Order Number: AA–PKKRB–TE

DEC SoftPC Version 4.0 for VMS

Release Notes

Read these release notes first. They document late technical changes, restrictions, and corrections not covered elsewhere in the DEC SoftPC documentation.

Operating System and Version: VMS 5.5 or higher
MOTIF 1.1 or higher

Software Version: DEC SoftPC 4.0

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Preface

These release notes describe product restrictions, undocumented features, and other essential information about DEC SoftPC Version 4.0 for VMS. These release notes supersede all other documents.

Document Structure

These release notes document software restrictions not covered elsewhere in the DEC SoftPC Version 4.0 documentation set and provide document corrections and clarifications.

Intended Audience

All DEC SoftPC users (system managers and general users) should read these release notes.

Associated Documents

System managers should read the *DEC SoftPC User's Guide for the VMS Operating System*, Chapter 5, Floppy Disks, and Appendix A, VMS Installation. General users should read the entire *DEC SoftPC User's Guide for the VMS Operating System.*

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Notes for System Managers

You must read and understand these release notes as well as Chapter 5 and Appendix A in the *DEC SoftPC User's Guide for the VMS Operating System* before installing DEC SoftPC.

Read Only Hard Disks

DEC SoftPC Version 4.0 allows operation with hard disks mounted read only. This condition is flagged when DEC SoftPC starts up. Be aware that some DOS applications do not understand a hard disk that cannot be written to and go into an infinite wait loop waiting for the write completion flag. So, if your application falls into this catagory, either make the disk writable or do not use that application.

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Notes for General Users

This section is for all DEC SoftPC Version 4.0 users. General users must read the entire *DEC SoftPC User's Guide for the VMS Operating System*, with close attention to Chapter 5, before using DEC SoftPC.

MS-Windows

Do not use the MS-Windows Express installation. If you do, incorrect windows drivers will be installed and MS-Windows will not work properly. You should use the standard MS-Windows installation procedure.

Previous C: Drive Not Compatible

Older C: drives are not compatible with DEC SoftPC Version 4.0. The differences are:

- Currently DOS Version 5.0, not DOS Version 3.3
- Files in \INSIGNIA
- Files in \DOS

Restrictions to Building E: from the Floppy

If you install software from floppy disks, you should build the application on either the C: or D: drive, not the E: drive. Once you know your application works, move it to the E: drive. Note, however, that some programs do not function correctly when started from the E: drive.

Removing Floppy Disk before Booting

You should remove all floppy disks from the drive before starting DEC SoftPC.

If a floppy disk is in the drive when DEC SoftPC is starting, DEC SoftPC tries to boot from the floppy. DEC SoftPC may not work if the floppy disk is formatted incorrectly.

The /e Option of MSCDEX.EXE Is Not Supported

Do not use the /E switch (allow use of extended memory) when issuing the MSCDEX command. Using this switch causes sporadic DEC SoftPC operation.

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New Features in DEC SoftPC Version 4.0

Several new features have been added to DEC SoftPC Version 4.0.

- Motif-based user interface
- Support for protected-mode 286 operation (this also means support of Windows Version 3.1 Standard Mode)
- Super VGA (256 colors)
- Autoflush availability (flushing occurs 1 to 50 seconds after the buffer is loaded)
- FPU emulator (ability to turn the hardware floating-point emulation on and off)
- Extended and expanded memory
- Support for Microsoft CD-ROM extensions and three window sizes
- Support for both A: and B: floppy drives and for hard disks up to 300 Mbytes
- Support for MS–DOS 5.0