



**CAMUS International, Inc.
Fall User Group Meeting via Webinar/Conference Call
Thursday, November 11, 2010 @ 11:00am Central Std**

What You Missed: a lot of meaningful content on MANMAN, MAXCIM, HP3000 and OpenVMS

Twice a year, members of CAMUS International, the software users group for the bygone ASK Computer Systems MANMAN and MAXCIM ERP packages, gets together virtually to share ideas. It's called VRUG because we love acronyms and it has the flavor of the Regional Users Group meetings of past decades. These are my unofficial notes of the event.

There was not much point in having the webinar connection because the agenda was the only document to be presented. I look forward to the day when we all have cameras and can cheaply put 16 live pictures on a screen for meetings like this one. A primary presenter was unavailable at the last minute, so the agenda was very flexible and the small number of participants allowed lots of interaction. The hour long discussion was actually packed with relevant content this time. Check it out next Spring when VRUG time rolls around again.

A few people dialed in early and heard Terri Lanza say there were about 13 regular members and several associates (3rd party vendors) pre-registered for the call. After an extended silence while we waited for 11am, Birket entertained with stories of final Shuttle Launch date windows and Veteran's Day vs. Remembrance Day (in Canada) events. We were about to launch off onto another tangent ourselves (the Russians are charging \$51M per seat for trips to the ISS; would India or China have the funds to carry on human space exploration in the future? Will the next US space launches be from New Mexico?) when Terri Lanza called the meeting to order.

Terri, CAMUS President for life, and Ed Stein, CAMUS, Vice President, led the meeting. Other CAMUS Board members on the call were John Serdensky, Terry Simpkins, Mike Anderson, and Terry Floyd. Other than Birket Foster, our primary presenter, participants included Ron Seybold of the HP3000 NewsWire, Chuck Tries, Cortlandt Wilson, Andy Lytle, Tracy Johnson, Lisa Christensen... Who did I miss? Lanza observed that the group had a "Systems" orientation rather than an "MRP user" slant so the first topic was appropriate.

OpenMPE Update – this is an HP3000-related topic

Birket Foster of M.B. Foster Associates (1-800-ANSWERS) has been the volunteer leader of a group called OpenMPE for many years so he gave a recap of what they have accomplished and what they hope to accomplish in the future to help HP3000 Homesteaders. The OpenMPE Board of Directors currently has 7 members, but an illustrious list of volunteers has served that group during the last 8 years. Birket claimed the group is proudest of being chiefly responsible for the release of the MPE source code within the last few months – 8 companies, including the non-profit OpenMPE, now have copies of the source and some will be capable of delivering "binary patches" in response to future changes. An example would be the desire to add new peripherals to the HP3000 five years from now, like solid state discs. Driver patches would probably be one of the primary changes future users would be interested in purchasing.

Other major accomplishments of OpenMPE in the last few years: supporting the need for MPE License Transfers which will enable the use of Hardware Emulation of the HP3000. Open MPE helped bring the three primary hardware emulation vendors into direct negotiation with HP. They have been working behind the scenes for the last eight years to make sure you can stay on the HP3000 into the future, as long as you want to stay. Birket said he goes along with someone's estimate that 48% of MPE experts will be eligible for retirement in the next 4 years. Fortunately, many have been "eligible" for some time already and have chosen not to retire, but will that trend continue? Birket asked, "Are you training the next you?" as he wise cracked about Terry and David Floyd's approach to "growing your own replacement."

A major recent accomplishment of OpenMPE is the recent deployment of the third of three "INVENT3K" systems at The Support Group's datacenter in Austin, Texas. OpenMPE, in association with Client Systems of Denver, Colorado, has shipped a 959/400 with MPE 7.5 to Texas. It is being prepared for release to the OpenMPE membership by Tracy Johnson, of Measurement Specialties (a top-tier MANMAN user). INVENT3K2 has been available from MSI's location in Virginia for a few months and has activity already. The purpose is to allow development of custom software for whatever future needs arise. It is free until 2011 and then will be available, for (almost) 24 hours a day and with 1GB of storage, for \$99 per year. Just about every piece of software HP ever provided on MPE is on that machine, including FORTRAN compilers for the MANMAN crowd. It was mentioned that Compiling can be done on INVENT3K and Linking can be done on a machine with "ASK Software" relocatable and system libraries. It was speculated that very few (if any) MANMAN/MPE sites do not have a FORTRAN compiler, but not all small developers have access to one 24 hours a day (almost), so it will be useful to our community.

