

Updated: 13 February 2006

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**Release notes for Production VERSION 3.1.50 of**

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**CHARON-VAX/XM for Windows**  
**CHARON-VAX/XM Plus for Windows**  
**CHARON-VAX/XK Plus for Windows**  
**CHARON-VAX/XL for Windows**  
**CHARON-VAX/XL Plus for Windows**

Supported on Windows 2003 Server Standard Edition and Windows XP host platforms.

(Note that in the text that follows the term CHARON-VAX/XX is used to identify CHARON-VAX/XM, CHARON-VAX/XL and CHARON-VAX/XK).

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**PLEASE OPEN THE USER MANUAL AT THE INSTALLATION CHAPTER BEFORE  
PROCEEDING WITH INSTALLATION OF CHARON-VAX.**

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Your CHARON-VAX license key must support version 3.1 to run this version.

This release cannot co-exist on the same system with an existing CHARON-VAX/XX (Plus) for Windows installation. Please uninstall any existing CHARON-VAX system before installing this kit remembering to firstly save all personal configuration files and disk images stored in the CHARON-VAX installation folder.

See the [user manual](#) for details of how to configure CHARON-VAX.

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**ATTENTION, EXISTING USERS!**

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Only ONE SCSI Controller is now supported by default. Use the command "include kzdda.cfg" to use the second SCSI Controller "PKB" when configuring the MicroVAX 3100 models 96 or 98 or the VAX 4000 model 106 or 108.

See the explanation below under "new functionality".

Version 3.1.50 introduces a new NDIS5 driver, sripacket version 3.3.0.50

Uninstall any existing CHARON Packet Driver and re-boot your system.

After installing CHARON-VAX/XM version 3.1.50 then install the latest CHARON packet driver and again reboot your system.

Change the configuration file to use a load command of the form load ndis5\_chpack\_port/chnetwrk XXX interface="My NIC name"

If you are still running CHARON-VAX on a Windows 2000 host system in which case continue to use the load command Load ndis5\_packet\_port/chnetwrk XXX interface="My NIC name" and continue to use the sripacket driver version 5.2 available from [ftp://chvx-public:charon@ftp.sri-gva.ch/Drivers/sripacket/5\\_2/](ftp://chvx-public:charon@ftp.sri-gva.ch/Drivers/sripacket/5_2/)

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**This release includes the following new functionality.**

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- Improved status logging is available as the NDIS driver now implements Plug and Play (PnP), power and status indication events.
- Tape images may be of unlimited size. (Previously limited to 4 GB)
- CHARON-VAX launcher now takes the emulated model from the configuration file and remembers the default configuration file.
- A new Dummy\_VCB02 function is implemented. (Does not need CHAPI.)
- The MicroVAX 3100 models 96 or 98 or the VAX 4000 model 106 or 108 can boot VMS 5.5-2 without the H4 extension.

Please note that VMS 5.5-2 will only allow one SCSI controller. The CHARON-VAX default configuration has now ONE SCSI controller. The second SCSI controller "PKB" is now optional. Include the second controller by including a line "include kzdda.cfg" in the configuration file (see the sample configuration files). If your configuration file is launched from a location other than the

installation directory copy the kzdda.cfg to the same folder as the main configuration file.

- It is now possible to halt a 3600 emulation that is set up for Auto Boot.
- DVD write capability:  
Mr. Eberhard Heuser-Hofmann ([vaxinf@chemie.uni-konstanz.de](mailto:vaxinf@chemie.uni-konstanz.de)) sells a CD/DVD reading/writing software for VAX/VMS. If you install this software then you can now easily backup 4 GB files to a DVD writer using the VMS Backup utility. Note that this feature is delivered "as is" without support from Software Resources International.
- CHARON Logging has been reorganized. All messages are numbered.

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### **This release includes numerous fixes. The most important are listed below.**

