12th June 2025

RENDEZ-VOUS AUTOUR DE VMS

Rendez-vous autour de VMS du 12 Juin 2025.

Minutes

On Thursday June 12, we held a "Rendez-vous autour de VMS" zoom conference session.
Topics covered the latest products from our two main vendors, VSI for VMS and Oracle for Rdb. We also welcomed Johan Michiels from EuroVMS who presented the Cockpit Manager administration solution. At the end of the session, VMSgenerations members who had attended the Malmö bootcamp gave us their feedback on the event.
The speakers made a special effort to express themselves in French so that our members could understand them better and we'd like to thank them in particular.

On the agenda for this Rendezvous:
VSI news
General/technology/cloud

Oracle news
Rdb product family. Beta test conditions on x86

CockpitManager/EuroVMS
Cockpit Manager overview & new backup module

VMSgenerations / bootcamp feedback
Feedback from 3 participants / how to optimize future bootcamps

VSI News

VSI: General and business news
Daria Zelenina (Chief Executive Officer)

VSI: Technical Directions
Camiel Vanderhoeven (Chief Architect and Strategist)

VSI: Cloud offering
Adam Hoff-Nielsen (Chief Account Management Officer)

Update on VMS Software's strategy.

Daria introduced the team that will be participate today, with Camiel, Adam and Thomas, new account manager for France.
A risk analysis for VMS applications: servers/end-of-life, loss of skills, lack of information, incompatibility. Over the past 10 years, this has led VSI to develop VMS on x86, with a dozen customers now deployed on this platform and in the cloud, and to update Alpha and Integrity versions with patches. Development and acquisition of new management tools. New generation of engineers trained, average age 36, mentoring of young people by support experts. French-language training delivered by partners (Sysgroup). 200 students trained online and face-to-face. Customer communications, email/lists/webinars/blog and bootcamp, now also in Europe. Next bootcamp in Portsmouth, USA, October 22-24, 2025. Sales and technical account teams. New developments: updated TCP/IP stack for new protocols, open source, web interface, performance and packet management.
Company structure: Teracloud founded by Johan Gedda, a holding company that brings together VSI, 21centurySW (IBM mainframe focus), VSE and Streams (ex IBM): analytics/event processing/real time.
Group revenues: significant growth forecast on the IBM side
R&D investments: between $8 and $10M/year on VMS since 2019.
Breakdown: 2/3 of the group's workforce is in R&D.

Resource sharing within the Teracloud group: cloud, devops, ci/cd
Workforce: VSI 160+, Teracloud: nearly 400
Finance: positive Ebitda since 2018
VMS revenues make up the main share of the group, however the 2030 projection shows that the z/OS share linked to IBM mainframes should soon make up the majority.
For the future: growth of the customer portfolio and development of the x86 and cloud ecosystem.
Generational transition completed, the retirement of the older VMS generation is no longer a risk. Openness to new ecosystems. No plans to spin off or open up to venture capital.

Camiel presented VSI's technical orientations.

After the main objective of porting to x86, the focus shifted to the development of ancillary products (Java on Itanium), support and services organization, and customer support. The original roadmap was too full, and some projects had to be scaled back. Set up a new product organization, in charge of strategy, priority management, roadmap, control and clarity of information provided. Technical guidelines (selected from the consultable roadmap). Main objective: to support customers' move to x86, while retaining the strengths of OpenVMS, adapting it to change, and integrating it into the existing environment. Facilitate porting of applications and software from other platforms, and improve performance, management and documentation.
Shared storage in a cluster: today MSCP (indirect, dependent on other nodes) or FibreChannel (direct, independent of other nodes, HPE only). Investment in iSCSI, direct connection, IP transport without specific hardware. New TCP/IP stack (FreeBSD origin) to support iSCSI and other modern protocols.
Upcoming VMS V9.2-3 update v2: HPE Gen11 support, FC on ESXi and KVM. New, updated OpenSSH 9.9-2. More modern, native LLVM backend. December 25: E9.2-4, June 26: V9.2-4 with new IP 7.0 stack (iSCSI, NFSv4, WireGuard VPM, IPsec).

Adam introduced us to VSI's x86 cloud solution.

Powered by Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI) technology. Advantages of the VSI cloud: hardware-free, therefore problem-free, accessible, secure and flexible. Two offers: hybrid cloud keeping a server on site (simple transition, risk control), or full cloud (more flexible, rapid creation).
Several service levels: Basic control (customer retains administration, VSI pilots OCI), Monitoring & Alert (VSI monitoring tools, reports and preventive alerts), Partial Management (customization of VSI service level), Full Management (complete management by VSI). Application mgmt (VSI drives the application on OpenVMS in the cloud).
Stages: Proposal for exchange with VSI, Discovery Service: simple evaluation by script & questionnaire then technical meeting, or Prestudy: study with in-depth analysis of customer environment.
Then "Proof Of Concept", hybrid or full deployment and run/golive.
Conclusion: a combined product and service offering that's flexible enough to adapt to customer choices.

