Software Product Description

DESCRIPTION

Alis is a product of Applix, Inc. and is distributed under Digital Equipment Corporation's Standard Terms and Conditions.

Alis is an integrated office automation solution and combines the following:

- Multifont

- Presentation-quality text

- Free-hand drawings

- Business graphics

- Spreadsheets

- Databases

- Electronic mail

- Personal calendar

- Communications

With these capabilities, Alis can build and share these documents electronically.

Alis provides a multi-level graphical user interface designed to meet the needs of users at all experience levels. Whether users are working with a mouse or keyboard, the Alis interface behaves the same, and users can move from a terminal to a workstation without changing an accustomed way of working.

Alis' graphical interface provides users with menu, window, application, and document control using either a mouse or keyboard.

Alis uses the same screen format and icons across all applications, hardware, and operating systems. Alis takes advantage of graphics-based terminals and workstations while offering a keyboard interface for character-based terminals.

Alis architecture provides device independence and allows users to share information in a workgroup. Network support is tightly integrated into the Alis software so users can easily mail documents, access shared data, and send mail to external systems (i.e., ALL-IN-1 text only) from different hosts in a heterogeneous network. ULTRIX Mail Connection software must be installed to access ALL-IN-1 Mail. Documents are automatically converted to the appropriate format for the host. Complete support for X Windows™ allows Alis to be displayed on a wide range of workstations and X terminals throughout a network. The Digital VT1000 and VT1200 (monochrome X terminal) is not currently supported.

Alis' distributed login is now available on the RISC platform. In a distributed login configuration, an Alis user on a client workstation can access Alis on a server host. The Alis executables and the Alis file system are accessed on the host with NFS. In this environment, the Alis servers are running on the host, and the Alis user processes are running on the client workstation.

Alis provides full interoperability on networks using industry standard operating systems including, UNIX,® ULTRIX, VMS and MS-DOS®.

Compound Documents

Compound document capabilities are a feature of Alis. Alis allows users to combine text, drawings, graphics, spreadsheets and database information in a single compound document without cut and paste. A user can edit the elements within the compound document. For example, a spreadsheet recalculates even after it has been incorporated into the body of a report and changes made to the spreadsheet are automatically displayed in their report. Alis users can transmit compound documents to any other system in a network running Alis.

Independent insets allow several documents to include the same inset, such as a common spreadsheet document view. When that inset is changed, all the receiving documents are automatically updated as well.

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Document Composer

The Alis Document Composer facility is a sophisticated word processing document formatting system. Users can create and edit text using multiple-sized, proportional, or monospaced fonts in a WYSIWYG (what-you-see-is-what-you-get) display. The Document Composer supports full color for highlighting text.

Font styles of words or single characters can be changed at any time. Fonts can be correctly displayed on bit-mapped monitors. Multiple fonts can be specified on character terminals. A menu tells the user which fonts have been selected.

Alis document Composer has been enhanced to provide such new features as Snaking Columns, Change Bars, Display and Tab Mode. Snaking columns allow users greater flexibility with page layout. Text, spreadsheets or graphics can be arranged side by side or vertically on a page, while columns of text can also be automatically balanced. Change Bars provide users with a standard and easy way to manage revisions to documents, while display and tab modes help users create documents and show embedded controls.

The Document Composer offers several features for managing large documents. Such documents can be split into smaller units. Each unit is assigned a name and its complete document is indicated. The Document Composer handles consecutive numbering across smaller units with chapter and page numbers and footnotes. A single Table of Contents and Index for the large document is also generated.

The Document Composer can automatically generate a Table of Contents with dot leadering and the appropriate page number based on sections in a document. When automatically generated, the Table of Contents inherits the attributes (bold on or off, font type, and size) from the document. This type of Table of Contents is generated when the document is printed. The Table of Contents can also be created as a separate document, and its appearance can be changed. Any type of illustration, such as tables and figures, may also be included in the Table of Contents by assigning a caption to each one.

Alis includes the 5.10 version of the Proximity/Merriam Webster 116,000 word (vs 80,000 in 2.0) *American English Dictionary*. This dictionary includes legal, biographical, and scientific/technical terms.

