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A 36th Anniversary Communique from the VMS Liberation Front

Greetings comp.os.vms collegians,

1. AYBABTU

"All Your Base Are Belong To Us."

The VLF, the VMS Liberation Front DELTA:: node, have always wanted to transmit that in a communique, and clearly, we have just done so, however, unfortunately the use of it is not justified, since we still have not established the necessary conditions and resources to rescue VMS from mind-share oblivion and installation extinction in a conclusive manner.

We can but try.

2. Prefatory Remarks

http://is.gd/The_35th_Anniversary_Of_VMS

Unfortunately, due to complex analogue world concerns, the VLF have not been as productive as they would have liked in the intervening year, since the 35th anniversary of VMS. Even this 36th anniversary communique will not be as planned and intended; it is merely a 'heart-beat' and 'pulse' communique, largely to signal that the VLF project is not moribund and that we are still on job.

Whilst I cannot speak for my esteemed colleague, Subcommandante BYPASS, on this particular matter, I, Subcommandante XDelta, am ashamed to admit that I have not been attending with any continuity of diligence, to the reading of the annals of the transactions of the comp.os.vms collegiate, in the last year - however I do note the <dansabrservices@yahoo.com> spear-heading an initiative to take over the VMS business from HP and make a real, honest, go of it; this is probably the best prospective development to have occurred in the last

decade - may it come to pass, the VLF salute him, and advise getting the stock exchanges that still use VMS, on board with the project.

I also note with, not inconsiderable, admiration, the research and development of the DCL debugger.

We in the VLF, may have, collectively, one foot in the grave, but the other is still dancing a lively jig on the grassy verge beside it. However we remain acutely aware of the decrement of time remaining on our finitary system clocks, and we remain concerned and despairing for the grand-children and the future generations of humanity that they may lose the conceptual and functionality excellence and literacy of the VMS operating system forever, to their profound intellectual impoverishment.

Which, of course, is also in the fore-front of the minds of the VMSen (VMS Memory Stewards) of the VMS (VMS Mind-share Society) on comp.os.vms and elsewhere.

In the larger context, and bigger picture, of the planetary situation, we are also gravely concerned for the grand-children and the future generations with regards to global-warming, ecological degradation and collapse, species extinction, the despoiling of civil society, the NSA/PRISM intelligence-industrial complex, to name but a few of the big burning issues, and the corruption of governance cultures integral and prudential competence in the face of all such challenges.

With reference to 'Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance', the 'Inherent Pirsigian Quality', appears to be leaching out of so many aspects of the planetary reality.

However in the context of the proceedings of the comp.os.vms collegiate, we will not digress further on such matters, and return to that feather in our caps and volitional brick in our backpacks, which are the specific challenges for the VLF project.

3. Hardware Emulator Releases

Please refresh your memories on the context, raison d'etre, vision, mission, and purpose of the VMS Liberation Front:

<http://is.gd/LiBREVMS>

Thank you.

You might as well charge or refresh your tankard with a quality lagered product, while you are at it.

The VLF Release History:

2012-10-25:

LiBREVMS.LMFGEN.OpenVMS.Tru64.OSF1.ULTRIX.v1.2.WinALL.x86.x64.KEYGEN-VLF
Stromasys.CHARON-VAX_Xx_66x0.v4.0.Build.122-04.Retail.WinALL.x86.x64.Cracked-VLF
Stromasys.CHARON-VAX_Xx_66x0.v4.1.Build.134-02.Retail.Win7.W2K8.x86.x64.Cracked-VLF
Stromasys.CHARON-AXP_4100_DS_ES_GS.v4.1.Build.129-04.Retail.WinALL.x64.Cracked-VLF

These four releases established a basic basis for which our beloved Vernon, could be preserved, at existing revision levels, on existing DEC architectures, in perpetuity.

For the 36th anniversary of VMS, we now also release:

2013-10-25:

Stromasys.CHARON-AXP.v4.2.Build.142-01.68704122.Retail.GNU.Linux.x64.Cracked-VLF
Stromasys.CHARON-11.v2.5.Build.117.Retail.WinALL.x86.Cracked-VLF

As a modest, yet significant, extension to that basis foundation, with the inclusion of a GNU/Linux CHARON-AXP hardware emulator, delivering independence from Microsoft windows for AXP/VMS at least.

Although the CHARON-11, PDP-11 hardware emulator is not on the critical path of the VLF project, none the less, all good VMS men should know what its significance is and what to do with it to preserve and extend the PDP-11 intellectual heritage of the Digital Equipment Corporation, for future generations to study.

