

AN-005 Using VAX CD's and floppy disks on OpenVMS/Alpha hosts

Author: Software Resources International

Date: 15-Sep-2000

The CHARON-VAX emulator for OpenVMS/Alpha executes binary VAX instructions on an OpenVMS/Alpha host system. By emulating a complete VAX hardware system including its disks and other peripherals, CHARON-VAX can execute existing unmodified VAX software, including older versions of VAX/VMS and its applications, on OpenVMS.

Not all implementations of CHARON-VAX support the direct connection of physical host devices like CD or floppy disk drives to the emulator. In general, it is more convenient (and faster) to create a CHARON-VAX disk image of a CD or floppy drive and use that with the emulator.

MKIMAGE/Alpha is the utility to make such a disk image from a physical device. The utility does not require any parameters from the command line. After starting it prompts for two arguments: The name of a physical device to copy from and a name of the image file to copy to.

MKIMAGE/Alpha is designed for OpenVMS/Alpha version 7.1. and 7.2. To use MKIMAGE, mount the device to be copied as "foreign" and run MKIMAGE_A.EXE as it's shown in example below.

Example with a VMS formatted CD:

Assuming that the CD drive in the OpenVMS/Alpha system is called DKA100: we can use the following sequence:

```
$ RUN MKIMAGE_A.EXE
Enter the name of the device to make the image from: DKA100:
Enter the name of the output file: DKA200:[000000]MY_CD.DSK
1331208 blocks copied
$
```

Example with a VMS formatted floppy disk:

Assuming that the floppy disk drive in the OpenVMS/Alpha system is called DVA0: we can use the following sequence:

```
$ RUN MKIMAGE_A.EXE
Enter the name of the device to make the image from: DVA0:
Enter the name of the output file: DKA200:[000000]MY_FLOPPY.DSK
2880 blocks copied
$
```

Once the image has been generated, it is associated in the CHARON-VAX configuration file with a specific system, for example:

```
load RQDX3 UDA
set UDA file[0]="VAXSYS.DSK"
set UDA file[1]=" DKA200:[000000]MY_CD.DSK"
set UDA file[2]=" DKA200:[000000]MY_FLOPPY.DSK"
```

The MKIMAGE_A.EXE file is available as a ZIP file on the download page of WWW.CHARON-VAX.COM. Unzip it on your OpenVMS/Alpha system.

[30-18-005]