Questions

Q1: When will there be a journaled filesystem?
A: No plans at the moment

Q2: Could Spiralog come back?
A: Not planned. Spiralog problems: not cluster enabled, and when volume full.

Q3 Hypervisors: what about Nutanix / AHV hypervisor?
A: Not supported. Based on KVM, so probably works, but not supported by VSI. VSI only supports KVM on RedHat or Oracle Linux.
See also the bootcamp presentation on Proxmox.
There was some discussion and testing of Nutanix 2-3 years ago, but no official concrete results.
Remark: Nutanix is unavoidable and is growing among customers, and the VMware/Broadcom situation is pushing us to look at other solutions. See if there are other customer requests/send requests to VSI.

Report from Miroslaw of VMSgenerations on VMS training available in French: thanks to VSI for putting this offer in the catalog and don't hesitate to contact VSI about it.

Oracle Rdb product family update

Kevin Duffy Senior Director of development Oracle on VMS engineering

Rdb product family update

Support dates: v7.4 exits Premier support at the end of 2025, and extended support at the end of 2027. These dates may change according to demand.

For earlier versions (including 7.3) support remains available, but without patches/corrective fixes.

Product releases since last year: CDD, Trace, Rdb, DBMS, JDBC

Next version of Rdb: 7.4.1.4

Rdb on x86: close to beta testing, but before that you need to have ported all products in the family and passed an internal security certification. So the beta test schedule has been slightly delayed.

To obtain internal approvals for beta testing and production, it would be good if customers could testify to how important it is for them to have Rdb on x86. Description of applications, importance to the company, need for Rdb on x86, desired timetable. Don't hesitate to contact Kevin at kevin.duffy@oracle.com . Test conditions: VMS 9.2-3, OEL (Oracle Enterprise Linux) 8 KVM for hypervisor or deployed in the Oracle Cloud (OCI). The choice of OEL KVM offers significant licensing advantages by allowing "hard partitioning" / paying only for the cores that are used.

Rdb & VMS in the Oracle cloud: POC completed, ready for customers.

Question: What about porting the Oracle SQLplus client to x86?
A: For the moment no, but porting OCI services could help. Send requests to Kevin Duffy for consolidation.

Cockpit Manager: Modern OpenVMS systems Management

Johan Michiels, EuroVMS

Launched in the early 1990s, Cockpit Manager is dedicated to monitoring all aspects of OpenVMS systems. Extensions for Integrity, SmartArray, volume checker, ACMS, LAN devices, FC paths, SCA errors. Connection console, analysis of predefined messages/scan profiles. System monitoring via an extensible local agent controlled from the cockpit. Network and storage monitoring

Also performance watcher, real-time security event monitor, logfile browser, environmental monitor & non-openvms systems (Linus, Windows). For event notification: console, gui, web or text/sms. DT toggle with standby cockpit. Integration with SNMP, ServiceNow, Zabbix. Utilities: job scheduler, config&change mgmt, remote commands, & backup.

VMSgenerations: return from the Malmö bootcamp

Three members of VMSgenerations were able to attend the Malmö bootcamp. They give us their reactions and comments.

Great satisfaction for this bootcamp in Europe, with the atmosphere of historic bootcamps. Many new VSI participants, young generation. On the presentations front, the OpenSource topic of Git porting attracted a lot of attention, as did an important presentation by Zoltan Arpadffy on the need to be in step with opensource communities. On the compiler side, the promise of open and documented LLVM chain should enable the community to extend the portfolio of compiler solutions on VMS.

Among the points that could be improved, we note the registration process, closed too early. There could have been more participants if the counter had stayed open later.

The agenda lacked time for participants to talk about their experiences and needs. User clubs could have organized feedback sessions like the DECUS/Interex and historic bootcamp meetings.

On the subject of new development announcements, there are concerns that the iSCSI focus could be to the detriment of FibreChannel for cluster storage. FC has long represented structuring investments for users, which should not be forgotten or neglected. Still on FC, if VSI is making efforts to qualify FC adapters in passthru mode on hypervisors, why not support bare-metal server configurations? The insistence on cloud

offerings is a little worrying. With Oracle, this is not a very reassuring point, and when it comes to control and resilience, VMS users are very demanding, especially when faced with a remote operation offering presented as dematerialized.

The association's executive committee is keen to hear from users on the topics they would like to address, and more generally on any contribution, reaction or suggestion to ensure that the association's activities reflect everyone's expectations.
Don't hesitate to write to us at: contact@vmsgenerations.fr
For presentations of this and previous Rendezvous, visit https://www.vmsgenerations.fr/