Additional features include:

- Freestyle drawings

- Automatic figure and table numbering

- Automatic outline, list and section numbering

- Automatic window and orphan control

- Center, right, left, and full justification

- Character attributes (including double and single underline, bold, italic, all caps, no caps, strike through, superscript, and subscript)

- 14 color selections

- Consecutive number across multiple documents

- Context-sensitive help

- Decimal tabs

- Delete

- Document recovery

- Global search and replace

- GOTO

- Horizontal rulers

- Multicolumn text with automatic word wrap

- Multilevel undo and redo

- Multiline spacing

- Page headers and footers

- Merge print (allows merging of document composer and database documents)

Style Guides

Style Guides provide predefined formats and presentation control for particular types of documents such as letters, lists, memos, and reports. Style Guides can be created by anyone and electronically distributed for shared use.

Users control the appearance of the document and each of its parts, such as paragraphs, headings, and salutations. In addition, users define the names for the types of documents and its parts in the Style Guide.

Graphics

The Universal Graphics Editor allows users to create free-style drawings and generate standard business graphics automatically. Graphics can be in black and white or color. The same user interface is used for editing business graphs and creating freestyle drawings.

Freestyle Drawing

The freestyle drawing capability enables users to create drawings, illustrations, and sketches. Users draw by selecting from a palette consisting of simple Alis-defined objects and user-defined objects (parts). Users are shown the selected Alis defined object, with its color and size attributes, in a legend display above the palette prior to the object being used. These objects are placed and sized on the visual drawing surface by pointing and stretching with a device such as a mouse. Objects can then be attached to others, rotated, filled, scaled and moved. Alis-supplied graphical objects consist of rectangles; vertical, horizontal, angular, and straight lines; open and closed polygons; ellipses; strokes; and text. Drawings and drawing components can be saved for repeated use.

Business Graphics

The Business Graphics facility automatically creates charts from spreadsheet and database information. When the data in the spreadsheet or database changes, the business graph is automatically updated to reflect the change. Chart types include line, bar, stacked bar, pie, strata, X-Y line, scatter, and combinations. Alis also supports linear, semi-log, and log chart types on a horizontal or vertical axis.

Scanned Images

Optionally, images can be scanned into the Graphic Editor. Images can be imported at resolutions ranging from 75 to 300 dpi (dots-per-inch). Images are scanned and stored at the same resolution. Alis compresses images in order to save space. Scanned images can be incorporated into compound documents.

Pixel Editor

Users can edit and refine graphics and images to a desired size and appearance with the Pixel Editor. A choice of brushes allows users to edit with a variety of line styles.

Spreadsheet

The spreadsheet facility includes built-in equation solving, business graphics, and automatic inter-spreadsheet references. Subsets of spreadsheet documents can be incorporated into compound documents or printed.

Users can give a desired target for a calculated cell and indicate the input cell whose value is to be determined. Alis displays the answer. Users can also express equation-solving as a cell formula.

With the spreadsheet, selected collections of rows, columns or access ranges can be hidden yet still participate in recalculation. This permits large spreadsheets to be reduced so input and result cells may be viewed simultaneously on the screen. This allows the user to capture only the information needed.

For further control, users can sort spreadsheets by column or row, and display and print spreadsheets using extensive features. An entire spreadsheet can be displayed with grid lines or displayed using a specific font, color, or size. Text attributes and colors can also be applied to individual cells in the spreadsheet.

Spreadsheets can be linked to one another by specifying that a cell's value is to be obtained from a cell in another spreadsheet. Whenever a spreadsheet containing such a reference is opened for use, it obtains the correct value of the referenced cell from the other spreadsheet.

The spreadsheet cell array is 702 x 9999. To support this size, Alis has special recalculation techniques that allow the spreadsheet to recalculate only those cells which are affected by a new input value.

Alis allows the transfer of information to and from other spreadsheets. It supports import of LOTUS 1-2-3® WKS and WK1, DIF, Multiplan,® and Excel® (SYLK) formats. It supports export of the DIF and SLYK formats.

Additional spreadsheet features include:

- On-screen automatic graphics
- Macros
- Hide/reveal and named views
- Mandatory page break option
- Menu-driven interface
- Mouse-based point and mark capability
- In-cell flagging of circularities
- Context-sensitive help
- Undo
- Named cells and ranges
- Variable column widths with automatic overlap
- Formula syntax with extensions

Personal Database

Alis users can create, edit, merge and manage databases up to 8,000 records. The Personal Database application allows users to create and manage personal and office information such as lists, records, and reports. Database definition is accomplished by filling in tables. Users can also define a sort order with up to four sort keys.

Database information can be presented in two formats: one-record formats called forms, and multirecord formats called reports. The layout, labeling, field order and selection, and record order for each type of format is user-defined. One method is used for both presentation definition and user entry. Several presentation formats can be associated with a single database.

