

VAX Public Access Communications (VAXPAC)

Release Notes

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This manual contains the release notes for VAXPAC V1.1.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview of VAX Public Access Communications

VAX Public Access Communications (VAXPAC) is an application for VAX systems operating under VMS or MicroVMS. VAXPAC enables you to connect your system to a remote system using a terminal line.

For information on using VAXPAC, see the *VAX Public Access Communications (VAXPAC) User's Guide* and the *VAX Public Access Communications (VAXPAC) Installation and Setup Guide*.

VAXPAC also has an online help feature that you can use.

An online introduction to VAXPAC is available from the VAX Public Access Communications Main menu.

1.2 Purpose of This Document

This document describes the following for VAX Public Access Communications V1.1:

- Installation notes
- Requirements
- New features
- Problems fixed
- Known problems and restrictions

1.3 New Features

VAXPAC V1.1 provides the following new features:

- Support for all VAX/VMS systems (see Section 3.1 for exceptions)
- Support for the DMF32 controller
- Improved support for VAXclusters
- Support for connections requiring local echo
- User-selected startup option
- Function key help
- Alphabetical listing of connections

- New interface to KERMIT
- Resizing of the system file
- Resolution of all known problems in VAXPAC V1.0

2 INSTALLATION NOTES

This section contains information you need to know before you install VAXPAC V1.1.

2.1 VAXclusters with a Common System Disk

VAXPAC V1.1 supports a file COMM\$SYSTEM.DAT in the common area SYS\$COMMON:[SYSEXE].

If you have previously installed VAXPAC in a VAXcluster environment, you may want to preserve the definitions you had entered on each member of the cluster. To preserve these definitions, be sure to follow the procedure listed in the *VAX Public Access Communications (VAXPAC) Installation and Setup Guide* in the section "Installing on VAXclusters."

3 REQUIREMENTS

This section lists the operating system, the privileges, and the SYSGEN parameter you need to use and manage VAXPAC V1.1.

- VAX Public Access Communications V1.1 requires an operating system release of VMS V4.4 or later.
- Users of VAX Public Access Communications V1.1 need the TMPMBX (may create temporary mailbox) privilege.

In order to use the system manager's features of VAXPAC, you need the following privileges:

TMPMBX	May create temporary mailbox
SYSPRV	May access objects via system protection
OPER	Operator privilege
PHY_IO	May do physical I/O

- If the spawn feature of VMS has been disabled on your system, you should install COMM\$SYSTEM:COMM\$DTE.EXE with SYSPRV. If you do not do this, you cannot use VAXPAC file transfer features.

- You must modify the SYSGEN parameter TTY_ALTYPAHD to a value of 512 or greater. See "Post-Installation Requirements" in the *VAX Public Access Communications (VAXPAC) Installation and Setup Guide* for instructions on checking and changing this parameter.

4 NEW FEATURES

The following are the new features provided in VAXPAC V1.1.

4.1 Support for All VAX/VMS Systems

VAX Public Access Communications V1.1 is supported on all VMS systems, with the following exceptions: VAX-11/725, MicroVAX I and VAXstation I.

4.2 Support for the DMF32 Controller

VAX Public Access Communications V1.1 contains specific support for the DMF32 controller. The following VAXPAC modem commands work differently for the DMF32 controller. This allows existing GENERIC modem definitions to work with the DMF32 controller.

<code>^r</code> (Wait for response)	Becomes <code>^s</code> (Wait for 2 seconds)
<code>^v</code> (Display modem responses)	Becomes <code>^e</code> (Echo commands)
<code>^x</code> (Disable modem responses)	Becomes <code>^n</code> (Disable echo)

Also, when using expert mode dialing on a port on the DMF32 controller, the connection is set for local echo and automatic newline until the connection has been established.

4.3 Improved Support for VAXclusters

VAXclusters with a common system disk can now share the system file, COMM\$SYSTEM.DAT. This means that all connections and communication lines can be declared cluster wide.

The definition for a communication line now allows you to specify the node name. If you specify the node name, the communication line can be used only for connections on the specified node. If you leave the node name field blank, the communication line is available to all nodes on the cluster.

