VMSgenerations

N°3—July 2025

La Lettre de VMSgenerations

Editorial

In recent VMS news, we note the Bootcamp held in Malmö this past May, marking the first European edition organized by VSI. Traditionally held each year in the United States, the Bootcamp is a unique opportunity for interaction between vendors, users, and partners across the VMS ecosystem. We welcome this European premiere, which allowed several members of VMSgenerations to attend in person.

Darya Zelenina (CEO of VMS Software) and Johan Gedda (founder) presented the strategic roadmap for VMS Software, now part of the Teracloud Group. Notable developments included the international growth of VSI's teams and a steady increase in revenue over the past ten years. VSI's presentations covered product and service updates, progress on Version 9 for x86, and the evolution of VMS cloud offerings.

On the technical side, an important announcement concerned a significant overhaul of the TCP/IP stack, improving compatibility with modern protocols. The use of iSCSI for IP-based clustering was also detailed.

Regarding support, VSI announced an extension of support timelines for OpenVMS on both Alpha and Integrity platforms, now running through 2035.

This demonstrates VSI's consideration for customers who cannot—or not yet—migrate to x86 and must maintain applications on legacy platforms over the long term.

Among VSI's partners, several companies were present offering database solutions compatible with VMS on x86 (among other platforms), which could potentially meet the needs of certain users.

Another recent announcement on services is the launch of a VMS training curriculum in French (see: <u>https://trainings.vmssoftware.com/fr</u>). A robust training pathway is essential to ensure the renewal and continuity of the teams managing VMS at customer sites.

We welcome these announcements, which demonstrate that VSI is listening to feedback from the field.

All presentations and recordings from the Bootcamp sessions are now available, so everyone can benefit from the event—even those who could not attend in person.

In addition, the report from our most recent "Rendez-vous autour de VMS" (June 12) includes the latest updates on Oracle Rdb for VMS. We had the pleasure of welcoming Kevin Duffy, Director of VMS Development at Oracle. Visit <u>www.vmsgenerations.fr</u> for the session presentations and full report.

In this issue, you will also find other VSI announcements regarding various porting initiatives and the latest news on Ada and VMS. Yes—Ada!

Enjoy this reading! Miroslaw SZCZEBLEWSKI

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Presentation and video with Syuzanna :

https://fossilfree.app.box.com/s/ xopp11ccaqujasoi3ot8ha58nf16faq5/ file/1868918519712 https://www.youtube.com/watch? y=mXBuSRikP_8&list=PLewDXk9a8laM-Jovs0omsYt8gL5EH2RVy&index=8

Presentation and video with Zoltan : https://fossilfree.app.box.com/s/ xopp11ccaquiasoj3ot8ha58nf16faq5/ file/1868944871501

<u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?</u> <u>v=btTmoh6FJYc&list=PLewDXk9a8laM-</u> Jovs0omsYt8gL5EH2RVy&index=6

Page introducing git by VSI : https://products.vmssoftware.com/git

Packages git names (zippéd PCSI) : IA64VMS-GIT-V2.44-1B-1 (itanium) X86VMS-GIT-V2.44-1B-1 (x86)

To access these packages: https://sp.vmssoftware.com/#/ packages/1499

https://sp.vmssoftware.com/#/ packages/1498

In Malmö bootcamp, an afternoon with a new generation

Gérard Calliet

During the first afternoon of the bootcamp, I attended two particularly noteworthy presentations that, in and of themselves, justified the journey to Sweden:

• The first, delivered by Syuzanna Gevorgyan (a member of the Armenian team working with VSI), addressed the use of Git under VMS;

•The second, presented by Zoltan Arpadffy (Chief Technology Officer, Tigermeeting AB), offered a compelling vision of the essential integration between VMS and the broader Open Source ecosystem.

Together, these two presentations conveyed a strong signal: that VMS has genuine potential to reestablish itself among leading reference operating systems.

Syuzanna's presentation contextualized the use of Git within the VMS environment, made possible by the complete and native port of Git to the platform. In addition to making the tool available in its standard form on VMS, several aspects of her presentation warrant particular attention.

First, her age alone is significant—symbolizing a seamless generational transition into the culture and practices of Open Source development. In this, VSI demonstrates both the effectiveness and strategic value of transferring knowledge and expertise in VMS to a new generation of developers.

Second, the fact that this Open Source tool has been ported in its entirety renews the viability of software porting to VMS, while ensuring full compatibility with mainstream Open Source ecosystems.

