Dear VMSgenerations,

Many thanks for your questions. We have tried to answer them in a positive spirit of collaboration among friends and hope that you will read them in the same way. It is of absolute importance that you feel confident in VSI. Our focus is to keep OpenVMS ecosystem alive and make sure that our owner continues to invest into something that is important to our customers, and all of us. It has been a far more difficult journey than expected but we continue to move forward even if we are late. It is important to understand the substantial financial risk VSI has taken and the need to reduce that risk by having industry standard licensing models in place and securing financial income to balance the financial risk. We are a customer-focused company, and we are as always ready to look at specific customer cases that require specific solutions should that be needed. This means an open and pragmatic dialogue with parties looking for practical solutions to principal problems.

OpenVMS eco system will benefit greatly from our joint efforts in important areas such as convincing strategic ISV to port their applications. Here we can help each other to build credible business cases for the ISV.

If we team up to solve real problems, OpenVMS users will benefit greatly.

Best Regards,

VSI, 2nd May 2022

Can VSI engage on reliable dates for a production level version of VMS on x86?

For those familiar with development of operating systems and compiler it is well known that the complexity of such projects makes it very hard to correctly estimate an exact date for completion. We also want to take the opportunity to communicate that Johan Gedda has continued to invest in the development of new products even if the cost as been far higher than originally planned. It is both assuring and unique to have such long-term financial backing as VSI enjoys.

Official roadmap to be found at https://vmssoftware.com/about/roadmap/.

Can you present an accurate and viable roadmap?

Please see above response.

Does VSI have the needed resources to achieve their goal?

Yes, both functionally and financially, VSI have the resources available to achieve our goals with close to 100 engineers working around the world on this development. Many of them have been involved in the development and delivery of previous versions of OpenVMS and have extensive experience and knowledge.

The recent release of the 9.2e is a clear proof that we are progressing surely and steadily towards our common goal.

What are the resources engaged by VSI to prioritize the release of native development tools, which is a necessary condition for deployment in critical environments?

Please see above. We have close to 100 engineers involved in this development and native development tools are obviously of high importance.

When do you plan to reinstate perpetual licenses at the VSI catalogue?

We do not plan to reinstate perpetual licenses on the VSI catalogue. However, as previously communicated there can be exceptions based on individual analysis of unique customer situations. Please note that with the focus of the VSI organization and the financial commitment by Johan Gedda, the OpenVMS community has not been safer as a user group for the past 40 years.

Can you propose the two options: perpetual license and subscription license without restrictions on the customer size or market segment?

The industry standard is subscription, and we will continue with this model, also for x86. This is what enables our current subscription customers to upgrade to x86 without having to buy new perpetual licenses as the subscription model gives the customer RTNV both minor and major.

Can the VSI product prices be made public in an official updated document (price list)?

VSI does not publish its prices. Customers are more than welcome to contact sales to discuss their needs, and quotes can be provided accordingly.

Users are asking for VSI public documents for Sales Terms and Conditions and licensing. When will they be available?

The subscription EULA is normally provided by sales to the customer and upon delivery of the services. However, we agree that this should be made available through our website. VSI will add this to the VSI website.

How are distributed roles and responsibilities between VSI and Teracloud?

Since we could not register VMS Software as a company name in many of the key markets in Europe we decided to use the name Teracloud instead as we already had control of that name. To be using a mix of Teracloud and VMS Software as company name across Europe was not an option. In short, VSI in Europe is Teracloud. Teracloud is the mother company and based in Denmark as well as our founder Johan Gedda.

Who is the customer contact: VSI or Teracloud?

VSI. Teracloud is just the name that we had to use in Europe as VMS Software was already taken.

What can you say to reassure customers on migrations services offers that seem to encourage them to quit VMS?

VSI sees a bright future for OpenVMS both on x86 in the cloud, bare metal and on next generation standards and will take any opportunity to convey that message and make sure that the OpenVMS alternative is given the chance it deserves.

