

CHARON-VAX/XM and /XM PLUS for Linux

Product version 4.8

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DESCRIPTION

Stromasys **CHARON-VAX/XM** and **CHARON-VAX/XM PLUS** are members of CHARON-VAX cross-platform hardware virtualization product family. They are designed to replace **MicroVAX II; VAXserver, VAXstation, and MicroVAX models 3600 and 3900; VAX 3100-96; VAX 4000-106; and VAXstation 4000-90** systems by its virtual equivalent running on an x86-64 compatible standard computer system. CHARON-VAX creates the virtual replica of the original DEC VAX hardware, allowing the VAX/VMS operating system and all software that is running in that environment to remain working as always in their existing, binary form. No or minimal configuration changes to the original software (operating system, layered products, and applications), operational procedures, and management are required.

NETWORK

CHARON-VAX virtualizes the Ethernet controllers present in the original VAX hardware. Any protocol that ran on these controllers (DECnet, TCP/IP, LAT) will run over virtualized network link.

STORAGE

CHARON-VAX/XM (PLUS) provides support for the following VAX storage device types: (T)MSCP, DSSI and SCSI. CHARON translates VAX storage to any modern technology (SCSI, SATA, SAS) by means of virtual disk images on a Windows filesystem or physical LUNs attached locally or remotely by iSCSI, SAN, or NAS.

HOST SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

A physical system or virtual appliance with a dual core CPU (Intel Xeon v4 E3, E5, and E7 CPUs with a clock frequency of 3GHz and above are recommended), dedicated Ethernet adapters, an optional USB port for the license key and enough disk space to keep the VAX/VMS data. CHARON-VAX/XM requires a minimum of 2 GB host RAM; CHARON-VAX/XM PLUS requires 3 GB RAM.

OPERATING SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Linux Red Hat Enterprise (RHEL) 6.5 and above; RHEL 7.x, and CentOS 7.x (32 bit or 64 bit) on top of a physical host or VMware ESXi 5.5 and 6.x

PERFORMANCE

CHARON-VAX is available in a standard and a PLUS version. The PLUS version includes Advanced CPU Emulation (ACE) providing 4 – 6 times better CPU performance compared to the Standard product. On an Intel Core 7th generation (3.0 GHz) based system, the PLUS version virtual CPU delivers approximately 125 VUPS, where standard version provides about one quarter of it. For the reference, the original hardware VAX CPU provided 1 VUP (MicroVAX II) up to 38 VUPS (VAX3100-96), therefore VAX virtualization will deliver a major performance increase.

SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Once installed and configured, CHARON system will behave like the original VAX system, and can be treated like VAX. Guest OS and applications operating procedures will remain the same, and it's advised not to treat the system as a Linux box, despite the fact it runs on a Linux kernel. Hosting OS does not require maintenance or patching; it can be cut off the network completely.

LICENSE PROTECTION

A valid license should be permanently available to CHARON. It can be represented by a local or network attached USB HASP license dongle, or a Software License. The license preserves customer specific parameters and allows remote electronic updates. USB dongle enables rapid change of host systems as the CHARON executable itself can be installed on multiple systems for disaster recovery purposes. License flexibility allows combining multiple instances of different CHARON products on a single host system.

DISTRIBUTION

CHARON Release notes, User manuals and Software Product Descriptions are available for download from the Stromasys Product Documentation and Knowledge Base web pages. Downloading installation kits and patches requires a partner account or credentials provided by Stromasys on an individual basis.

CHARON UTILITIES

CHARON-VAX on Linux is delivered with the **CHARON Linux Toolkit** which consolidates all CHARON management tasks: creating and configuring CHARON instances, monitoring and managing CHARON licenses and logs, configuring hosting hardware resources for CHARON needs, synchronized host and guest OS shutdown, etc. The following functional applications are invoked from the CHARON Linux Toolkit:

- **menu** is a text based interactive menu system for setting up / configuring / monitoring / managing CHARON instances
- **hasp_srm_view** displays content of CHARON-VAX license
- **ncu** ("Network Control Utility") is used to dedicate a host network interface to CHARON-VAX, to release it back to the host, and to manage CHARON virtual interfaces (TAPS)

