Software Product Description

PRODUCT NAME: DECspin for DEC OSF/1® AXP, Version 1.1A   SPD 48.10.01
(Sound and Picture Information Network)

DESCRIPTION

DECspin for DEC OSF/1 AXP layered software product provides video and audio conferencing, using standard network protocols, among users of the Multimedia Services software and hardware environment.

DECspin for DEC OSF/1 AXP is packaged into two products, DECspin audio only and DECspin full feature. The audio only version allows up to six users to audio conference across a network, using the built-in audio of the Alpha AXP workstation. The the full feature version adds video information when the Sound & Motion J300 is intalled in the system. Both DECspin kits can be used in the same conference, though DECspin audio users will not see other members and other members will not be able to see them.

The application operates on the DEC OSF/1 AXP operating system. It requires that the Multimedia Services runtime is installed. The Sound & Motion J300 TURBOchannel hardware option must be installed for video conferencing. The Sound & Motion J300 is not required for audio-only conferencing.

Features

- Network transmission of live synchronized video and audio over INTERNET (TCP/IP) and DECnet (Phase IV). Support for up to 6-way video and audio conferences.

- 8-bit color and gray scale (8-bit black and white) live video with variable frame size and rate live video using JPEG compression and decompression of the Sound & Motion J300

- User selectable software compression and decompression of video data when and where necessary, to complement the high data rates and amounts associated with full-size (640 x 480 x 30, NTSC) color digital video information. This includes picture minification and frame rate reduction.

- Voice grade live audio using the built-in audio of the Alpha AXP workstation

- Ability to record and playback video and audio messages as part of the conferencing application, including leaving messages for parties unavailable at the time of a conference call.

- In addition to Bookreader help, digitized video "documentation" stored in JPEG compressed files is available and optionally installed. The Sound & Motion J300 option is not required to view the video help.

- OSF/Motif™ User Interface with international design that uses graphics, pictures, sound, and textual information. The interface is easy to learn and use and is modeled after a telephone answering machine.

Network Recommendations

Networks should be tailored for audio/video conferencing where DECspin is deployed. This includes testing over the particular routers and bridges used. Radial topologies are recommended where small numbers of nodes are connected locally with DEChub or DECconcentrator products and then tied into larger numbers of such local node networks using fiber optic backbones and fiber optic switching technologies. A reasonable rule-of-thumb in sizing such networks is to account for about 1 to 1.5 Mbits per second of bandwidth per node. DECspin supports conferences at bit rates as low as 128 Kbits per second but at reduced quality over higher bandwidth conferences.

DECspin can operate over a wide range of network configurations. It is recommended that a pilot program be installed first to build up for a particular situation. Over the wide area, DECNIS routers are best suited for DECspin.

On busy networks, defined as more than 50% constant usage, a strategy of breaking a segment with too many nodes into smaller segments with less nodes per segment is useful. These segments can then be grouped into larger LAN segments and finally into wider area networks. Finally, where needed, Digital network consultants are available to help in defining and installing a properly working network that can handle video, audio, and regular computer data traffic quite effectively.

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HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS

Processors Supported

Alpha AXP: DEC 3000 Model 300 AXP Workstation,
DEC 3000 Model 300 AXP Workstation with Sound & Motion J300 multimedia option,

DEC 3000 Model 300X AXP Workstation,
DEC 3000 Model 300X AXP Workstation with Sound & Motion J300 multimedia option,

DEC 3000 Model 400 AXP Workstation,
DEC 3000 Model 400 AXP Workstation with Sound & Motion J300 multimedia option,

DEC 3000 Model 500 AXP Workstation,
DEC 3000 Model 500 AXP Workstation with Sound & Motion J300 multimedia option,

DEC 3000 Model 500X AXP Workstation,
DEC 3000 Model 500X AXP Workstation with Sound & Motion J300 multimedia option,

DEC 3000 Model 600 AXP Workstation,
DEC 3000 Model 600 AXP Workstation with Sound & Motion J300 multimedia option,

DEC 3000 Model 800 AXP Workstation,
DEC 3000 Model 800 AXP Workstation with Sound & Motion J300 multimedia option

Note: The Sound & Motion J300 TURBOchannel multimedia option is required for video input, and JPEG compression/decompression.

Other Hardware Required:

• Sound & Motion J300 (required for DECspin Video)

• NTSC, PAL, or SECAM camera which supports composite or S-Video output.

• Headset or handset. The DEC 3000 series of Alpha AXP workstations ship with a headset. Seperate headsets can be ordered using the part number VSXXX-JA.

Disk Space Requirements:

Disk space required for installation:	10 Mbytes (35 Mbytes optional)
Disk space required for use (permanent):	10 Mbytes (35 Mbytes optional)

These counts refer to the disk space required on the system disk. The sizes are approximate; actual sizes may vary depending on the user's system environment, configuration, and software options.

Memory Requirements for Motif® Support

The minimum memory supported for audio applications is 64 Mbytes. The minimum supported memory for this application running video in a standalone Motif environment is 64 Mbytes.

The performance and memory usage of multimedia applications are particularly sensitive to system configuration. More memory may be required on a system with several applications running, or where it may be desirable to improve the performance of an application.

The use of this software in conjunction with increased memory capability improves performance for many applications. The memory size suggested for most typical hardware configurations when using audio and video is 64 or 96 Mbytes, depending on the system.

SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

• DEC OSF/1 AXP V1.3A or V2.0

• Multimedia Services for DEC OSF/1 AXP V1.1

ORDERING INFORMATION

Software Licenses:
    DECspin audio only: QL-10RA9-AA
    DECspin with video: QL-0WAA*-**
Software Media: QA-054AA-H8
Software Product Services: QT-0WAA*-**, QT-10RA*-**

* Denotes variant fields, For additional information on available licenses, services, and media, refer to the appropriate price book.

SOFTWARE LICENSING

The DECspin audio product is offered as one traditional license.

The DECspin video product is offered in personal, concurrent and traditional licenses.

This software is furnished only under a license. For more information about Digital's licensing terms and policies, contact your local Digital office.

License Management Facility Support

This software product supports the DEC OSF/1 AXP License Management Facility.

License units for this product are allocated on a Personal Use plus Traditional basis.

For more information on the License Management Facility, refer to the DEC OSF/1 AXP Operating System documentation.

SOFTWARE PRODUCT SERVICES

A variety of service options are available from Digital. For more information, contact your local Digital office.

SOFTWARE WARRANTY

Warranty for this software product is provided by Digital with the purchase of a license for the product as defined in the Software Warranty Addendum of this SPD.

GROWTH CONSIDERATIONS

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

DISTRIBUTION MEDIA

This product is distributed only on the Digital CD-ROM Software Library for DEC OSF/1 AXP. This software library (order number QA-054AA-H8) contains the binaries and on-line documentation in Bookreader and PostScript® format. The Multimedia Services documentation is also available in hardcopy and must be ordered separately.

The above information is valid at time of release. Please contact your local Digital office for the most up-to-date information.