

SUCCESS STORY

Using CHARON-VAX, Flexi-Coil saves time and doubles performance running MANMAN ERP



The Challenge

Flexi-Coil began as a family-owned business in Saskatoon in 1952; their first product was a coil packer used in the seeding process. Since then, Flexi-Coil has established itself as an industry leader in seeding, tillage, and spraying equipment, employing more than 1,200 workers. As Canada's largest farm machinery manufacturer, Flexi-Coil is now part of CNH, a conglomerate of distinguished names in agricultural equipment that includes Case, New Holland, and International Harvester. The company's journey from a small family-owned business into an industry leader presented many challenges and opportunities.

Flexi-Coil's operation relied on a VAX 4000 model 500, which was at full system capacity. The VAX was running MANMAN ERP software to manage shop floor operations, and the system's CPU, memory, and I/O were at peak demand. With the VAX struggling to keep up, weekend batch runs were also a problem, as a full run took 30 hours to complete. It was clear that an alternative solution was needed quickly. Blair Simister, Flexi-Coil's information systems manager, approached Stromasys seeking ways to improve the performance of the VAX.

The Solution

Flexi-Coil had previously used a Nemonix CPU upgrade to achieve a 20-VUP performance boost and was considering a second upgrade from Nemonix. This solution may have provided a boost in performance, but it would neither increase memory nor solve their legacy hardware problem. Stromasys proposed that Flexi-Coil evaluate CHARON-VAX/XL Plus virtualization software for 60 days to see if it might provide a more complete, lasting solution. CHARON-VAX virtualization software enables customers to replace legacy hardware with industry-standard systems without modifying its functionality. Using CHARON-VAX virtualization software on modern hardware allows the original operating system, layered software, and valuable applications to continue running without changes.



CUSTOMER PROFILE

Since 1952, with the introduction of the revolutionary coil packer, Flexi-Coil has developed a wide range of farming equipment to meet the changing needs of farmers. Flexi-Coil has earned a reputation for product quality and superior design in seeding, tillage, and chemical application equipment. In particular, the Flexi-Coil air seeding systems are unrivalled in terms of innovation, efficiency, and effectiveness.

Flexi-Coil products are sold through a network of dealers. Together they offer farmers experience, technology, and a real commitment to service. Flexi-Coil is a brand of CNH.



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The Result

After implementation, the first MANMAN report ran on CHARON-VAX in only seven minutes, versus 42 minutes on the VAX 4000. A batch job that once took 10 hours was completed in just 2.5 hours. On average, CHARON-VAX ran all functions two times faster than the original VAX. Based on these excellent results and the stability of the new HP hardware, Flexi-coil decided to complete the roll-out. They were very pleased with their new virtual VAX, and the CHARON-VAX software has proven remarkably stable. According to Blair Simister, "The system remained up for a year before we shut it down for routine maintenance. It is even more stable than the original VAX."



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 5,000 cross-platform virtualization solutions for the world's leading companies in over 50 countries.

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Blair Simister,
Information systems manager,
Flexi-Coil

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