

AlphaCD 10/98 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, gives you general information about the changes and additions to the software, and includes some late-breaking information not found in the documentation included on the CD. It talks about:

- The versions of AMOS[®] software and documentation available, and what's new in them
- The updated, year 2000-compliant horizontal applications available
- AlphaFAX 2.0 and 2.0 Plus
- The structure of the AM-PC[™] 4.2A software
- What's new in the AlphaCONNECT[®] product section
- How to use the CD

AMOS VERSIONS AVAILABLE

As always, AlphaCD includes the latest versions of AMOS: the October patch release of AMOS 2.3A and the initial release of AMOS 1.4E. AMOS 2.3A adds only bug fixes and one small operational enhancement; AMOS 1.4E adds year 2000 compliance to AMOS 1.x.

AMOS 1.4E

AMOS 1.4E is the first year 2000-compliant version of AMOS 1.x. Over 30 programs and other files were updated to add this crucial feature. AMOS 1.4E also includes bug fixes and other updates from consolidation of AMOS 1.4E and 2.3A source code. AMOS 1.4E is available in two versions: a complete operating system and an easy-to-install subset called the Overlay Download release (ODL). The ODL can be installed only over prior versions of AMOS 1.4x, not pre-1.4 versions of AMOS. For details, please see the *AMOS 1.4E Release Notes*, DSS-10592-00, in the documentation section of the CD.

Unlike earlier AMOS 1.x releases, AMOS 1.4E is PIC-encoded. When you update to 1.4E, you will receive a PIC enabling the same number of users as your previous license.

AMOS 2.3A

The 10/98 patch release of AMOS 2.3A includes mostly bug fixes and other “invisible” source code updates. There is one minor new feature: to expand year 2000 capabilities, we've added a new reserved word for use with the IF statement in command files. DATE8 is similar to the DATE reserved word, except the current date is used in an eight-character variable, in the format YYYYMMDD. The four-digit year allows proper comparison of dates past 1999.



Both AMOS 1.4E and AMOS 2.3A also include an update to the UPS Monitor Software to make it year 2000 compliant.

AMOS Documentation

As always, the on-line documentation section in the DOS partition of the CD includes all marketing bulletins and documents released or updated since the previous AlphaCD release in June. Among others, updated documents include the *AlphaTCP User's Guide*, *AlphaBASIC XCALL User's Manual*, the Roadrunner 060 installation instructions, and several more. New documents specifically for the software included on this CD are limited to release notes for AMOS 1.4E and some of the horizontal applications:

- *AM-PC 4.2A Release Notes*, DSS-10582-00, Rev. A01 (updated)
- *AMOS 1.4E Release Notes*, DSS-10592-00, Rev. A00
- *AlphaMAIL 1.2B Release Notes*, DSS-10600-00, Rev. A00
- *UPS Monitor Software 1.3(178) Release Notes*, DSS-10601-00, Rev. A00
- *AlphaCALC 2.0 PR 10/98 Release Notes*, DSS-10602-00, Rev. A00

Remember, documents that have been added or changed since the last AlphaCD are marked with an asterisk in the table of contents. The table of contents is the file TOC.PDF in the root folder of the on-line documentation section.



As always, the root folder of the documentation section includes both 16-bit (Windows 3.1) and 32-bit (Windows 95 and 98) versions of the Adobe Acrobat reader. If you don't already have the Reader on your PC, just execute the appropriate file to install the version you want.

NEW RELEASES OF HORIZONTAL APPLICATIONS

Along with previously released, year 2000-compliant versions of ESP 2.2 and Versicomm-Plus 3.1, the 10/98 CD includes new, year 2000-compliant versions of these horizontal applications:

- AlphaWRITE 1.2A
- AlphaWRITE 2.2
- AlphaMAIL 1.2B
- AlphaCALC 2.0
- MULTI 2.1

Except for AlphaMAIL 1.2B, which replaces the AlphaMAIL 1.2A release, these releases keep the same version number as the previous ones, and can be identified by their patch release date of 10/98.

All of these applications use the same PIC as the previous release. However, so we can properly track the distribution and installation of year-2000 compliant software, you need to order and relicense each application for each customer before updating. By relicensing the software, you are also creating a record of your efforts to provide your customers with year 2000-compliant versions of the software.

After placing your order with Alpha Micro Sales Order Administration, use the standard End User License Agreement form to update the license. If you need more forms, please contact Sales Order Administration. For software originally purchased before January 1, 1997, there will be a small update fee; for software purchased in 1997 or after, the update is free.

As listed above, there are *Release Notes* describing the changes in some of these applications; if there are no new *Release Notes*, there are no installation or operational changes to the software.

Installing the Applications



Remember to order and relicense each application before installing it.

The installation procedure for the applications is the same as for a standard patch release update. Each application uses the same PIC as the previous version. To install any application:

1. Make sure you have the current PIC for the application. If necessary, use the application's /P switch to display the PIC and write it down.
2. Make a disk copy or tape backup of any .INI or other configuration file for the application. These files will be overwritten in the next step.
3. Copy the new version of the application from the CD to your disk.
4. Restore your .INI or other configuration file.
5. Start the application and re-enter the PIC.

Printer Driver Versions

Some printer drivers are included both with the operating system and in an application package, most commonly AlphaWRITE. The AMOS and application versions may not be the same. If not, we suggest you first use the most recent version, which is generally the one found in AMOS. If you have trouble printing from the application, install the older version included with the application software.