Only the first node to boot in the cluster will initialize modems defined as available for all nodes in the cluster.

4.4 Connections Requiring Local Echo

The forms for defining new connections now include a field to specify whether Local Echo is required.

Most systems display the characters entered from the keyboard. In this case, you should select **NO** for Local Echo. For some systems it is necessary for the local systems to display the characters entered from the keyboard. In this case, you should select **YES** for Local Echo.

4.5 User-Selected Startup Option

"Startup option" is a new option on the Set System Defaults form and the Set Personal Defaults form. This option allows the first screen displayed by VAXPAC to be specified as follows:

Default Main Menu	Displays Manager's Menu or User's Menu, depending upon privileges.
User's Main Menu	Displays User's Main Menu regardless of privileges.
Connect to Remote System	Bypasses the Main menu and displays the list of connections. This feature is ignored on A-to-Z.

The value selected here is used only when VAXPAC is started using the DCL command COMMUNICATE without other qualifiers.

4.6 Function Key Help

VAXPAC now provides two types of online help:

Subject help	Provides context-sensitive help. To display this, press the Help key on a VT200 or VT300 keyboard, or press PF1 (Gold) H on a VT100 keyboard.
Function key help	Explains how function keys can be invoked with VT100, VT200, and VT300 keyboards. To display this, press PF2.

The introduction to VAXPAC for keyboard usage has been changed to reflect this.

4.7 List of Connections Now Sorted Alphabetically

The list of connections is now sorted alphabetically prior to display.

4.8 New Interface to KERMIT

The procedure for starting the KERMIT server has now been included within the main program COMM\$DTE.EXE. The program COMM\$XFR_KERMIT.EXE is now redundant. The feature for defining file transfer options now recognizes the callable interface *KERMIT.

If you have chosen not to update your database during installation, you should use option XFR from the Manager's Main menu and change the command line for starting KERMIT as follows.

Old:

```
MCR COMM$XFR_KERMIT %T SYS$SYSTEM:COMM$XFR_KERMIT_INIT.COM
```

New:

```
*KERMIT SYS$SYSTEM:COMM$XFR_KERMIT_INIT.COM
```

The Help screen for this field has been changed accordingly.

4.9 Resizing of the System File

The maximum number of communication lines has been raised to 64.

If you have previously installed VAXPAC and you choose not to replace the system file COMM\$SYSTEM.DAT when you install V1.1, the existing file will be converted to use the new maximum number of communication lines.

5 PROBLEMS FIXED

The following problems have been fixed for VAXPAC V1.1.

5.1 Program Loops when Hanging Up a Connection

It was possible for VAXPAC V1.0 to loop indefinitely when hanging up a connection to a remote system. This was caused when resetting the modem if a modem reset sequence was specified.

This problem has been fixed.

5.2 Display Corrupted when Using a Large Window on a VAXstation II

Pressing the LOCAL key when using a VAXstation II with more than 24 lines in the window caused VAXPAC to scroll the screen incorrectly. This meant that the screen contents were effectively lost when the LOCAL key was pressed.

VAXPAC now fully supports windows greater than 24 lines.

5.3 Unwanted Null Characters in the Log File

The session logging file captured all characters displayed by the remote system. This meant that if the remote system used fill characters after a carriage return and line feed, then this file would include all of these characters.

These fill characters are now ignored.

6 KNOWN PROBLEMS AND RESTRICTIONS

This section describes problems and restrictions that have been discovered.

6.1 DMF32 Controller

The DMF32 communication controller supports full modem control on ports 0 and 1 only. The DMF32 does not allow responses from the modem to be monitored until carrier has been detected. This means that it is not possible to monitor the progress of the call. This also means that expert dialing cannot be used to diagnose problems with the modem.

If you are having problems with a modem attached to a DMF32 controller, you should test the modem by connecting it to a terminal. This procedure is described in the *VAX Public Access Communications (VAXPAC) Installation and Setup Guide*.

6.2 Other Problems or Restrictions

None.

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