Another area in which OpenMPE has been working is the contributed software area. Aside from the resurrection of the CSL (Contributed Software Library), the erstwhile "JAZZ" site provided by HP is now being reborn in pieces thru OpenMPE. HP did not own all of the content on that site, so OpenMPE is working to get agreements from EVERYONE who contributed to the Jazz site. When that happens, all the content from Jazz will become available again, perhaps with updates. Cross your fingers as they receive the list of who developed what in the next couple of weeks.

With Ron Seybold's questions, a lot of details were revealed about OpenMPE's activities, including recent discussions (negotiations on the part of all of us?) with HP about providing 24-hour per day emergency response from HP services for changing "board level" CPU Identification codes in cases of HP3000 failures requiring main board replacements. The discussions are ongoing. Terry Simpkins mentioned the need to have pre-configured CPU boards "on the shelf" in case of major catastrophes. There was general discussion of Disaster Recovery (DR) requirements. You shoulda been there.

Check out www.openmpe.org for info on helping MPE survive.

CAMUS NEWS

Ed Stein, volunteer Vice President of CAMUS and avid MANMAN System Manager at Magicaire in Wichita Falls, Texas, is in charge of membership. Membership is Free! There are currently 41 active company members and 12 associate members, quite an increase for this first year of FREE CAMUS MEMBERSHIP. Ed is working a list of 40 or 50 companies still using MANMAN who are not official members of CAMUS. One of the main things membership brings is access to the "Members Only" section of the CAMUS website (www.casmus.org) where one can review the member profiles which give

details of which modules and add-ons each company uses. Associate members have extensive information about their products and services within their CAMUS profiles.

Half way point – 11:30 am:

HARDWARE EMULATION – running OpenVMS and/or MPE on Intel

Tim Peer of Envy Systems discussed Hardware Emulation as a strategy for prolonging the life of MANMAN and MAXCIM. Tim works primarily on the MANMAN/VMS side of supporting and extending the life of the former ASK products. Even though DEC and COMPAQ and now Hewlett Packard have not “killed” the VMS (Vax/Alpha/Integrity) computer like HP “killed” the HP3000 computer, OpenVMS customers are still trying to squeeze the most value out of their computer systems expenditures by replacing “old proprietary” hardware with new, much less expensive, “standard” platforms, primarily from Intel.

Tim has worked with Charon, a product from Stromasys (formerly SRI of Switzerland) to make MANMAN run on Intel-based systems (HP, Dell, Lenovo, whatever) running Windows or Linux. Tim says the performance is amazing and the price comparison is no contest. Compared to supporting MANMAN/VMS on a Vax or Alpha, the costs of everything are much less on the “standard” hardware.

He said to think about emulation as you think about VMWARE. It virtualizes the old DEC VAX, Compaq Alpha or HP PA-RISC architecture. It’s really Windows or Linux under there somewhere, but as far as every piece of software you throw at it can tell, it looks like what it isn’t – a VAX or Alpha or HP3000. Any software should automatically run and does already for at least two MANMAN/MAXCIM/VMS customers.

Tim said that the Stromasys web site (www.stromasys.com) has a section for those with interest in HP3000 emulation called ZELUS and the announcement can be easily downloaded from there. They are actively seeking beta test customers in the 1st or 2nd quarter of 2011. Tim’s company, Envy Systems (www.envysys.com), is partnered with Stromasys and he referred those interested to talk directly to Stromasys. Terry Floyd of The Support Group confirmed that his company is in talks with Stromasys about providing testing services for MANMAN customers interested in benchmarking their MANMAN environments on the ZELUS MPE emulation product some time toward the end of 2011.

Tim Peer’s presentation on ZELUS emulation for MPE was very thorough and he speculated that General Availability for beta testing might begin in Q3 2011. Ron Seybold asked if Stromasys was sharing a list of potential customers or prospects and Tim referred him to Stromasys for answers concerning contact names of potential ZELUS clients. Terri Lanza asked about support for 3rd party software around the MANMAN environment within MPE. Tim used his experience with Stromasys on the Charon OpenVMS emulation product to say that he thought Stromasys had negotiated with companies like Oracle who owns the proprietary Database Management System underneath MANMAN/VMS and there had been minimal license transfer fees (some even available directly from a web site).

