

Re: VAX 4000/500 general questions

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In article <68baa2fe.0310141527.55dafec8@posting.google.com>, google@wondercool.com (Jeroen Lodewijks) writes:

>Hi all,

>

>I recently became the proud owner of a VAX 4000/500 running OpenVMS

>6.1

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>The computer came from a company which went bust and has no manuals.

>I downloaded some PDF's from HP's website but could use some instant

>advice anyway.

>

>So here I post some burning questions, some of you might know an

>answer to.

>

>1) The computer came without the SYSTEM account password.

>I do have a user account which can do most (all??) administrative

>tasks but clearly

>this is not a desirable situation. Can I retrieve/reset the SYSTEM

>account?

If your user account is in fact appropriately privileged:

```
$ SET PROC/PRIV=ALL
```

```
$ SET DEFAULT SYSS$SYSTEM
```

```
$ AUTHORIZE
```

```
UAF> MOD SYSTEM/PASS=Temporary
```

```
UAF> EXIT
```

```
$
```

```
$ SET HOST 0
```

```
Username: SYSTEM
```

```
Password: Temporary
```

and it will prompt you to change the password, which will have been left pre-expired by just changing it in AUTHORIZE.

You can't _retrieve_ the system password because it's stored encrypted with a non-reversible algorithm.

>

>2) *The boot process loads lots of programs and tries to make the computer part of a non-existent DECnet network. Also, it starts a lot of auditing programs and a database. (10 min bootup time!)*
>*I had a quick peek in the System Manual PDF and had a look at some boot files, but all seemed to be empty (except for the usual standard comments)*
>*Which file is the most likely place to find the startup commands, so that I can disable some commands and speed up the boot process*

Look for SYS\$STARTUP:SYSTARTUP_VMS.COM

(Incidentally, the messages about starting up different kinds of auditing all come from the same audit server – that's only one program. And it's really a bad idea to disable it, especially after you get on a network.)

>

>3) *The VAX is currently not on a network. How do I move programs/data on to it??*

Get it on a network? I will let people more familiar with this particular hardware than I am discuss i/o options; there certainly are (or were) tape drives, CD-Rom drives, etc, available for it.

>*At the moment the only way to access the VAX is through a VT320 terminal*

That's not a bad way.

>

>4) *Related to 3) How do I get it to connect to my PC? I am pretty sure it loads up some sort of Telnet server, but how do I find out what the IP adress and port is?*

It depends which IP package is running. (There are several different IP packages, and they all have different sets of commands to tell you stuff. The port is probably the standard telnet port (23).)

If you can figure out whether you're running UCX, TCPware, Wollongong, Multinet, or CMU, somebody here can tell you which commands to use to find r set the IP address.

>*Do I need to connect it to a hub? At the moment I do have it connected directly to my PC network card, is that enough?*

You'll need to configure the IP on the VMS side so that it doesn't try to route everything outside of the subnet it used to be on through some router it can't talk to anymore. (That would be the same answer for a non-VMS system.)

>

>5) *Is OpenVMS free? (as in beer?) If not, how do I preserve the OS if*

>*I want to experiment with NetBSD.*

Use a different disk?

(Legally, you're not entitled to use the OS installation if you didn't pay a license transfer fee from the previous owner, or don't get your own licenses. For non-commercial single-user use, you can get a free hobbyist license.)

You can visit openvmshobbyist.org for information about free hobbyist licenses for VMS, and you can buy a CD with the OS and layered products for something like \$30, but you'll have to get a CD drive on the thing first. If you go that route you can nuke the current installation and play with NetBSD, then nuke that and do a clean install from the hobbyist disk.

>

>6) *Is it possible to connect a cdrom or any more modern storage device to it?*

Sure, although it may not be a very modern CDROM. Hardware-savvier people will probably have more to say about this.

>

>

>*Any answers, pointers to, etc are welcome.*

The VMS Faq will be of some help:

http://h71000.www7.hp.com/wizard/openvms_faq.html

-- Alan

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