

## AN-007 Use MGPCX to access DOS floppies in CHARON-VAX

Author: Hunter Goatley

Date: 10-SEP-2000

CHARON-VAX now supports direct access to the CD-ROM and floppy drives on the host PC. ODS-2 formatted disks (VMS disks) can be accessed directly from VMS running on CHARON-VAX.

With the aid of a third-party freeware application, MGPCX, you can also access DOS-formatted floppies from within CHARON-VAX. This ability provides you with another method for transferring files between your host Windows environment and VMS running on CHARON-VAX. The first method is to use Kermit or another protocol to transfer the file over the “serial” lines in CHARON-VAX. Using MGPCX to give you access to DOS floppies, you can now transfer files between VMS and your host Windows environment simply by copying files to and from the floppy.

To transfer from Windows to VMS, simply format the floppy for DOS and copy the desired files to the floppy via Windows Explorer or whatever method you prefer. Under VMS, you simply define a logical, PCX\_DISK, that points to the floppy drive (say, DKA2:):

```
$ DEFINE PCX_DISK DKA2:
$ PCX ::= $dev:[dir]MGPCX.EXE
$ PCX
PCX> export/binary file.typ
```

The commands above define a PCX foreign command and use the EXPORT command to export the file FILE.TYP to the local VMS disk.

To copy a file from VMS to Windows, simply use the PCX IMPORT command to copy the file(s) from the VMS disk to the floppy. After exiting CHARON-VAX, Windows can then access the file(s) on the floppy.

Unfortunately, the floppy drive cannot be accessed from Windows while CHARON-VAX is running. However, even with this limitation, using MGPCX can make it easier to transfer files back and forth between VMS and Windows.

You can find MGPCX on the VMS Freeware CDs, or using one of the following URLs:

<ftp://ftp.wku.edu/vms/fileserv/mgpcx.zip>  
<ftp://ftp.process.com/wku/vms/fileserv/mgpcx.zip>  
<ftp://ftp.tmk.com/ftp-wku-edu/vms/fileserv/>  
<http://www2.wku.edu/www/fileserv/>  
<http://www.tmk.com/ftp/>