VSI's sole mission is to serve our customers with the best advice possible for future alternatives and to help them protect their investments. Each customer has their own situation that needs to be solved. We encourage them to do a Discovery Service with us so that we get an overview of their situation. Using the results from the Discovery Service as a base, we propose (what we consider) the best commercial & technical solution for each unique customer case. The Discovery Service many times provide the customer with insights about opportunities with OpenVMS based systems that they did not have before.

In some cases, the best alternative for the customer is to migrate off OpenVMS. This can be because of complexities in their environment, third party products that are disappearing, platform synergy with other parts of the organisation etc. In such situations we want to show respect to the customer and provide them with the help they need.

If we are not willing to help customers to leave OpenVMS when that is the best alternative, our credibility would soon be lost.

Aren't you encouraging the customers to leave VMS while getting paid to deliver the migration services instead of trying to keep the customer on VMS?

No. We encourage our customers to do what makes business sense and we try to make sure that they protect their investments in OpenVMS systems by better insight and knowledge. If we only offered our customers the advice to stay on OpenVMS, there would be no reason to ask us for advice.

We invite anyone to read the following article:

https://www.techtarget.com/searchcio/tip/A-CIOs-guide-to-legacy-system-modernization

When will you stop scrambling the message on x86 with your communications on Atom?

We apologise if the communication has been confusing but Atom is not a development project, and neither is it mentioned anywhere on our roadmap or website. Please rest assured, all our resources are focussed on delivering x86 on time.

The reason that we have talked about ATOM was to get a feeling for the market potential for such a solution.

Is VSI able to propose a support offering on HPE VMS versions without making new VSI licenses acquisition mandatory?

Yes, we can offer "Best Effort" L1/L2 support for customers running HPE VMS versions. However, we cannot provide "Engineering Support" L3 support for the HPE VMS versions as the contract that VSI

has signed with HPE does not allow us to propose this. Neither has it ever been the norm to continue supporting an "aged version".

VSI still recommend migrating to VSI licenses for security, functionality, compliance, and risk reasons. For the customers that are restricted in upgrading, for whatever reason, we invite them to reach out to our Professional Services team to discuss their options.

With your help to move our customers to VSI versions you will also help developing an even stronger user base motivating further investments by VSI into OpenVMS ecosystem.

How to introduce collaborative methods between VSI opensource teams and the VMS technical communities in the field, which worked well in the Digital times?

The community is always welcome to contribute, and indeed some do. For example, there is a slowly growing number of open source products on our GitHub site, and users are more than welcome to submit pull requests. Over time we will add more products to this site. However, it must be stressed that because we are on the hook for support of any such software that we make available to our customers, we reserve the right to accept or reject any submissions (one way or another we need to have control over what's in the kits we provide to customers and for which we provide support).

Is there a plan to involve users to contribute in the development of opensource like it is done in the other OS segments (Unix/Linux, or even Windows)

Please see above.

How does VSI provide access to technical expertise and product knowledge for those who ask questions during their porting?

From a general perspective, customers with active support contracts will get the help they are entitled to in their contracts and many times more than that.

Many OpenVMS users have sufficient technical knowledge to do the porting themselves. Others have a network of consultants/partners to help them out. For these groups there is extensive information available that you can find in the list below.

For customers with highly complex environments or without access to sufficient technical skills, VSI offers professional services to help them with porting to OpenVMS 9.x. More information to be found at https://vmssoftware.com/services/migration-services/.

We have a pool of very experienced OpenVMS engineers who can help. Please send an email to pro@vmssoftware.com.

Information available on our website:

Knowledge database: https://gencat8.eloquent-systems.com/webcat/request/PublicLogin?SystemName=VMS

Forum to discuss OpenVMS-related topics: https://forum.vmssoftware.com/

Software Product Description (SPD), release notes etc.:
https://vmssoftware.com/products/versions/ & https://vmssoftware.com/products/list/

Our "Wiki" environment hosting the world's biggest encyclopaedia entirely dedicated to the OpenVMS operating system: https://wiki.vmssoftware.com/Main_Page

Documentation search : https://docs.vmssoftware.com/

How does VSI take into account the critical need for an Oracle client module to maintain VMS systems in complex customer environments (multiple OS running applications accessing data on an Oracle Enterprise central database)?

