

## Re: Another Alpha turned off...

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On Feb 16, 5:17 pm, Michael Austin <[maus...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:maus...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

It was a sad day for me today as I completed the final backup and making sure everything I needed was removed from my trusty Alpha 2100 that has been running firstdbasource.com and spacelots.com for the past 8-9 years. I purchased (or traded services for systems) 2 Alpha 2100's during 1999. Both had just been retired at 2 separate Charlotte-based companies and had been running at those sites for 4-5 years at that time. I lost one of them about 3 years ago - bad I/O board and it has been sitting silent acting as storage unit for a monitor/keyboard of the other server. During Christmas week, I found 2 inexpensive DS10L's that have taken the place of the 2100's. The "good" 2100/275 may live yet again as a small Samba file server for a local law firm, but that is still being negotiated. (hey, I may even make back the \$1K I paid for it :). The other will be taken to a local computer recycling center for disposal after cannibalizing any remaining boards. (The SCSI card is now in my DS10L :))

DEC made the very best hardware in the business. I do not see ANY vendor that even comes close to competing. Along with the 2 2100's, I also have been running a |d|i|g|i|t|a|l| Starion 266MhzPentI+32Mb mem. I purchased it in '97 from a Frye's Electronics in Phoenix and it had been a floor demo that ran from the time they received it in 1995 until I bought it. In 1999, I wiped Windows95 off of it and installed Caldera Linux. It's sole purpose in life since 1999 is to keep my DSL IP address in sync with my Dynamic DNS provider ZONEEDIT.COM In 2000 the primary port on the IDE controller died in such a way that there was no more "C:" drive. I created a boot-floppy that stays in the floppy drive and boots, then turns control over to the D: drive... It has been doing this now for 8+ years - headless. I have a feeling the Starion is dying as the fan gets loud at times and the box reboots itself every couple months. I have a feeling my 6 year old Dell box will replace its functionality - but do not think it will last as long as the Starion has... almost 13 years - almost as long as the 2100's.

They have served me well -please pause for a moment of silence...

Long Live Alpha.

Re: Another Alpha turned off...

My employer still has lots of VAXs (8550, 3500, 4300, etc.) and older Aphas (2100, 4100, etc) that just refuse to die and, because marketing people now control the purse strings at most companies, will probably never be replaced anytime soon. More than 80% of them have full software support contracts with HP so they probably appear as 25–50 line–items on some accountant's balance sheet at HP, but in the long run I fear that HP won't consider this stuff real until I can convince someone here to at least replace the VAX machines with a newer Itanium boxs.

Hardware dies while new hardware evolves, but let's hope that OpenVMS lives on.

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[http://www3.sympatico.ca/n.riek/links/cool\\_openvms.html](http://www3.sympatico.ca/n.riek/links/cool_openvms.html)

[http://www3.sympatico.ca/n.riek/links/openvms\\_demos.html](http://www3.sympatico.ca/n.riek/links/openvms_demos.html)

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