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Customers Believe VMS Can Last Forever

(Information Week Via Thomson Dialog NewsEdge) The venerable VMS operating system from Digital Equipment Corp. turned 30 years old last month. Hardly anyone noticed. Still, in an industry where change is a constant, VMS, now sold as HP's OpenVMS, has few peers in its age bracket. The hoary software of the IBM mainframe also is over 30 years old, but that's mainly because it's embedded in a kind of castle that won't fall.

VMS never had a castle, but it does have some impressive users, including Amazon, the Australian Stock Exchange, and Deutsche Borse. Some of our readers cheered for the OS as well. -Charles Babcock

informationweek.com/1160/vms.htm

The 30th anniversary of OpenVMS's initial release is a significant milestone. What's particularly impressive is that the platform has achieved this milestone without sacrificing compatibility with its original release. The unparalleled track record of OpenVMS security also is quite an achievement. OpenVMS differs from many systems in that its security is part of its inherent structure, not a later add-on. Also, OpenVMS has been able, with little disruption, to assimilate technologies unheard of at the outset, with no disruption of production operations.

OpenVMS is a proven technology with excellent capabilities to support development and production in the long term. -BobGezelter

After 39 years in the industry, I often wonder how so many people could have been fooled into moving from the VMS operating system to Unix. I guess it goes to show that it all comes down to perception, ignorance, and fashion. I'm sure VMS will go down in the annals of computer history as one of the greatest OSes of all time-and it wasn't from IBM or Microsoft. -Russ Bartlett, Senior Systems Analyst, Carhartt

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