The Personal Database is integrated with the Document Composer to provide a Merge Print facility. Database information can be used with other Alis functions, such as electronic mail, meeting scheduling, and mailmerge, and can be incorporated in compound documents created in Alis.

Command Facility

The Alis command facility allows users to customize Alis with end-user tools and a BASIC-like programming language. The facility has a keystroke record/playback function that records a sequence of commonly used keystrokes and replays them on request.

Alis commands are stored in Command Documents which contain the steps required to carry out one or more commands. Command documents can be mailed, printed, shared and archived. Commands can have names up to 30 characters long; there is no limit to the number of commands a user can have. Command Documents can be edited for further customization in the Command Editor.

Extended Language Facility (ELF)

The Alis Extended Language Facility (ELF) allows users to write macros in a BASIC-like language to perform more complex tasks. ELF programming functions include PROMPT, CONDITIONAL TEST, FOR and WHILE loops, and statements such a IF-THEN-ELSE and GOTO. It also includes the ability to create and manipulate Alis windows. Complete applications can be written using ELF.

ELF allows users to perform sophisticated operations that can interact with the user, Alis, and third-party applications. Users can create and edit mixed application macros in a single command document.

SQL Query

Alis SQL Query is implemented using the Extension Language Facility. It provides a set of commands and menus that allow Alis users to:

- Take an existing SQL query from a system file and place it in a spreadsheet for storage and execution

- Execute the query

- Place the result back into the spreadsheet

Once queries are stored in a spreadsheet, they are mailed and filed with the spreadsheet. Query results are placed in a spreadsheet as a set of rows and columns at a user-defined location.

File Management

Alis provides file management facilities for both personal and shared use.

Personal Filing

Users store documents in personal filing cabinets. The personal cabinet is equipped with a starter and library drawer. The starter drawer is the initial filing location where documents can be placed. Users can create and name folders, sections, and sub-sections for grouping documents. Any number of additional named drawers can be created. The library drawer has five Applix-supplied folders with pre-formatted style guides, graphical parts libraries, and model documents for immediate use.

Retrieval

Information is maintained for each document in a document record. This information can include the name of the author, typist, date and time last modified and subject. Alis automatically tracks information such as date, typist and drawer. Documents can be retrieved by searching a cabinet base on any of the record information. Conjunctive and disjunctive as well as wild-card based search operations are available. Users do not have to be aware of a document's filed location. The search interface is the same as the Personal Database query interface.

Shared Filing

The shared file cabinet filing facility provides information sharing within departments and work groups. A system administrator can establish a shared cabinet as a repository for document based information. In addition to personal cabinet features, shared cabinets provide access control for shared files and a bulletin board shared cabinet with unlimited number of readers across a network.

Electronic Mail and Messaging

The Alis electronic mail facility provides users with the capability to send messages or correspondence to all other users on the Alis network. Any Alis document in the filing system can be mailed, including: text, spreadsheets, graphics, database, compound documents, ASCII files and user-defined document types. Up to five non-Alis files can be attached to a single mail message and mailed to other Alis users anywhere on the network. Messages can be sent as urgent or certified.

Documents are mailed transparently across multi-vendor networks. Compound documents containing an active spreadsheet and graph can be recalculated and graphically edited by the recipient.

At any time, an on-screen document or document view can be mailed by pulling down the Clerk Menu from the selection line and choosing the mail option. A filed document or documents can also be mailed by selecting the mail option from the Main Menu or Filing Menu.

Additional electronic mail features include:

- Recipients designated by name or alias and logical location

- Multiple direct, copy, and blind copy addresses

- Default style guide for mail composition

- Function key access to addressee names across network

- Uses personal database and database views as mailing list

- Short message creation

- Delivery confirmation

- Phone message capability

- Envelope fields: subject, sender comment, reply request, forwarded, reply, submission timestamp, to cc, bc

Personal Time/Management

Calendar/Scheduler

The Alis calendar facility is used to maintain online appointments. Calendars can be viewed in four formats. One format shows the day divided into equally spaced one hour time slots with events in their appropriate locations. Another format shows a listing of events for the day in sequence with their associated times. Weekly and monthly formats are also provided.

Alis automatically finds common open times on the calendars for users. Alis' networking facilities are used in scheduling; users can be anywhere in the Alis-accessible network. Alis scheduling services are transparent to the classes of systems in use (workstations, PCs, multiuser) and hardware vendors.

