

VMSgenerations

RENDEZ-VOUS AUTOUR DE VMS

NOV. 18, 2021

MEETING REPORT

We held our last "Rendez-vous autour de VMS" session on November 18 with a large audience.

The main topic was "the availability of platforms running VMS".

We have invited some of the most important speakers regarding hardware and software that support our favorite OS:

- HPE for still available systems, new storage solutions and HPE hardware support validity
- Dell Technology - storage alternative solutions running and qualified VMS
- Stromasys - emulators for VMS
- ORACLE - news and update on VMS
- VSI - status of VMS progress on x86 and update of the roadmap
- And of course, news from VMSgenerations:
 - update on discussions with VSI on licensing
 - survey on the use of VMS first feedback

PRESENTATION BY HPE FINANCIAL SERVICES

Jocelin Bentayou for HPEFS (the financial branch of HPE) presented us their asset management, financing and recycling offers for systems at the end of leasing contracts. The circular economy/recycling axis is one of their specialties. This sector can propose older systems and software that have been removed from the official catalog to address the needs of duplication/relocation, or capacity increase for projects that are frozen on the software side. Requests in this sense from the VMS or HP-UX installed base are quite frequent and the HPEFS catalog has often enabled historical deployments to be extended without any technological break.

[Link to the HPEFS presentation \(right click to open in a new window\)](#)

STORAGE FOR VMS FROM HPE

Michel Parent for HPE Storage presented the latest news about VMS with the MSA arrays, the evolution of the 3PAR family towards Primera, and the Alletra full NVMe product line with a growing share of artificial intelligence with InfoSight to optimize use and administration. Business continuity is probably the most important aspect for VMS customers. These product families are (or will be soon) qualified by VSI for VMS.

[Link to HPE Storage presentation \(right click to open in a new window\)](#)

HPE POINTNEXT SUPPORT SERVICES

Eric Michée for PointNext HPE Services presented the support services, from the first reactive level to the highest level of commitment. A frequent request on the VMS installed base is the consideration of long-life platforms. As the end of official support approaches, offerings can be tailored to continue to use mature systems. Parts availability is subject to creative options for the long term. A significant number of VMS customers are taking advantage of these extended support offerings.

[Link to the HPE PointNext Services presentation \(right click to open in a new window\)](#)

DELL TECHNOLOGIES STORAGE SOLUTIONS

Sami Fredj for Dell/EMC presented the storage arrays and backup systems and software qualified with VMS: Unity XT Flash or hybrid families with included software, PowerMax NVMe scalable with included or optional software, backup with PowerProtect Data Domain and VTL virtual tape libraries, and integration with MicroFocus DataProtector, which are often deployed at HPE customers sites.

[Link to the DELL/EMC Storage presentation \(right click to open in a new window\)](#)

VAX AND ALPHA EMULATION

Alexandre Souf for Stromasys covered the good reasons for being interested in emulators.

Taking over the whole OS & applications without rewriting, perpetuation on a recent hardware, removing the constraints of the original hardware support... which explains the growing success of these deployments covering VMS v5.5 to v8.4 on VAX and Alpha. Some additional use cases may be considered: cybersecurity tests, disaster recovery solutions, resizing for cpu or disks for an environment which is stretched.

[Link to the Stromasys presentation \(right click to open in a new window\)](#)

ORACLE UPDATE

Kevin Duffy for Oracle presented the work in progress with VSI and the VMS news from the Oracle catalog.

Regarding the database Enterprise Edition side, 11gR2 will be the last release available on VMS, with a very long-term support cycle. The issue of the VMS 11gR2 client and its inability to connect to the last generation databases (21c) has been raised by several users. This is reported to be a barrier to maintaining VMS for some who need to interoperate with newer versions of the database. Oracle and VMSgenerations are listening to feedback on this subject.

In regard to Rdb, v7.4 offers the longest support. The version for x86 will be based on this 7.4 stream.

[Link to the Oracle on VMS presentation \(right click to open in a new window\)](#)

[See also : Oracle on OpenVMS latest newsletter \(right click to open in a new window\)](#)

VSI ANSWERS ON LICENSING OPTIONS

Benoît Maillard presented the status of the association's dialogue with VSI on licensing options.

Several suggestions on the forums led us to a list of 10 options that VSI could have proposed. For each, VSI has indicated its position, usually a refusal for various reasons.

We have received a lot of negative feedback from users about this new way of selling VMS which is very unbalanced, to the point that some people are talking about leaving VMS due to these conditions. We believe that VSI must listen to its installed base and find more satisfactory answers, otherwise the effect will be the opposite of the one desired.

[Link to the VSI-VMSgenerations dialog presentation \(right click to open in a new window\)](#)

"OUR FUTURE WITH VMS" SURVEY

Gérard Calliet presented a first summary of the questionnaire on the use of VMS distributed by the association during last fall. The answers collected reveal several concerns. The following points are the most frequently reported by the users who responded:

- Plan to abandon VMS in the short/medium term (2 to 5 years).
- Little interest in upgrading to VSI despite the end of support for HPE v8.4.
- Loss of confidence in VSI due to the change in licensing (mandatory subscription), and also due to the delays in the x86 port.

Given the interest of this survey to better understand the expectations of VMS users, we will propose an English version of the survey, and add a more precise survey on the needs in terms of tools and software packages.

The dependencies indicated by users could help convince software vendors to keep VMS in their catalog.

[Link to the VMSgenerations survey analysis presentation \(right click to open in a new window\)](#)

VSI ROADMAP UPDATE

Adam Hoff Nielsen from VSI commented on the roadmap update for the x86 version of VMS. It is expected that the so-called "limited production" version 9.2 will be released in spring 2022 and the production version with native compilers in late 2022.

Specific answers were provided by Homi Faris to questions asked about the VSI roadmap :

1) **X86 VMS cluster with HPE VMS ?**

It will normally be possible to have mixed clusters (x86 v9.2 - Itanium HPE v8.4, x86 v9.2 - Alpha HPE v8.4, and x86 v9.2 - VAX v7.3) but the final decision is not taken. On the other hand, it is likely that improvements to the cluster protocol in v9.3 for security will make x86 v9.3 clusters with HPE versions of VMS impossible.

2) **NVMe storage on ProLiant running native VMS (bare metal) ?**

NVMe is not on the current roadmap but VSI is considering it and thinking about possible support in the future.

3) **Does SMP work on ProLiant in bare metal ?**

Yes

4) **Will VSI support smaller machines natively (bare metal) ?**

VSI is aware of the need for small bare metal machines and will investigate this after 9.2 .

[Link to the VSI Roadmap Update presentation \(right click to open in a new window\)](#)

AND FINALLY, A WORD FROM THE ASSOCIATION BOARD...

The participation was significant both in number and duration and we thank all those who have given us their precious time. It is the mark of a strong support which illustrates the interest for the subjects of our "Rendez-vous". The exchanges between participants and speakers were rich in information, which reinforces our belief in the format of these meetings. It seems important to us to maintain this openness to the entire VMS ecosystem, suppliers, editors, consultants and of course users.

We are already working on the next "Rendez-vous" that will be dedicated to services, consultants and integrators providing professional support to users during all phases of VMS deployment and their project life cycle.

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

For any question, comment or suggestion, email us at :

contact@msgenerations.fr