The CHARON-11 emulator was retired by Stromasys as of December 2006.

The CHARON-11 emulator was liberated by the VLF as of October 2013.

All the VLF releases can be downloaded from the Usenet Binaries Newsgroups:

http://is.gd/VLF_RELEASES

4. Some Observations On Stromasys

Although, to date, the majority of the VLF releases have been CHARON hardware emulators, that is because, firstly, we had a, sadly, finite, but, fortunately, substantial, mother-lode of CHARON retail installers and secondly because the stable, immaculate, preservation of Vernon mandated the most exacting hardware emulators be used. The VLF do not have a particular axe (neither VAX nor AXP) to grind with Stromasys, they are entitled to make a business from the slow, gradual death of the VMS installation ecology, if there is a business to be made.

What Stromasys (or any other corporation) is not entitled to do, however, is to encourage the slow, gradual, death of VMS, and to sabotage its rebirth and renaissance, to suit their business model - not that we are asserting that Stromasys is, we were more thinking of Microsoft.

A useful metaphor is to consider a majestic tall Redwood or a mighty, Yggdrasil class, Ash tree that has been ring-barked and clear-felled, but not totally uprooted, despite the worst of intentions. The roots and stump represent the VMS architecture and engineering ecology, the trunk and branches represent the installation ecology and the leaves the expertise ecology of the VMS operating system.

The Stromasys corporate logo resembles a fungus that you might find growing on a cut tree trunk, feasting happily on rotting wood, doing what comes naturally for fungus, in accordance with Nature's laws in the great cycles of life - you could hardly criticise the fungus.

The trunk stump and root system represents the evergreen "self regenerating" principle of the VMS architecture and engineering, ever ready and able to sprout a new CPU architecture trunk, well able to reconnect to the old, existing, trunk and branches to restore the tree to the vertical with full, original, vigour, if only it was not being starved of nutrition and water, chain-sawed, napalmed, nuked, and otherwise poisoned, amputated, and attenuated by various vested interests. HP are the legal owners and the stewards of the VMS intellectual property, but they do not actually command VMS asset management policy, which is determined by remote-control internal puppetry by external third parties in the considered forensic opinion of the VLF.

Even the most apt and adept analogy has its limitations: Stromasys is not a fungus, but a for-profit corporation, which has built an extremely successful business on the slow death of the tree trunk of the historical installation base of VMS; their CHARON emulator technology is outstanding, no doubt about it; they probably employ the greatest concentration of ex-digits on the planet; they have extensive and deep expertise of VMS hardware and software architectures in their direct employment.

The remaining VMS installation customer base are all rusted on, they are highly motivated, either they want to keep using VMS for part or all of their enterprise computing, or they have to.

Those enterprises that have divested themselves of VMS except for legacy VMS applications running on CHARON virtualised hardware, would find it easier to cultivate and maintain human expertise, in the long term, for their legacy systems, if only they could deploy and implement VMS systems on modern hardware and CPU architectures that have a future for their other enterprise computing needs; if a legacy system isn't broken, then don't fix it, and don't migrate it; keep on keeping on and keep your VMS expertise gainfully employed, continuously practicing and deepening their VMS skills, either on the legacy systems or elsewhere in the enterprise.

Given the substantial capitalisation and expertise that it has accumulated, Stromasys would be a logical candidate to purchase the VMS asset from HP; it would not contradict their existing business model but complement it and without veering into "business speak" the synergies are self-evident.

Stromasys could make a fortune from the slow death of the VAX and AXP hardware with their virtualisation technologies and also make a fortune from the rebirth and renaissance of VMS ported to mainstream Intel and ARM, 32 and 64 bit CPU architectures.

<http://www.stromasys.com/about-us/>

As a first course of business, after taking ownership of the VMS intellectual property, Stromasys could and should, at the very least, for instance:

(a) Open source VMS and the condist layered products - a logical step to take, particularly given the obvious business opportunities for a visibly trustable VMS in concert with its excellent security infrastructure, in a post NSA/PRISM world; whilst the source-code would be open, they could still market their own forked builds of VMS,

built from their own code-repositories in their data-stores that they physically control. The research and development, refinement and evolution of VMS should never again be suppressed by the cupidity, stupidity or wilful mediocrity of any management regime, past, present or future.

