

## SUCCESS STORY

# With Charon-AXP, Thuraya tackles its failing hardware and preserves its mission critical applications

### The Challenge

Thuraya had been running mission-critical applications on Compaq DS20 Alpha servers and XP1000 workstations hosting the legacy operating system Tru64. The hardware was becoming obsolete and the need for a solution was critical: these aging systems were causing outages and disturbances to the business's daily operations. Since the expense of a system upgrade would have cost millions of dollars and lacked vendor support, Thuraya was considering alternatives.

### The Solution

Thuraya evaluated all available solutions, but the team had real concerns about the quality of the support as well as meeting the performance levels of the original hardware. Then they learned about Charon-AXP.

There were many factors that led Thuraya to choose Charon-AXP. Primarily, they were drawn to Charon's proven ability to exactly replicate the legacy AlphaServer while avoiding the significant costs associated with migrating to a new platform and rewriting their applications. Thuraya wanted to preserve their applications which were reliable but simply needed a new hardware. "We also understood that implementing the Charon solution would preserve the functionality of our current critical application," says Abdullatif Abdulla, senior manager of critical services at Thuraya. "And it will continue to run unchanged on brand new hardware, ensuring reliability, services availability and—in return—assures business continuity." Charon-AXP would require a minimal amount of time for implementation, including migration and tests.

When evaluating the costs, the team at Thuraya also learned that emulating their aging AlphaServer with Charon-AXP would also cost less than 10 percent of the total cost required for a system upgrade, as quoted by vendors. "We understood Charon-AXP was the suitable solution for our problem, and it became a must-have," stated Mr. Abdulla after a thorough study of the software capabilities.

Typically, businesses work with Stromasys technical experts to fine-tune their customized solution. Once that stage is completed, implementing the Charon solution is usually done within a period of five business days, with a scheduled cutover to minimize downtime. Because Thuraya had some flexibility, they chose to take their time throughout the implementation phase, working on it gradually beginning in October of 2016 and eventually cutting over to the emulated system in December of that year. Throughout the entire process, Stromasys engineers were available to assist.



THURAYA 

### CUSTOMER PROFILE

Thuraya is a leading mobile satellite communications company that empowers people with tools to bring the organizations and communities they serve closer together. Thuraya offers innovative, flexible and dependable technology that helps you overcome the toughest challenges and achieve the highest aspirations - facilitating reliable communications where and when it matters most. Thuraya's superior network enables clear communications and uninterrupted coverage across two thirds of the world via satellite and across the globe through our unique GSM roaming capabilities. Thuraya has been recognized for their game-changing products and dedication to innovation.



stromasys  
legacy server emulation

## The Result

The replacement of all obsolete hardware with brand new Dell hardware running the latest Linux OS and powered by Charon-AXP was completely successful. The implementation was completed in just a matter of days and after the installation was completed, Stromasys provided additional support to assist with any requested adjustments.

The overall efficiency of the system was enhanced by 90 percent, allowing “the critical application to operate as normally and stably as if it were still running on top of its legacy Alpha processor,” confirmed Mr. Abdulla.

With Charon-AXP, Thuraya found a high quality and cost-effective solution that would enable them to continue their day-to-day operations, unimpeded by aging hardware. In the words of Mr. Abdulla, “It was really amazing.”

## About Stromasys

Stromasys is the original and leading provider of enterprise-class cross-platform virtualization solutions, including PDP-11, Digital VAX and Alpha, HP 3000, and SPARC servers. The company extends the life cycle of business and mission-critical systems through virtualization, modernization, and system enhancement. Founded in 1998 and headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and in Boston, Massachusetts, with sales offices as well as engineering, development, and research labs located around the world, Stromasys has implemented more than 6,000 cross-platform virtualization solutions for the world’s leading companies in over 50 countries.



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Abdullatif Abdulla,  
Senior Manager of Critical Services,  
Thuraya