Syuzanna referenced major global Git repositories in her talk, illustrating a new alignment between VMS and the contemporary development landscape. Tasks such as searching repositories, cloning projects, and porting them to VMS are now possible in the same manner as on other platforms.

Equally significant was the mention of a future possibility: the *push-back* of contributions to the broader Open Source repositories. Such a step would mark a definitive end to VMS's longstanding isolation from mainstream development practices.

The discussion that followed demonstrated the Armenian team's technical expertise as well as its unreserved openness to global Open Source methodologies.

The Git package is currently available in PCSI kit format, accessible to VSI license holders, ISVs, and community license subscribers. While this policy will not be debated here, it is worth noting that this approach may not be enti-

Zoltan's subsequent presentation expanded significantly on the promise suggested by Syuzanna's. There are, on occasion, presentations that clarify an entire strategic vision—his was one of them.

He eloquently articulated why integration with the broader Open Source ecosystem is not merely beneficial but imperative for VMS's future. This integration was framed not only as a technical necessity but also as a strategic vision.

Primarily, it is essential to provide a VMS development environment that is readily accessible to a generation accustomed to Open Source tools and workflows. VSI has already achieved this internally, addressing the needs of those with a direct professional interest in VMS. The next step involves attracting a broader cohort of developers—those whose interest is driven by the platform's unique capabilities and who, in turn, can influence decision-makers to adopt VMS.

From a technical and economic standpoint, Zoltan effectively argued that full integration with Open Source development pipelines is far more sustainable than isolated, version-specific porting efforts—the so-called "one-shot" ports (such as those previously attempted with Apache). Future one-off projects will only grow more burdensome, whereas a progressive, ongoing integration into ecosystems like Git or Mercurial is more lightweight, intuitive, and better aligned with contemporary release cycles.

The notion of *push-back* is especially critical. It provides VMS with visibility in the broader Open Source arena and enables automated testing frameworks that represent a sound, measurable investment with a predictable return.

Above all, the most important takeaway from Zoltan's presentation was the strategic *rationale*. Why should VMS and Open Source be mutually and natively integrated? To position VMS as a viable development environment—an alternative option within the global software landscape. A given software package may be available on Windows, partially supported on macOS, FreeBSD, or Debian—but what if it could also run on VMS? What if that possibility led to further exploration of the platform?

This "why" naturally leads into the broader vision:

"VMS has the potential to serve as a credible alternative operating system. In reality, the number of truly viable OS platforms remains limited. VMS could emerge as the much-needed alternative—one that expands the current ecosystem."

Thank you, Zoltan. Thank you, Syuzanna.

Your new generation is beginning to bring a significant added value in the VMS community.



X86 Applications : you have to report !

Benoît Maillard

Application availability and support are key factors in any decision to change platforms.

In the case of VMS, the continued use of legacy deployments (Alpha and Itanium, and in some instances even VAX) combined with the arrival of the x86 version, creates a more complex landscape for application developers and software vendors. VMS remains one of the few environments where the transition to x86 does not imply the end of a product line based on legacy proprietary systems.

The installed base on Alpha and Itanium has been reassured by VSI's announcement extending support through to 2035. As a result, few of these clients are expected to adopt the x86 version in the short term. Many are waiting for version 9 and its associated tools (such as native compilers) to reach a stable state, and—crucially—to confirm the availability of their applications on x86.

This is where vendors and developers must be made aware of the demand for porting applications to the new VMS platform on x86. Due to the long lifecycle and inherent stability of VMS, some software vendors may not have interacted with their user base for several years. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that long-standing VMS customers reach out to their software providers if they wish to see an x86 version of their preferred application.

Only after assessing the demand and identifying viable targets can a vendor make an informed decision to port and certify their application for VMS on x86. We encourage all VMS users considering a move to the x86 platform to contact their software vendors and express their interest in having an x86-compatible version of their application. This will help vendors plan accordingly and update their product roadmaps.

On the Oracle side, the conditions for the Rdb beta test on x86 were outlined by Kevin Duffy, Director of Engineering for Oracle on VMS, during the recent "Rendez-vous autour de VMS" event held on June 12. A full report is available on the website <u>www.vmsgenerations.fr</u>. Clients interested in seeing Rdb on x86 are invited to contact Kevin Duffy directly to communicate their specific application needs.

Email: kevin.duffy@oracle.com

Long time Synergy : Ada and VMS

Gérard Calliet

At the most recent Ada-Europe conference in Paris (AEiC, June 10–13, held at the École des Mines, Paris), I presented a paper and a set of slides on my project to make Ada universally available across VMS environments.

