Software Product Description

PRODUCT NAME: VAX Xway, Version 1.2 **SPD 27.36.03**

DESCRIPTION

VAX Xway is a spreadsheet model and data conversion application. It is designed for use with spreadsheets, database managers, and any other application which produces or accepts data in one of the supported storage formats. It performs the conversion of constant data (numbers and text) between all supported formats. Additionally, VAX Xway performs the conversion of spreadsheet models between those selected formats which store relationships, formulas, and formats as well as constant data.

The supported storage formats are:

- WKS - LOTUS 1-2-3® Release 1 and 1A spreadsheet formats

  WK1 - LOTUS 1-2-3 Release 2.00 and 2.01 spreadsheet formats

  WRK - LOTUS Symphony™ Release 1.0 spreadsheet format
- DIF® - Data Interchange Format (used by products such as VisiCalc™ and SuperCalc™)
- SYLK - Symbolic Link File Format (used by products such as Multiplan™)
- VAX DECalc, VAX DECalc-PLUS or VAX Xway-produced Command files
- ASCII tabular data with a specified separator (e.g., tabs, spaces, commas, hyphens) between each data element. This is used by products such as dBASE III™, VAX DECalc, VAX DECalc-PLUS, Supercomp-Twenty™, 20/20™ and C-CALC®.
- ASCII data which can be described as fields, with fields being identified by starting location, length, and data type. Examples include FORTRAN ASCII data files, PL/I ASCII data files and most database records.

Spreadsheet model conversion is supported between the WKS, WK1, WRK, SYLK and VAX DECalc/VAX DECalc-PLUS command file storage formats.

Xway can not read 8-bit characters from the following input formats: DIF, SYLK, and DECalc or DECalc-PLUS. This means that certain multi-national characters cannot be translated from these input formats. This is not a restriction on any other input format or on any output format.

Features

Standard features include:

- Translation of spreadsheet context information such as global formatting, cell formatting, global column width, individual column widths, named areas, and cursor location.
- Special case translations that allow spreadsheet compatibility between functions and expressions that are not alike. For example, some of the LOTUS functions are translated into equivalent algebraic DECalc and DECalc-PLUS expressions.
- Saving often-used translation/exchange descriptions in definition files so that you can easily repeat exchanges.
- Extensive translation reporting to the screen or to a user-specified log file.
- Works with local files or remote files over a network.

VAX Xway also provides the following optional methods of manipulating the data and models:

- When converting from one model storage format to another, the user can request that only the constant data contained in the input file be converted. Any formulas contained in the input file are not converted.
- For any of the supported storage formats, the user can chose to have the data moved to another location in the output file. The data can be relocated by any number of rows or columns in any direction.

- For any of the supported storage formats, the user can choose to have the data in the input file transposed when it is written in the new format to the output file. For example, data that was previously in a column would be in a row.

Interface

VAX Xway has an easy-to-use interactive interface which leads a user through the steps to convert data from one storage format to another. At any point the user can access context sensitive help. Once the user has gone through the sequence of questions, the responses can be saved for future use. For the more sophisticated user, an extensive command line interface is also provided.

Additionally, VAX Xway provides a callable interface to integrate Xway functions into customized applications. Application programmers can call VAX Xway from any VAX higher level language supporting the VMS calling standard. All the necessary details (including entry points, calling modes, program return values, and data structures) are clearly discussed in the *Xway Programmer's Guide*.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS

VAX, MicroVAX, VAXserver or VAXstation configuration as specified in the System Support Addendum (SSA 27.36.03-x).

SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS *

VMS Operating System

OPTIONAL SOFTWARE *

VAX DECalc

VAX DECalc-PLUS

Any language which runs under VMS and supports VMS calling standards.

* Refer to the System Support Addendum (SSA 27.36.03-x) for availability and required versions of prerequisite/optional software.

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