7 AVRIL 2022

RENDEZ-VOUS
AUTOUR DE VMS

Session report / « Rendez-vous autour de VMS », 7 april 2022

Two main topics for this session: porting to x86, and feedback from projects involving external skills.

Link to "intro_rdv_VMS_20220407.pdf" (ctrl-clic to open in a new window)

LATEST INFORMATIONS FROM VSI

To start Gérard Calliet summarized the latest VSI communications, after the VSI Deutschland-Connect meeting on February 17th and the VSI webinar on March 22nd presented by Brett Cameron. During the Deutschland-Connect meeting, Thilo Lauer from VSI presented a roadmap of VSI products and also the experience of porting VMS to Atom. We note the highlight on the VSI services entity which offers consulting, assistance and transformation with the example of a conversion from RDB to SQLRelay + Postgres.

VSI announces for April a webinar on x86 porting.

Regarding opensource at VSI we note a focus on SQL Relay, ACMS web, SWIT, IDE. Coming soon: SSIO, VDD to replace CDD, and OpenSSH which could also arrive on HPE v8.4, WebForms web version of DECForms, and RMS change data capture.

Link to "Entendu-chez-VSI_rdv_VMS_20220407.pdf" (ctrl-clic to open in a new window)

PORTING TO X86

We then welcomed Mark Daniel, developer of the WASD web server who presented his experience of porting to VMS/x86. The application was born on VAX and then went through Alpha and Itanium. The code is very portable and the modifications required for the VMS EAK9.0/x86 version as of September 2020 are very limited. In summer 2021, switch to EAK 9.1 and then v9.1. The development environment for x86 is still crossed (with compilations on Itanium). The v9.2 should offer native x86 tools. Performance is also on the agenda.

Link to "MarkDaniel_WASD_vms_vms_vms_vms.pdf" (ctrl-clic to open in a new window)

CUSTOMER PROJECTS WITH EXTERNAL SKILLS

For the testimonials of customer projects carried out with consultants, we had three examples that illustrate how the intervention of external expertise helps to perpetuate solutions in companies that have not always kept in-house skills :

Olivier Peters (OPC) presented the migration from VAX 5.5-2 to Itanium/ VSI of the supervision of line #1 of the Lille metro at Ilevia/Keolis (VAL technology, first driverless line in the world since 1983, on VAX since 1989). On the hardware side, we note the abandonment of parallel interfaces and the conversion of LAT and DECservers to UDP/IP which allowed a better portability. A software factory has ported the C and PASCAL sources as well as the DCL sources. All this on active and redundant platforms, without interrupting the service to users.

OPC provides support and expertise in the operation of the software within the client teams.

Link to "OP_Chantier-Keolis.pdf" (ctrl-clic to open in a new window)

Gérard Calliet (Pia-Sofer), Eric Peynet (PNT) and Cédric Cuillandre (Assystem) presented the evolution from Alpha to Itanium of the supervision of line #14 of the Parisian subway (first automatic Parisian

line). We retain the first world license of VSI, the reconstruction of an opensource Ada development chain.

The alliance between consulting companies specialized on VMS and a major company providing Maintenance in Operational Condition, especially on VMS, combines the long and the very long term and combines the sizes of the investments.

Link to "GC_VMS-Convergence-strategy.pdf" (ctrl-clic to open in a new window)

Jean-François Pieronne (Sysgroup), Pierre-Yves David (Octobus) and Johan Brunet (Pharmapilot/CSP) presented the implementation of a VMS development forge based on Heptapod (GitLab/Mercurial) for drug logistics and distribution applications in Europe. The goal was to migrate the tools used by development teams from VT/TPU mode in a single source repository to the most recent Visual Studio environment on Windows.

MMK is used to manage dependencies and trace executables and sources. The benefits are concrete, from the reduction of deployment anomalies to the support of change and the transition of teams from a classic mode to modernity. This is a big plus in this environment which maintains Cobol and is being renewed in Python.

Link to "Octobus_presentation_fr.pdf" (ctrl-clic to open in a new window)

Link to "Sysgroup-depuis-2005.pdf" (ctrl-clic to open in a new window)

Link to "ProjetPharmapilot.pdf" (ctrl-clic to open in a new window)

In the three projects presented above, one of the objectives was to raise awareness/train young people recently graduated from school in VMS. The methods used illustrate the ability to interest newcomers in this industrial environment that will soon celebrate its 45th anniversary.

PROFESSIONAL PAGES

The association will open an area dedicated to professionals on the vmsgenerations.fr website. These pages will allow all stakeholders to present their expertise and achievements so that users can better understand the ecosystem of consultants and experts they can call upon.

It is frequent that users no longer have the internal resources to develop VMS systems and applications. This is why we have decided to make visible the consulting partners, experts, developers or operators who can intervene on behalf of users when they do not have or no longer have these skills in-house. The format chosen for these pages will soon be distributed to members so that professionals who wish to do so can present their skills and achievements.

SURVEYS / QUESTIONS TO VSI

F ollowing the two surveys proposed by the association (the first one on the use of VMS, the second one on applications and tools), in the large number of answers from members we have identified several topics on which VSI's position is not clear or not satisfactory. We have consolidated the most frequent questions in order to present them to VSI. We will keep members informed of VSI's responses.

Link to "questions_pour_VSI_rdv_VMS_20220407.pdf" (ctrl-clic to open in a new window)

The office of the association is listening to users on the topics they want us to address, and more broadly on any contribution, reaction or suggestion so that the activity of the association reflects the expectations of all.

Do not hesitate to write to us at the following e-mail address :

 contact@vmsgenerations.fr