKS BETA TESTERS!

Process Software is now accepting beta testers for PMDF v6.5. We are scheduled to begin testing mid-January and the beta testing should last roughly 4 weeks, ending mid-February.

The major features being introduced include:

- Replacement of the SleepyCat database with a more reliable ISAM database
- Upgrade of Legacy IMAP and POP servers
- Revisions to the vacation notice format
- Option to wrap/reject messages with standards-violating long lines

In addition to these major features, there are numerous enhancement and defects being addressed. If you are interested in participating in the beta program, please complete the sign-up form at the URI below.

[www.process.com/tcpip/pmdf65beta.asp](http://www.process.com/tcpip/pmdf65beta.asp)

As a token of our appreciation, we will be giving away our legendary Process Software tie-dye T-shirts

for active beta testers who download & install within the first week.

Thank you in advance for your participation and feedback!

Deborah May Palma  
Marketing Communications Manager




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## “EXTREME HERITAGE SOLUTIONS” DEFINED

BitChaser here. I coined the term "Extreme Heritage Solutions", and have used it in my Bytes (see url below). Some of you want to know what that really means, so here you go:

Heritage, because we use, care for and love our systems from DEC, Compaq and the early days of HP's ownership of those companies.

Solutions, because you need ways to keep these systems alive, well and contributing- and you don't need others to tell you to jettison them prematurely. That's been a problem that needed to be solved, hence "solutions".

Extreme, because so many others have been predicting "the death of this" or "the end of that" for decades, and moved their

components, subsystems and refreshes, as well as extending their value with upgrades they never knew, and new capabilities that didn't exist when they were first built.

If that's not extreme dedication and service, I don't know what is.

These solutions for your heritage gear may be Extreme, but they are real, they are tested, and they are as solid as the systems they support. Check it out at <http://nemonixengineering.com/bc/>.

And thanks for your support.

-BitChaser

***“These solutions for your Heritage Gear may be extreme. . . but they are as solid as the systems they support”***

*-BitChaser*

investments elsewhere, leaving Nemonix as possibly the only company that can help you keep these systems rolling with new

## Using VMS?

If you're using OpenVMS on your machines then you'll certainly want to sign up for the Special Interest Group (SIG) Mailing List!

The list has recently been automated and you know what that means! Now you can sign up for SIG email or remove yourself from it. Not that anyone would want to do that, but we're all about freedom of choice right folks?

## OpenVMS 8.4 Field Test Webinar recording and slides

Not sure how many folks here attended this or knew about this since it was targeted at DPSS members but the recording and slides are now available for anyone to download and review.

<http://h21007.www2.hp.com/portal/site/dspp/menuitem.863c3e4cbc3f3515b49c108973a801c1id=50a3545d05ee4210VgnVCM200000a460ea10RCRD>

## Introduction to T4 and Friends

A Pair of OpenVMS Technical Webinars information can be found at

<http://www.openvms.org/stories.php?story=09/12/07/0046507>

## DISCLAIMER

All artwork, photographs and logos belong to their respective companies. Tech Tidings does not take any credit for what it does not own.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to all companies, partners and individuals who submitted articles, your help is dually appreciated and noted. We would like to Acknowledge the following companies:

### Multis

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

### eCube

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

### CA Console Management

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

### Nemonix

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

### Networking Dynamics

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

### HP

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

### Process Software

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

Don't forget to visit even more of our friends at:

[www.openvms.org](http://www.openvms.org)

and

[www.connect-community.org](http://www.connect-community.org)

## Submissions

If you have an article you would like to see posted, or you know a company who would like a spot in the newsletter simply let us know! Tech Tidings is looking to grow, so any technically based company is more than welcome to send us an article. Spread the word and help out your VMS community!

Many Thanks and Warm Regards,

Sue and Amanda

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