The following command line utilities are also available:

- **mkdskcmd** is used to create empty disk images and extend existing disk images
- **mtd** for transferring data between physical tapes and CHARON tape container files

Stromasys **CHARON Guest Utilities for OpenVMS** version 6.1 and above are supplied on a disk image to provide the following functionality:

- **Tape Utilities Package** for manipulating virtual tape images and managing a virtual SCSI tape changer
- **Power consumption optimization (IDLE) VMS utility** for implementing energy save mode when virtual VAX CPU is idle
- **Slowdown VMS utility**: for slowing down CHARON virtual CPU to match hardware VAX performance level
- **Shutdown VMS utility** for orderly shutdown CHARON after VMS



VIRTUALIZED HARDWARE

	VAX 4000-106	VAX 3100-96	VAX 4000-90	VAXserver, VAXstation, MicroVAX 3600/3900	MicroVAX II
Virtualized VAX CPU	KA54-A	KA56-A	KA49-A	KA650-A/B KA655-A/B	KA630-A
Earliest VMS version	5.5-2 (5.5-2H4 if second SCSI adapter is used)			4.5	
Max. virtual VAX memory	128 MB				16 MB
QBUS subsystem	Yes ¹⁾	No		Yes ¹⁾	
DSSI subsystem	Yes (HSD50)	No			
SCSI subsystem	2 controllers (1 controller only in 4000-90), each support 7 SCSI IDs. Each SCSI ID could be used with up to 8 LUNs			No	
Emulated VAX disks	Container files; Local, iSCSI and SAN partitions; physical SCSI disks			Container files; Local, iSCSI and SAN partitions	
Emulated VAX tapes	Container files, physical SCSI tape drives				
Network	Up to 5 Ethernet controllers in total including a built-in SGEC and QBUS controllers	1 build-in Ethernet controller SGEC	2 Ethernet controllers: built-in SGEC and TurboChannel PMAD-AA	Up to 4 QBUS Ethernet controllers	1 QBUS Ethernet controller
Network performance	Standard version supports 10 Mbps connections; PLUS version supports 100 Mbps connections. PLUS version could be used with 1 Gbps connections provided it is tested in advance.				
VAX/VMS clustering	NI cluster or Shared Disk Cluster with virtual DSSI or MSCP controllers	NI Cluster		NI cluster or Shared Disk Cluster with virtual MSCP controllers	No
Asynchronous Serial Lines	QUART (4 lines), CXA16, CXB16, CXY08, DHQ11, DHV11, DHW42-AA, -BA, -CA	QUART (4 lines), DHW42-AA, -BA, -CA	QUART (4 lines)	UART, CXA16, CXB16, CXY08, DHQ11, DHV11	UART, CXA16, CXB16, CXY08, DHQ11, DHV11
Graphics subsystem	No		Built-in dummy graphics for VMS to accept D type licenses ²⁾	Dummy VCB02 for VMS to accept D type licenses ²⁾	No

1) Configurable QBUS components are the MSCP disk controller RQDX3, the TMSCP tape controller TQK50, the serial line controllers as above and the Ethernet controllers DEQNA, DELQA and DESQA. MSCP disk emulation is the preferred storage device emulation in case of heavy disk I/O.

2) An X-Windows emulator on MS Windows or Linux system can be used to display graphics provided by an X-Client running on CHARON

Each virtual VAX model follows the characteristics of its VAX hardware equivalent, requiring the corresponding level of license units and supports the peripherals particular to that VAX model. The virtual VAX does not include delays to simulate mechanical device behavior, diagnostic, and maintenance modes.

Ordering information	CHARON-VAX/XM	CHARON-VAX/XM PLUS
Perpetual runtime license	CHVX-021-PD	CHVX-221-PD
One year license	CHVX-021-YD	CHVX-221-YD
Backup license (720 hours)	CHVX-021-KD	CHVX-221-KD
Annual GOLD support (9*5)	CHVX-021-UD	CHVX-221-UD
Annual PLATINUM support (24*7)	CHVX-021-TD	CHVX-221-TD

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