VSI takes this very seriously and are in continuous discussions with Oracle about making this available. We do the same with many other ISV with important applications. There is however a high risk that we will fail in this endeavour without the active support of Oracle customers. Please help us identify all Oracle customers in need of the Oracle client for OpenVMS to build a strong business case to present to Oracle.

If users do not identify themselves and team up with VSI there will be no Oracle client available!

Who are the ISVs engaged into producing an x86 version of their VMS application?

VSI is encouraging and supporting all of our ISV partners to migrate to X86. The final decision is up to the ISV partner, but we are providing them the necessary resources to migrate. For a list of ISV partners, see URL https://vmssoftware.com/about/partners/

An inventory of VMS applications expected on x86 is required. What does VSI do on this subject?

Please find attached a list of the layered products and open source products that we are porting to x86. It is very much the same as what is currently available on ia64. There is a handful of exceptions.

As to 3rd party products please see above answer. We strongly recommend that customers engage with us to do an inventory of their environments. In general, problem areas will be ancient pieces of software that HP stopped supporting long ago, that we have not picked up. But the number of such products tend to be small and often there are readily identifiable substitutes.

LAYERED PRODUCTS

Product Name	Available on x86
ABS/MDMS (Archive Backup Server/Media Device and Management System)	
ACMS (DEV, Remote, RT)	
ACMSDI (TP Connector for ACMS)	
Availability Manager (Base)	
Availability Manager (Data Collector)	
Availability Manager Analyzer (Data Analyzer/Data Server)	
BASIC, native	
BLISS, native	
C, native	
C++ (only native will be available)	
COBOL, native	
Datatrieve (DTR)	
DCPS (DECprint Supervisor)	YES
DECforms (DEV, RT)	YES
DECnet-Plus	YES
DECnet-Plus - FTAM	
DECnet-Plus - OSAK	
DECnet-Plus - VT	
DECset	YES
DECset - CMS (Code Management System)	YES
DECset - DTM (Digital Test Manager)	YES
DECset - ENVMGR (Environment Manager)	YES
DECset - LSE (Language-Sensitive Editor)	
DECset - MMS (Module Management System)	YES
DECset - PCA (Performance and Coverage Analyzer)	
DECset - SCA (Source Code Analyzer)	
DECwindows Motif	YES
DFG/DFO (Disk File Optimizer)	YES
DQS (Distributed Queueing Service)	YES
FMS (Forms Management System) (DEV, RT)	YES
FORTRAN, native	
GKS, GKSRT	
HPBINARYCHECKER	
MACRO, native	
MDMSView	
OMNIAPI (OMNI API)	
OSAP (OSAP H1, S7, AP)	
Perfdat	YES
RTR (Reliable Transaction Router)	YES
SSM (Save Set Manager)	YES
T4 (Total Time Tracking Tool)	
VSI TCP/IP Services 6.0	YES
WebUI	YES
WSIT (Web Svc Integration Tools)	

NOTE: We will be adding more products to this list throughout the year.

Product Name	Available on x86
ActiveMQ	
ANT (Another Neat Tool)	
AXIS2	
CivetWeb	YES
CSWS (Secure Web Server (Apache))	YES
CSWS_JAVA (Tomcat)	
cURL and libcURL	YES
GNV	
gSOAP	
HAProxy	YES
Kerberos	YES
LibMariaDB for OpenVMS (MariaDB C client API to OpenVMS)	
LIBPQ PostgreSQL client API	YES
LibRdKafka API (Apache Kafka API)	
Lua	YES
Maven	
Mosquitto MQTT Broker	YES
OpenJDK (OPENJDK80)	
OpenLDAP (client and server)	YES
OpenSSH	YES
Paho-C MQTT Client API	YES
Perl	YES
PHP	YES
Python	
RabbitMQ C client API (LibRabbitMQ)	YES
Redis	YES
Samba	
Scala	
SQLRelay Client API	
SSL111 (Secure Socket Layer)	YES
SSL3	
Stunnel	YES
SWIG (Simplified Wrapper and Interface Generator)	
VGIT	YES
XML_C (XML Technology (XML-C++))	
ZeroMQ	