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- Two changes have been made to reduce the chance of disks being declared offline by VMS because of unexpected delays in I/O operations.
- This build will attempt to isolate any SCSI device reporting IO errors thus allowing the rest of the system to continue with normal operations.
- MSCP performance improvements have been applied.
- An error in calculating a physical adapter address has been fixed that will improve Network boot capabilities.
- The TOY clock parameters are now saved when changed thus reducing the chance of the emulated VAX starting with the wrong time. There are underlying limitations in VMS and thus users need to manually check the time of the VAX at start up or use an automated time service to correct the time of the emulated VAX.
- The CHARON license key drivers have been updated for Windows XP SP 2 and Windows 2003.
- A fix has been applied for a CHARON-VAX crash when accessing a SCSI CDROM for example by:  
load physical\_scsi\_device/chscsi pka\_2 scsi\_bus=pka scsi\_id=2 set pka\_2 container="\\.\CdRom0"
- Run time limited back up licenses (not date limited) licenses now display the remaining time available at start up in minutes rather than seconds.
- SCSI check has been updated to deal with most common configurations.
- Serial line communications have been corrected for certain Graphic terminal operations.
- The VAX hardware diagnostics count down will no longer fail on very fast host systems.
- On CHARON-VAX 3600/3900 models the automatic boot option "set bdr boot=auto" does now work.
- A problem reported with telex data (5 bits) communications has been fixed.
- On Windows 2003 emulated SCSI controllers support either direct SCSI addressing or the notation \\.\Tape0. Direct SCSI notation is NOT supported by MSCP/TMSCP controllers.
- It is possible to configure a MicroVAX II with 1, 8 or 16 MB of memory.

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### **Attention**

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- If the CHARON-VAX host is a member of a Microsoft Windows domain and the CHARON-VAX users login using a domain account rather than directly on the CHARON-VAX host system, then add the domain login username (either User1@Domain1 or Domain1\User1) to the local CHARON-GRP group created on the CHARON-VAX host system. Note that the CHARON-GRP group is created automatically by the CHARON-VAX installation procedure.
- If CHARON-VAX is failing to start cleanly firstly reboot the host system. If after reboot, Windows reports a problem with Digital Execution Protection (DEP) disable Digital Execution Protection. To disable the DEP for Charon follow this sequence: My Computer->Properties => System Properties dialog Choose the "Advanced" tab and press the "Settings" button in the "Performance" group. Choose the "Data Execution Prevention" tab. Select "Turn on DEP for all the programs and services except those I select" Select the Charon executable(s) and add it/them to the list with the "Add..." button Press OK in all the dialogs. Now Reboot the system.
- Under MSCP emulation disk and tape images may be manipulated in Windows if they are not mounted by the Operating system running on the emulated VAX. This is NOT true for disk images connected to SCSI controllers. Tape and disk images in use by other Windows programs may not be mounted by CHARON-VAX. For example if a program is used to archive tape images it must not access these images until released by CHARON-VAX.
- Booting from a stand alone backup on tape may fail on very fast hosts. Create a tape image in order to boot from a "tape" stand alone backup.

- When the host PC is booted, if CHARON-VAX must automatically start as a service, then a service called hardlock must be added to the list of pre-requisites for the CHARON-VAX service. Must be manually edited in the registry.
- If possible use the MSCP/TMSCP controller on the 4000-106 or 4000-108. The MSCP/TMSCP controller generates fewer host interrupts thus improving performance.
- Disk images are named with extensions \*.vdisk. Do not name or rename disk images to \*.dsk.
- If Windows is closed down while CHARON-VAX is running, CHARON-VAX will not sense this is happening and data may be corrupted. Always close down your Operating System running on CHARON-VAX and exit CHARON-VAX before shutting down Windows.
- To avoid unnecessary confusion with load order, pair the device name with the DLL name. For example:  
load ndis5\_chpack\_port/chnetwrk <...>
- HyperTerminal Private Edition Version 6.3 may display "Unregistered Class error 1412" when closing CHARON-VAX. The Standard HyperTerminal, KEA, QVT/Term, terminal emulators do not have this problem. The error display does not have any other impact on CHARON-VAX.
- The Telnet protocols will be ignored if a serial line is configured for binary communications.
- Take care with configuring removable hardware in CHARON-VAX. The device name of such devices depends on the host configuration. If the device name changes the CHARON-VAX configuration file must be updated.
- For reliable operation CHARON-VAX must be given total control of the hardware network card without any interference from the host operating system.

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### Restrictions

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- Two customers have reported a problem with modem communications. After repetitive dial up connections the device becomes unusable. This has not yet been reproduced by our engineers. (Ref. 1061)
- The DVD write capability may fail on certain device/media combinations. Please contact Mr. Eberhard Heuser-Hofmann ([vaxinf@chemie.uni-konstanz.de](mailto:vaxinf@chemie.uni-konstanz.de)) for details. (Ref. 1113)
- In an NI cluster containing a CHARON-VAX node emulating a MicroVAX 3100 model 96 or 98, the reboot operation of VMS will fail on these nodes. (Ref. 1151)
- Terminals connected to com ports may generate random "(996) Overlapped I/O event....." failures. To recover from this error re-start CHARON. (Ref. 1168)

Software Resources International ([www.softresint.com](http://www.softresint.com))  
Document 30-17-038.