Additional calendar/scheduler features include:

- On-calendar reminder messages

- Required and optional attendees

- Preemptive scheduling option

- Reminders appear on calendar

- Optional carry forward or one day only

- Alarms

Time Management

The Alis Personal Time Management facility is based on an Activity Plan or To Do List. Alis sorts Activity Plan tasks into a user-defined priority order. Users can list personal work tasks and arrange them by priority. Alis can provide assistance for each task through a series of steps selected by the user.

Since the activity plan is integrated with the calendar and electronic mail, Alis can automatically schedule calendar time for tasks based on priority and estimated duration. In addition, tasks can be delegated with electronic mail, meetings can be scheduled to handle a task and reminders for tasks can be placed on the calendar.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS

DECstation: DECstation 2100, DECstation 3100, DECstation 3100s, DECstation 5000 Model 200 CX or PX

DECsystem: DECsystem 3100, DECsystem 5100, DECsystem 5400, DECsystem 5500, DECsystem 5810, DECsystem 5820, DECsystem 5000 Model 200

Disk Space: 45 MB for executables plus 10 MB per user

Recommended Base Memory: 8 MB minimum plus 1.0 MB additional for each user over one.

OPTIONAL HARDWARE

DECstation 2100, DECstation 3100, DECstation 5000 Model 200

VT1xx, VT2xx (text and graphics in VT240)

Microtek® Microscan 300A scanner

Printers:

LN03R PostScript®, LPS20, LPS40,

Lineprinter, Dumb Terminal, Epson®, IBM® SpinWriter, HP293X, HP Thinkjet, HP Laserjet, IBM 5152, Apple Writer®, Generic Postscript and Color Postscript, Genicom 3404, Diablo 630, Fujitsu® DL2400, Colormaster, IBM Quietwriter™ III, LaserWriter, Postscript and Imagen.

Note: Listed printers may require printcap entries, print filters, or drivers that are not supplied with ULTRIX Operating System.

SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

ULTRIX Operating System V4.0

or

ULTRIX Worksystem Software V4.0

OPTIONAL SOFTWARE

None

GROWTH CONSIDERATIONS

The minimum hardware/software requirements for any future version of this product may be different from the requirements for the current version.

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The license gives you the right to use the software for the number of users you have purchased for that particular license. To add more users, additional licenses must be purchased.

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Standard Software Product Services that include Layered Product Service (LPS) with appropriate System Support Service contract and Media and Documentation Distribution Service (MDDS) are available. Components of these services include:

_ Telephone assistance (24 x 7)

_ Critical on-site software support

_ Right-to-use new version

_ Software media and documentation updates

Contact your local Digital sales office for more information on VAX Software Product Services for all Digital Distributed Applix, Inc. products.

DISTRIBUTION MEDIA

Tape: TK50 Tape Cartridge, 9-track 1600 BPI Magtape

WARRANTY

None

This software product is provided **"AS IS"** without any warranty of any kind, either express or implied.

ORDERING INFORMATION

The option numbers for Alis RISC/ULTRIX listed below include licenses, media and documentation.

TK50 Media:	1600 BPI Magtape:
QB-YPKA8-VA 1 USER	QB-YPKA8-VB 1 USER
QB-YPKA8-VC 4 USER	QB-YPKA8-VD 4 USER
QB-YPKA8-VE 8 USER	QB-YPKA8-VF 8 USER
QB-YPKA8-VG 16 USER	QB-YPKA8-VH 16 USER
QB-YPKA8-VJ 32 USER	QB-YPKA8-VK 32 USER
QB-YPKA8-VL 64 USER	QB-YPKA8-VM 64 USER
QB-YPKA8-VN 96 USER	QB-YPKA8-VP 96 USER
QB-YPKA8-VQ 192 USER	QB-YPKA8-VR 192 USER
QB-YPKA8-VS 1-4 UPG	QB-YPKA8-VT 1-4 UPG
QB-YPKA8-VU 4-8 UPG	QB-YPKA8-VV 4-8 UPG
QB-YPKA8-VW 8-16 UPG	QB-YPKA8-VX 8-16 UPG
QB-YPKA8-VY 16-32 UPG	QB-YPKA8-VZ 16-32 UPG
QB-YPKA8-V2 32-64 UPG	QB-YPKA8-V3 32-64 UPG
QB-YPKA8-V4 64-96 UPG	QB-YPKA8-V5 64-96 UPG
QB-YPKA8-V6 96-192 UPG	QB-YPKA8-V7 96-192 UPG

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