I explained why it is meaningful to ensure the presence of Ada on all generations of the VMS platform. In fact, Ada currently runs on VAX, Alpha, and Itanium (the latter thanks to a port performed by pia-sofer and AdaLabs in 2015). I am currently working on a port to x86. This effort has been made possible by the use of, and access to, the LLVM toolchain provided by VSI, in combination with an existing AdaCore project to support LLVM (AdaCore being a key vendor in the Ada ecosystem, typically relying on the GCC toolchain).

Two key questions arise in relation to this project: Why? And what does this project represent?

Ensuring universal use of Ada across all generations of VMS effectively fulfills the promise of longevity, which is one of VMS's core strengths. Being able to realize this temporal universality brings the issue of *backward compatibility* back to the forefront. In my presentation, I introduced the concept of *temporal portability*, along with the necessary reconsideration of software formalization challenges that this new paradigm entails.

Why does this effort hold a particular place at the intersection of VMS and Ada? There is a shared trajectory between Ada and VMS: initial phases of recognized excellence, followed by a period of neglect, and now a resurgence. All efforts to rethink development cycles, reuse, recycling, and long-term software sustainability can find strong support in the intrinsic qualities of both VMS and Ada.

Through my participation in the Ada-Europe conference, I hope to have energized potential synergies between the Ada and VMS communities. I warmly invite any individual or organization with an interest in this multifaceted initiative to join the effort: identifying current use cases, archiving legacy application assets, maintaining and evolving existing compilers, or porting a compiler to x86.

I can personally attest to the reception of my presentation in Paris. In this highly specialized environment of advanced development (covering domains such as aerospace and aviation, among others), I was pleased to find that many professionals and researchers were familiar with VMS and held it in high regard. Less encouraging, however, was the widespread belief that VMS had disappeared.

Even though Ada enjoys significantly greater awareness within the development community than VMS, it is likely that both Ada and VMS now face the common challenge of re-emerging from relative obscurity. We are working on it!

Ada Europe Conference : https://www.ada-europe.org/conference2025/

Project presentation during the conference : <u>https://www.pia-sofer.fr/IMG/pdf/archeology_for_the_future.pdf</u>

Software editors news

Octobus and Heptapod: The company Octobus, publisher of the Heptapod solution (an advanced interface for the Mercurial version control system), has announced a new edition of its product. This version promises new features while maintaining integration with OpenVMS. A detailed document is currently being prepared – more information coming soon. <u>https://</u> octobus.net/

EuroVMS – Cockpit Manager and Backup Module: The company EuroVMS, which presented its Cockpit Manager tool at our most recent "Rendez-vous autour de VMS", is seeking volunteers to try out a new backup module. If you are interested, please contact: johan.michiels@eurovms.com

VSI – Bootcamp USA and Event Strategy: VSI has confirmed that its next OpenVMS Bootcamp will be held from October 22 to 24, 2025, in Portsmouth, New Hampshire (USA). [™] More info and registration: <u>https://events.vmssoftware.com/bootcampportsmouth-2025</u> Notably, VSI has announced its intention to host Bootcamps every year both in Europe and the USA.

Stromasys – Graphical VAX Emulation: Stromasys has released a new version of its VAX emulator, now able to emulate VAXstation 3100-M76 systems with GPX graphics cards, supporting VWS applications (prior to DecWindows). The original French keyboard is also emulated. This solution is available for Windows, Linux, in bare metal, hypervisor, or cloud environments. Contact France: <u>nicolas.kittel@stromasys.com</u>

Mimer SQL — Migration from Oracle Rdb to OpenVMS x86: The company behind MIMER SQL now offers a toolkit to migrate an Oracle Rdb database to Mimer SQL on OpenVMS x86. This kit also supports conversion of Cobol or Fortran source code containing SQL instructions. Learn more: <u>https://</u> www.mimer.com/migrate-from-oracle-rdb-to-mimer-sgl-onopenvms-x86/

« Job offers »

<u>eures.europa.eu</u> website consolidates job offers for European Union all skills and modalities...

Today searching a job offer with the keyword "OpenVMS" including the following countries Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland and France returns 56 résults— for a European wide search a significant value of 210 job offers is returned with this unique skill that qualifies our community : développers, administrators, technicians, consultants, managers... Something to think

Search by keyword, company, or job title		
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Search Criteria OpenVMS () Bidgare () Switzeria	nd 🛞 🛛 France 🎯 Lucernibuorg 💿 Chief filters	
Hide Stars	Showing 1 to 10 of 56 vacancies	
Publication date	Sort by Relevance	Results per page 10 25 50
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Alone in the World?