Terry Floyd pointed out that if the 3rd party software is supported on MPE, it will probably be supported on an emulated implementation as well; it will certainly run, that’s for sure – that’s the nature of hardware emulation. But the question of the HPSUSAN and CPUNAME identification emulation comes up about here. If the HPSUSAN is the same as the one on the HP3000 where this MANMAN implementation came from, it will all instantly just work. Tim stated that the licenses for any software were ultimately between the customer (company running MANMAN or MAXCIM) and the owner of the

software. Like, the software license for MPE, which costs \$500 to transfer, everyone will hopefully take a small, reasonably sized slice of the pie. Otherwise, the deal won't happen – the whole point is to cut the hardware and systems software support costs in half or more.

Terri promised to get with Warren Smith and follow up on Infor's stance toward MANMAN license transfers for emulated/virtualized hardware environments.

Other OpenVMS News

Hewlett Packard has transitioned all support for OpenVMS to their labs in India.

MB Foster Update

Birket reviewed what his company has been up to lately. It was mentioned that David Greer, in the next office over from Birket there in Chesterville, Ontario, has recently been crazy about "Ultimate Frisbee" and a holiday in Turkey, but the main news from MB Foster and Associates (www.mbfoster.com) is their new Microsoft Windows Job Scheduler (works like MPE which is apparently much better than how others do things) and their UDA Synch product that "almost instantly" mirrors data from IMAGE activity to SQL Server or Oracle databases on other platforms. MB Foster is also extending their offerings for Applications Support (like The Support Group does for MANMAN) to those intending to continue to use HP3000s into the next 3 to 5 years or more.

Birket sees a trend for companies to commit to another three to five years on MPE and he sees the number of people being able to support those companies dwindling in the next few years. Since they've been providing Applications Level Support for years, Foster and Associates decided to formalize it a little more and begin to market their team's deep knowledge of almost every tool available on MPE.

OPEN DISCUSSION

During the discussion of Disaster Recovery, Terry Simpkins mentioned the HPSUSAN and CPU Identification issues. Ron Seybold pointed out that Hewlett Packard was committed to reducing the number of MPE Licenses, not increasing them. Their service of transferring licenses insures that a new license is not created. For instance, for an emulation license transfer, the copy of MPE must not be used on the HP3000 where it came from, only on the new implementation. The strange word GREB was mentioned again in conjunction with exactly who can change the Identification codes.

Lisa Christensen of Communications Systems Inc, a MANMAN/OpenVMS user, said that their company keeps a "spare" system offsite and she FTP's the backups over there every night. Oh, that everyone would be so prepared. Whether it's spare pre-configured CPU boards like Measurement Specialties has in place or complete spare systems, having a spare available seems to be a smart move as MANMAN and MAXCIM systems enter the long end game.

A question came thru from a participant I missed identifying: his company is running MAXCIM on OpenVMS under Charon emulation. He wants to export some data to SQL Server and do dashboarding for sales analysis. He requires some custom integration capabilities. Birket mentioned MB Foster's products and capabilities, including defining KPI's; Tim Peer covered Envy's capabilities including their SQL Data Warehouse and Open Source Web site with built in reporting for MANMAN. Terry Floyd mentioned Bob Andreini's PlanIT products. Terry Simpkins, who uses Andreini's InfoPlanIT products at

MSI, said he'd be glad to talk offline about what it takes to implement good extraction and analysis capabilities.

Conclusion

Now that I've done this detailed reporting, you probably think that there was no need for you to attend the meeting and you'll be able to skip it again next Spring. Well, we'll just see if anyone else reveals the really big stories I've left out. I'm sure the very best reporting on this event will continue to come from Ron Seybold at the HP3000 NewsWire (<http://3000newswire.com>); please follow his blog (you can't miss the links on his home page) if you are interested in the future of MPE and the HP3000. His November 11th posting is about this same CAMUS meeting, so I'm already a day behind.

Terry H. Floyd, Past President of CAMUS International 800-798-9862