VMS Version 5.1 Cover Letter

AV-EF56H-TE

DIGITAL is pleased to announce VMS operating system Version 5.1. This release is the first major update to VMS Version 5.0. Integral to VMS Version 5.1 is support for the VMS DECwindows desktop environment. The VMS DECwindows desktop environment provides a new user interface to VMS and promotes the establishment of a consistent style of graphical VMS user interface by including a new set of integrated desktop applications. Refer to the *Overview of VMS DECwindows*, which is a part of the VMS DECwindows User Kit, for more information about VMS DECwindows.

Documentation

VMS Version 5.1 documentation includes the following new documentation:

- The *VMS Version 5.1 Installation Guide*, which describes how to update your system to VMS Version 5.1 and how to install the VMS DECwindows software.

- The *VMS Version 5.1 Release Notes*, which supplements the *VMS Version 5.0 Release Notes* and the *VMS Version 5.1 New Features Manual*, and describes enhancements to VMS to support VMS DECwindows and the Compound Document Architecture (CDA).

- The VMS DECwindows User Documentation Kit, which describes how to use the new graphical workstation interface to VMS and is now part of the VMS Documentation Base Set.

- An optional VMS DECwindows Programming Documentation Kit that provides reference and tutorial descriptions of the VMS DECwindows programming libraries and the CDA programming library. This optional kit must be ordered separately.

Refer to the *VMS Version 5.1 Release Notes* for ordering information. Refer to the *Overview of VMS DECwindows* for further information about individual manuals.

Update

Updating to VMS Version 5.1 requires that your system be running VMS Version 5.0-2. If you are running any other version of VMS, you need to update it to VMS Version 5.0-2 before proceeding with the installation of Version 5.1. Refer to the *VMS Version 5.1 Installation Guide* for details about how to update your system to VMS Version 5.0-2.

Media Kits

This kit contains both the VMS Version 5.0 Media and Documentation Kit and the VMS Version 5.1 Media and Documentation Major Update Kit. This major update is being shipped on large media, except for the RX33 media kits. The large media (RA60, compact disc, magnetic tape, TK50, RK07, and RL02) contains VMS versions 5.0-1, 5.0-2, and 5.1 as well as VMS DECwindows software. The media is labeled *V5.1 BIN xxxx, MAJOR UPDATE*, where *xxxx* is the media type. For example, if your distribution is on TK50, the label should read *V5.1 BIN TK50, MAJOR UPDATE*.

Your media kit may contain more than one Installation and Operations Guide. Place the appropriate guide for your VAX processor in the Release Notes binder.

VMS distribution on RK07, RC25, and RL02 will be retired effective March 31, 1989. Customers under contract for this media distribution should refer to an additional letter provided in your kit for recommended alternatives.

Changes in Device Support

In the future, support for the DEQNA Ethernet Adapter will be withdrawn. However, it will be supported for at least one more year. The DELQA Ethernet Adapter is the recommended replacement for the DEQNA.

At the next major functional release of VMS, the DHU11 and DMZ32, connected to DWBUAs on VAX BI systems, will no longer be supported. One functional release later, the DMR11, connected to a DWBUA on a VAX BI system, will no longer be supported. At that time, the DMF32 will be the only synchronous/asynchronous UNIBUS adapter supported on a DWBUA on a VAX BI system. For migration purposes, DIGITAL suggests that native mode VAX BI adapters, for example DMB32, be used in place of these devices.

The Field Change Order (FCO) that upgrades the DEBNT to a DEBNA is required. The DEBNT is an Ethernet adapter for VAX BI-based systems and was previously supported on the VAX 8530 and the VAX 8550. The DEBNA is the only supported native mode VAX BI Ethernet adapter.

The FCO for the DEBNT (T1032-R002) is required and is provided at no charge to both Hardware Product Services (HPS) and non-HPS customers. For HPS customers, installation of the FCO is provided as part of the contract. Installation is available to non-service customers at current per call rates.

VMS DECwindows Online Documentation Compact Disc

The VMS DECwindows Online Documentation Set is available on compact disc. The online documentation files are for use with the Bookreader application, which is included as part of the VMS DECwindows software. The compact disc includes both the VMS DECwindows User Documentation Kit and the VMS DECwindows Programming Documentation Kit. You can order the VMS DECwindows Online Documentation compact disc separately using the part number **QA-VP4AA-G8**.

Problem Building Standalone BACKUP on RX01 Floppy Diskettes

The standalone BACKUP kit for VMS Version 5.1 will not successfully build on RX01 media. Standalone BACKUP does continue to build on all other supported media (RA series disks, TK50, RL02, and so forth). DIGITAL expects to correct this problem in the update following VMS Version 5.1.

For VMS Version 5.1, if you need to boot standalone BACKUP from RX01 media, you must have a bootable copy from VMS Version 5.0, 5.0-1, or 5.0-2 before proceeding with the VMS Version 5.1 update.

NOTE

This problem only applies to the RX01 media that is the console media for VAX–11/78x series processors. There are no problems building standalone BACKUP on any other media.

New VAX–11/78x customers will receive a copy of standalone BACKUP on RX01 in their media kits. Contract VAX–11/78x customers need to ensure that they have a copy on RX01 media or on an accessible disk.

Refer to the *VMS Backup Utility Manual*, which is a part of the VMS Extended Documentation Set, for details about how to build a standalone BACKUP kit.

Note to System Managers of VMS DECwindows Systems

The DECW$SYLOGIN.COM command procedure is executed when a user logs into a workstation running the VMS DECwindows software. System managers can use DECW$SYLOGIN.COM to start the VMS DECwindows applications that users should be running when they log into their workstation.

If the VMS DECwindows software has to be reinstalled, prior versions of DECW$SYLOGIN.COM will be deleted during the installation procedure. Therefore, if changes have been made to DECW$SYLOGIN.COM, the current version must be renamed before beginning the installation procedure.

Note to Xlib Programmers

If XSetFunction, XSetState, or XChangeGC is used to change the writing function for a graphics context that was created for use on a 1-bit deep pixmap, corruption of these pixmaps may occur. This will happen when that graphics context is used as an argument to subsequent drawing calls.

A possible solution is to modify the plane_mask, fill_style, foreground, or background values in that graphics context before using it for drawing. One example is to change the plane_mask from the value 1 to a different odd number, such as 3, while changing the writing function with XSetState or XChangeGC. For 1-bit deep pixmaps, this will make the writing function work and has no negative side affects.