Alexandre Souf

It is true that France has its cultural specificities, and it is undeniable that in the country of Astérix—where cafés are places for lively debate over a drink—there is a deeply rooted need for frank expression. Perhaps it is mere coincidence, or perhaps some mysterious force makes us so forthright simply because we are in France—one could almost believe in a kind of linguistic Darwinism.

In any case, we do not hesitate to speak openly, without trying to soften our disappointments—even dramatically so—which may lead other cultures, particularly those of Anglo-Saxon origin, to perceive us as rude or insolent. Indeed, this is a common sentiment expressed abroad: the French are seen as arrogant, perpetually dissatisfied, unafraid to voice disagreement, and quick to challenge others' words. Personally, I would add that this tendency makes us unaware of our own privileges and often complicates our lives, which are punctuated by protests, strikes, and even revolutions. However, that is not the primary topic of this contribution. The previous paragraph may serve, instead, as a contextual explanation for the unique positioning of **VMSgenerations**.

On the positive side, open debate offers clarity and brings light to shared concerns—many of those affected listen, and sometimes echo our perspectives. What began as a nationally focused association—or, more precisely, a structure intended to disseminate relevant information within the French-speaking community—has now become a catalyst for insights and commentary that extends far beyond that linguistic boundary.

At the end of this article, we include a few screenshots that showcase our audience engagement and the increasing number of visits to our website.

Over the course of my professional career, which has spanned many vastly different industries, I have observed a recurring pattern: when a customer complains to a supplier, they are often met with the response that they are the only one experiencing such issues, that everything is going well with the rest of the clientele, and that the problem must be an isolated anomaly. At worst, the implication is that the customer is exaggerating—or even that they are the root of the problem themselves. I believe this era is coming to an end, even if the pendulum may sometimes swing too far in the opposite direction.

So, within the broader international OpenVMS user community, are we truly the only ones grumbling, expressing concern over an uncertain future, and lamenting the repeated failure of our long-awaited "savior" to fulfill commitments?

Contradictory technical announcements—including the presence of multiple TCP/IP stacks, the handling of baremetal installations, and hybrid cluster configurations—have contributed to the absence of many essential components needed to establish a production-grade x86 platform that is truly equivalent to what exists on Itanium or Alpha.

From a commercial perspective, several issues may also be raised: the opacity of perpetual license allocation rules, the discontinuation of VSI license portability to the x86 platform, and the absence of publicly available pricing information. A major concern remains the unavailability of third-party vendor solutions, most notably those from Oracle. But are these issues we raise only affecting French users?

Our impression is clearly different. We would like to thank the readers of *La lettre de VMSgenerations* and listeners of *Rendez-vous autour de VMS* for sharing their experiences and difficulties—whether through responses to posts on *comp.os.vms* or via direct messages. We aim to encourage the revival of user groups committed to ensuring the long-term viability of OpenVMS—even if, at present, this sometimes means bringing together individuals who may feel disillusioned or bitter. If you are (or were) responsible for an OpenVMS user group anywhere in the world, please reach out to us so we may consolidate our perspectives and join forces. Even if we do not achieve all our goals, at least we can demonstrate that our concerns and proposals for ensuring the long-term sustainability of the platform are neither isolated nor irrational—but grounded in a broader, international reality. We believe some of our suggestions would find support well beyond our initial sphere of influence.

That said, to offer a more balanced view, it must be acknowledged that VSI has made undeniable efforts over the past year. Its now-visible investments have infused its teams with new energy. This was clearly demonstrated during the Malmö bootcamp in mid-May. There, more significant difficulties than originally anticipated, as well as a heavier-than-expected investment, were openly acknowledged through a series of mea culpas.

The transparent sharing of technical information and a genuine willingness to engage in dialogue with users have finally cast some light on the future of OpenVMS. Moreover, we have witnessed a new openness to constructive criticism—even to the point of being asked for our suggestions for improving future bootcamps. All of this is encouraging and helps to restore our confidence. We hope the real-world perspectives we represent will be taken into account, so that this technology we deeply care about does not fade into obscurity.

Perhaps we do give the impression of being overly harsh toward the stewards of our future—but that, too, is a uniquely French attitude, perhaps best summed up by the proverb... « *qui aime bien - châtie bien* » !

(Tough love!)