When was the last time that any serious research and development of VMS architecture done? - a decade ago, two decades ago? Microsoft operating systems are still playing catch up to where VMS was in the mid to late eighties; Microsoft have had a two decade head-start, which is more than enough time, it is high time that VMS, as a proprietary-hybrid returned to the stage and gave Microsoft operating systems a real challenge, on all CPU architectures where Microsoft operating systems abide.

(b) Do a four way, simultaneous, port of VMS to Intel i386 and x64/AMD64 as well as ARM-32 and ARM-64; to i386 to skewer, conclusively, two decades of corporate dishonesty and duplicity, the 'Itanium Slum Scam', but also to tap the vast market of 32 bit computers still being used in non-first world countries - particularly in their government, educational and institutional sectors. VMS is perfectly capable of running the full spectrum of computing tiers, from the mainframe to the mobile phone, and all tiers in-between. In implementing a four way, simultaneous port, done immaculately and impeccably in accordance with the "VMS Way", the VMS architectural infrastructure will be established so that VMS portability can never be questioned, misrepresented or lied about ever again.

(c) Design and market the VMS equivalent of the "Raspberry Pi" as multi-core ARM CPU computing units, that have two gigabit ethernet ports each, one for networking, the other for computer interconnect clustering. Such cheap and cheerful clustering lego-bricks (dimensioned 1 by 4 by 9, of course) would be a boon both for the student, the hobbyist, the computing science academy, and the IT departments of enterprises wishing to model, design and study large VMS clusters.

(d) Re-implement an analogue of the 'VAXELN' RT/OS for Intel i386, x64/AMD64 and ARM-32, ARM-64, and then port all of the CHARON hardware emulators to it, on all of those CPU architectures. Historically, Stromasys or SRI (Software Resources International), ever deploying a CHARON on a Microsoft Windows operating system, must have been driven from the marketing department droids, it was certainly not based on any technical merit in regards to a truly reliable foundation for business critical legacy systems. They should have deployed all of their CHARONS on their own bespoke GNU/Linux from the get to, or deployed the obvious and logical proprietary resource of the outstanding QNX RT/OS.

(e) Design and implement a VMS/VM to put Microsoft operating systems back in their rightful place - safe and secure, virtualised, out of harms way, within a VMS frame-work.

(f) Besides supporting legacy HP hardware, establish partnerships with quality hardware vendors such as Lenovo; the acme and zenith of computing would be a Lenovo ThinkPad running VMS natively, for example. Stromasys would make its real money from the VMS asset in the provision of authentic and genuine, provably deliverable, technical support for BCS, business critical systems.

Once word gets around that VMS has a real future and is again a viable proprietary-hybrid alternative, enterprise refugees from Microsoft will start to slowly, at first, but surely, trickle in and accumulate and the installation, applications, and expertise ecologies will start to repopulate and rebuild; solid income growth rings would start to accrete back on the trunk of the VMS tree.

The reader may think that I have accidentally ingested one of the grand-children's 'health' cookies - you would be mistaken - it is the grounded, blue sky kite flying envisioning of a possible future that can be made probable either by Stromasys, or a passionate individual spear-heading the initiative or a consortium of the existing enterprise VMS users.

One does not have to be a few opcodes short of a full instruction set or a few addressing modes short of orthogonality to see this potential.

This has been but the shallowest of shallow shoals of envisioning, do not let any nay-saying straw-man timorous disingenuity of intellect that may arise in the mind of the reader cloud either judgement or imagination of what the potential is.

5. In Conclusion

Although we have much more that merits saying on the subject of necessary and exigent VMS activism, we will leave it to another communique in the near future.

We cordially and convivially remind the reader to not waste attention, time, and energy, criticising the VLFs strategies and methods, rather think of something better to do in regards to VMS activism, and to then go and actually do it.

Our reasoning and logic, of course, can be constructively examined for possible fault; however good luck with that!

The VMS Liberation Front, once again, thank you all, the VMS of the VMS, VMS Memory Stewards of the VMS Mind-share Society, the comp.os.vms collegiate, for your collective attention.

Best regards,

Subcommandante XDelta,
p.p. Subcommandante BYPASS

The VMS Liberation Front

<mailto:vlf@hush.com>

Manifesto: http://is.gd/VLF_MANiFESTO

Releases: http://is.gd/VLF_RELEASES

Communiques: http://is.gd/VLF_COMMUNiQUES

In VMS We Trust

\$!----- damn straight -----!\$
\$ opprobrium/level=kittens/mode=conniptions/input=VLF:/output=NL: !\$
\$!----- enough said -----!\$