

AlphaCD 6/98 Release Notes

As we add more features to the AlphaCD, we want to make sure you get the most possible benefit from using it. This document explains a few things about the CD which might not be clear otherwise, and gives you some general information about the changes and additions to the software. It talks about:

- The versions of AMOS[®] software and documentation available
- New features in the AMOS release: an enhanced MTUSAV, and more
- New releases of ESP and VersiCOMM-Plus
- The structure of the AM-PC[™] 4.2A software section
- The AlphaCONNECT[®] products

AMOS VERSIONS AVAILABLE

As always, AlphaCD includes the very latest versions of AMOS: the June patch releases of AMOS 1.4C and AMOS 2.3A. For details on what's included in these new releases, see the section "AMOS Enhancements," below. There are also new patch releases of AlphaTCP and MULTI, including all released patches for these products.



This CD does not include the beta test software distributed on the *AMOS 1.4E and Selected Applications Beta Test CD*. The year 2000-compliant versions of AMOS 1.4 and the other application software found on that CD are still available for testing purposes only (except for VersiCOMM-Plus and ESP, as discussed below). If you want to install and test the beta versions of this software, please contact Alpha Microsystems.

AMOS Documentation

We've updated only two AMOS software documents for this release: the *System Commands Reference Manual*, and the *AMOS Monitor Calls Manual*. In addition, there are many new or updated hardware documents included: new manuals for the AM-6060 Network Server and AM-318-10 8-Port I/O Board, updates for disk and tape drives, and more. Remember, documents that have been added or changed since the last AlphaCD are marked with an asterisk in the table of contents.

Obsolete AMOS Commands

Several commands are included in the current AMOS release only for compatibility with tapes or other backup media created under older releases. These commands are not actively supported and will not be enhanced. They are:

STRSAV	STRDIR	STRRES
BACKUP	BAKDIR	RESTOR

We strongly recommend you use the MTUxxx commands for all magnetic tape backup.

AMOS ENHANCEMENTS

In addition to support for new hardware and minor problem fixes, the 6/98 patch releases of AMOS 1.4C and AMOS 2.3A include enhancements to the MTUxxx software, the \$DSTOI and \$DITOS library routines, and RADMON. AMOS 2.3A also includes some new AlphaACCOUNTING subroutines.

MTUxxx Improvements

While all the MTUxxx programs and related software have been improved, the major visible enhancements are in MTUSAV:

- Error detection and reporting have been greatly enhanced: you can now control the reported severity of most errors, and even tell MTUSAV to ignore certain errors if they occur in particular files.
- Most MTUSAV operations can continue even after disk errors, including running out of disk space.
- New switches give you more control over MTUSAV in command and control files, and allow the rest of the file to execute even if there's a fatal error during the backup.



MTUSAV's default operation in command and control files has changed; please refer to the MTUSAV reference sheet for details.

- MTUSAV.LOG records much more information, and you can either append to or overwrite an existing MTUSAV.LOG file.

MTUSAV now requires 110KB of memory; more memory improves performance.

For a detailed description of the new MTUSAV, see the *AMOS System Commands Reference Manual*, Rev. 08 or later.

Improved \$DITOS and \$DSTOI Library Routines

The \$DITOS and \$DSTOI system library routines have been enhanced. These routines, used for converting dates between AMOS internal format and separated format, now work for all dates from January 1, 1900 through December 31, 2155.

RADMON Changes

RADMON, our RAID subsystem monitoring software, now supports the recently released AM-446 RAID subsystem. We've added several new switches to take advantage of capabilities in the AM-446 which weren't available in the older AM-445 RAID controller.

New AlphaACCOUNTING Subroutines

To help our developers bring their applications into year 2000 compliance, we've added new versions of three AlphaACCOUNTING subroutines that can either input or display dates where century information is useful. These new routines are included with, and work with, *AMOS 2.3A only*. They are:

- INPUTX.SBR: This modification of INPUT.SBR can accept four-digit as well as two-digit years.
- RDATEX.SBR: The same as RDATE.SBR, but returns century information in a floating point string of the format MMDDYYYY.
- DSPLYX.SBR: The same as DSPLY.SBR, but can display four-digit years, including century information.



In all cases, source code changes are necessary to use century information. Screen displays may have to be changed due to the extra length of the resulting strings. RDATEX.SBR cannot be used as a replacement for RDATE.SBR without source code changes, recompilation, and testing.

There are also .XBR versions of these subroutines for use with AlphaBASIC PLUS. All the preceding information applies to the .XBR subroutines as well.

For details on these and all other AlphaACCOUNTING subroutines, please see the file SBR.DOC, a TXTFMTEd file in the AlphaACCOUNTING logical device on the CD. Since this file may not print correctly on all printers, its source file, SBR.TXT, is also included. We've updated these files for this release. In addition to the changes described above, SBR.TXT now documents PRIV.SBR, a routine which can change a user's logged-in account.

NEW RELEASES OF ESP AND VersiCOMM-PLUS

This CD includes the latest versions of ESP and VersiCOMM-Plus from our third-party developers. According to the developers, these releases are year-2000 compliant. Please contact the developers if you want more information.

AM-PC 4.2A STRUCTURE

AlphaCD includes an update to AM-PC 4.2A, incorporating AMOS 2.3A, PR 6/98. In the AM-PC area, there are five subdirectories. The first of these contains a single executable file which you can use to install AM-PC directly from the CD. The other four directories are diskette images which you can copy to diskette and use to install AM-PC at customer sites when you cannot use the AlphaCD. When creating installation diskettes, you must give the diskettes these labels:

AMPC_1
AMPC_2
AMPC_3
AMPC_4

The installation program looks for these exact labels; you will not be able to install the software from diskette if the diskettes are not labeled properly.

THE AlphaCONNECT PRODUCTS

The DOS side of AlphaCD continues to include the latest released versions of our AlphaCONNECT products: AlphaCONNECT Pro 1.1a, AlphaCONNECT StockVue 2.5, and AlphaCONNECT BusinessVue 2.0.

AlphaCONNECT StockVue and BusinessVue are free products which work only with Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0 and later (and Windows 98 when it becomes available). Both products recently received ZDNet's highest-possible rating, five stars.

These products are in subfolders under the \Connect folder. For installation instructions, see the \Connect\Readme.txt file.

For more information about our AlphaCONNECT product line, visit the AlphaCONNECT World Wide Web site at <http://www.alphaconnect.com>.