Website VMSgenerations—traffic analysis

Warning : these statistics are kept since mid October 2024 only... Dashboard from the 08th of July 2025.

Time	Visitors	Views
Today	2	2
Yesterday	0	0
This week	2	2
Last week	24	40
This month	20	34
Last month	117	317
Last 7 days	16	23
Last 30 days	116	284
Last 90 days	273	641
Last 6 months	796	1 662
This year (Jan-Today)	807	1 678
Total	1 177	2 507

Country	Visitor's City	Date	Views	Referring Site
France	Paris	8 juillet 2025 10 h 37 min	1	google.com
France	Unknown	8 juillet 2025 10 h 34 min	1	
France	Paris	8 juillet 2025 10 h 07 min	1	google.com
France	Saint-Nazaire	6 juillet 2025 23 h 23 min	1	google.com
France	Fécamp	6 juillet 2025 14 h 07 min	2	Unknown
Bangladesh	Unknown	5 juillet 2025 17 h 39 min	1	Unknown
France	Paris	5 juillet 2025 11 h 59 min	1	google.com
United States	Unknown	4 juillet 2025 2 h 09 min	1	Unknown
France	Unknown	4 juillet 2025 1 h 51 min	2	Unknown
Czech Republic	Prague	3 juillet 2025 20 h 10 min	1	_

Daily Traffic Trend 🛈

G V



20 Oct 2024 - 8 Juil 2025 🔻

Daily Traffic Trend Report \rightarrow

To explain peaks for the 21st of October 2024 and the 11th of march 2025 relate to publishing the english version for la lettre de VMSgenerations. For example n°2 => 110 identified connections on the 11th of March...

Training to OpenVMS in French language

Companies using VMS regularly need to train new staff in the use, development or administration of VMS. Several of our members told us they were looking for VMS training courses delivered in French. We therefore asked VSI to make these courses visible and to communicate about them.

VSI's services teams include French-speaking experts with VMS training experience who can run these sessions in the best possible conditions. VSI has selected four courses which are now officially available in French:

- Fundamentals

- System Administration I

- System Administration II

- DCL control procedures

Some courses have been already delivered remotely and in French. Prices are available on the VSI website, with discounts available for groups or simultaneous courses.

We applaud VSI's efforts to document these courses, which meet an identified demand that has been channeled through the association. This should help to secure projects by enabling training in the skills expected on VMS.

This new VSI offer is documented on a page in French, with details of each course and a FAQ following the course:

https://trainings.vmssoftware.com/fr (B.M.-M.S.)

Concluding this letter

The diverse backgrounds of the contributors to this new issue of La Lettre de Vmsgenerations reveal a convergence of concerns and a recurring emphasis on the critical need for improved communication between users and providers.

Could this finally signal the end of the tunnel for OpenVMS x86, and a realization on the part of VSI that the time has come to engage in meaningful communication to prevent the erosion of demand? There is reason for cautious optimism.

In any case, several topics remain highly relevant, and you can rely on us to keep them in focus. We will continue to revisit these issues regularly, serving as a reminder of the expectations consistently voiced by the user community.

One such topic—and the one on which we will conclude this issue—is the persistent demand from numerous users for a native, bare-metal version of the platform. This would eliminate the need for multiple system layers and third-party proprietary solutions, which inevitably introduce additional risks and costs.

Authors

(G.C. : Gérard Calliet)

He is the managerof Pia-Sofer Company. He is a committed contributor for OpenVMS ecosystem.

(B.M. : Benoît Maillard)

An outstanding facilitator of VMSgenerations meetings meetings— Benoît was the commercial spearhead for enterprise servers at DIGITAL, COMPAQ, HP, and then HPE. Now a young retiree, he remains passionate and committed to enabling his former clients to continue their activities under the best conditions.

(A.S. : Alexandre Souf)

Treasurer of the association association—an engineer at Stromasys, the publisher of multiple legacy architecture emulation solutions, Alexandre supports many customers in their modernization journey.

(M.S. : Miroslaw Szczeblewski)

President of the VMSgenerations association, Miroslaw provides through his company ReSYST all the necessary solutions for the OpenVMS ecosystem —servers, storage solutions, licenses, hardware and software support.

VMSgenerations

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VMSgenerations

The articles published here reflect the views of their authors, are validated by the editorial committee, but do not bind the association.

The newsletter is open to anyone or any community that wishes to participate in the joint effort to promote the ecosystem and the connections between its actors. Articles are signed personally or on behalf of an editorial entity (association, company, institution, etc.).