AlphaMAIL 1.2B Installation

The format of the MALMSG.RND and MALMSG.CUR files has changed for the year 2000-compliant version of AlphaMAIL. Before or immediately after installing the new version of AlphaMAIL, please erase all copies of these files on your system: there should be a copy of MALMSG.RND in each mailbox account; .CUR files are temporary and there may or may not be any on your disk. AlphaMAIL will re-create the files, in the new format, as needed.

Special Note for AlphaCALC Users

There is still one year 2000-related display problem in AlphaCALC: for any loan amortization schedule with a starting date after 1999, the year in the Total Interest field displays incorrectly—the first two digits are 19 instead of 20.

This is a display problem only; the interest calculations are correct.

AM-PC 4.2A STRUCTURE

This AlphaCD includes an update to AM-PC 4.2A, incorporating AMOS 2.3A, PR 10/98. 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.



This release of AM-PC 4.2A also removes some limitations which existed in previous versions, especially for Metropolis users. For details, please see the *AM-PC 4.2A Release Notes*, DSS-10582-00, Rev. A01, included in the documentation section of the CD.

ALPHAFAAX 2.0 AND ALPHAFAAX PLUS

This CD includes both AlphaFAX 1.2 and the new AlphaFAX 2.0 software on separate logical devices. AlphaFAX 2.0, which uses the same PIC as the previous release, includes these new features:

- Support for 14.4 Kbps modems
- Longer fax IDs (up to 20 characters)
- Selective reporting of communication exceptions
- Support for added printer models
- Easier fax management

AlphaFAX 2.0 Plus uses the same software as AlphaFAX 2.0, but requires a new PIC. In addition to the above features, it supports multiple fax modems and the ability to select your own program for fax notification messages.

AlphaFAX 2.0 and AlphaFAX 2.0 Plus ***have not yet been released***—they are currently in beta test. Until the product is released, PICs for AlphaFAX 2.0 Plus will be given only to authorized beta testers. If you want information about becoming a beta test site for AlphaFAX Plus, please contact the Technical Assistance Center.

For more information about AlphaFAX 2.0 and AlphaFAX 2.0 Plus, please see the *AlphaFAX 2.0 Release Notes*, DSS-10598-00, which will be available on our Web site as soon as the software is released.

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. For convenience and compatibility with existing users, it also includes the prior release of StockVue, StockVue 2.0. This version does not include all the features of the 2.5 release, but some users may prefer it. It uses Quote.com as its main information source rather than PC Quote.

AlphaCONNECT StockVue and BusinessVue are free products which work only with Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0 and later (and Windows 98). StockVue 2.0 also works with Windows NT 3.51. Both products recently received ZDNet's highest-possible rating, five stars.

This CD also includes a PowerPoint presentation, in both PowerPoint 97 and Acrobat PDF format, summarizing the AlphaCONNECT strategy regarding the issue of knowledge management in large "enterprise" corporations.

These products, and the presentation, 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>.

HOW TO USE THE ALPHACD



These instructions replace the ones previously found in the *AlphaCD Software Distribution User's Manual* booklet included with the CD.

Using the CD from AMOS

If your AMOS computer has a CD-ROM drive permanently attached, follow these steps:

1. Type **ACD/U** **[RETURN]** to unmount the old CD.
2. Remove the CD from the drive.
3. Insert the new CD into the drive.
4. Type **ACD** **[RETURN]** to mount the new CD.

If you need to temporarily attach a CD-ROM drive to the computer (it *must* be a SCSI CD-ROM), follow these steps:

1. Type **SCSI** **[RETURN]** to see what SCSI IDs are available on your computer.
2. Follow the instructions for your CD-ROM drive to set the drive's SCSI ID to an available ID.
3. Make sure no one is using the computer and power it down following the instructions in your *Owner's Manual*.

4. Attach the CD-ROM drive to the external SCSI connector or an available connector on an external SCSI cable. Be sure not to exceed the allowed length of the physical SCSI bus. This is especially important on the Wide SCSI-2 bus.

Be sure the SCSI bus is properly terminated. If you are adding the CD-ROM at the end of the bus, this means putting the terminator in one of the SCSI connectors on the CD-ROM.

5. Turn on power to the CD-ROM drive and insert the AlphaCD, then power up the computer.
6. Type **ACD** **[RETURN]** to mount the CD.



These instructions are different than those with earlier versions of the AlphaCD. While the earlier instructions worked in most configurations, plugging the CD-ROM drive into the SCSI cable with the computer on could damage either the CD-ROM drive or the computer itself. This is especially true with newer, high-performance computers. Therefore, ***we do not recommend*** attaching the CD-ROM drive, or any peripheral device, while there is power on the SCSI bus.

For instructions on modifying your system initialization file so the CD-ROM drive is always accessible and can be read by any user, please see the *System Operator's Guide to the System Initialization Command File*, DSO-00002-00, Rev. 02 or later. For more information on the ACD command, please see the *AMOS System Commands Reference Manual*, DSO-00043-00, Rev. 04 or later.

Disconnecting the CD-ROM

To remove the CD-ROM from the computer after you're finished using it, you can type **ACD/U** **[RETURN]** to unmount the CD, then take the CD out of the drive. To remove the drive from the SCSI cable, power the computer down, detach the drive, then turn the computer back on. ***We do not recommend*** removing the CD-ROM drive, or any peripheral, from the SCSI bus while power is applied to the bus.

After removing the CD-ROM, be sure to replace the external SCSI terminator in the external connector on the computer back panel or in the SCSI connector on the last external device.

Using the CD from DOS or Windows

You can access the information in the DOS partition of the AlphaCD as you would any other DOS/Windows CD—just place the CD in your CD-ROM drive and use any command or Windows feature (such as Windows Explorer) to open or copy the files you want.