



DIGITAL FX!32

DIGITAL FX!32 Translation-Emulation Software for Alpha and Windows NT 4.0 Product Brief

DIGITAL FX!32 software lets you run shrink-wrapped, 32-bit x86 Windows 95 and Windows NT applications on Alpha NT systems, with performance comparable to Pentium platforms. This breakthrough translation technology is one of the reasons why any application you run on Windows NT will also run on an Alpha system. DIGITAL FX!32 is easy to install, works transparently, and it's free!

Single-Platform Access for All Your Applications

- Three different mechanisms let you run applications on Alpha systems with Windows NT.
- More than 1,800 applications (such as Softimage, Internet Explorer, AutoCad, Lotus Notes, and LightWave 3D) have been ported to native Alpha code.
- Windows NT 4.0 emulation allows you to run both DOS and Windows 16-bit applications.
- DIGITAL FX!32 lets you run 32-bit x86 applications on Alpha. (For example, Office 95, WINZIP32, Photoshop, and Netscape.)

Summary of Features

- Background optimizer translates x86 code into high-speed native Alpha code.
- x86 Win 32 applications that run on Windows NT or Windows 95 install and launch the same on an Alpha platform as on x86.
- Fast performance of 32-bit Windows applications — at speeds comparable to or greater than best-selling x86 platforms.
- Industry-leading performance of native Alpha applications, plus popular x86 applications on the same system, without performance or porting expense.
- Optimum use of native operating systems and libraries.
- Interoperability of x86 and native applications.
- Available to Alpha Windows NT users free of charge.

Description

DIGITAL FX!32 software gives Alpha users single-platform access to all the software they need; from office productivity tools to 3D imaging and technical CAD/CAM applications. Your x86 application will run just as fast on the Alpha. And it will be just as easy to install and use, with the same user interface on Alpha as on an Intel system. DIGITAL FX!32 reinforces the power of Alpha such that — no matter what application you use — if it runs on Windows NT it will run on Alpha!

How FX!32 Works

DIGITAL FX!32 offers a unique approach to compatibility, using binary translation and emulation – rather than emulation alone – to run x86 applications. Through its translation capability, FX!32 generates and stores Alpha code. The first time you run the application, FX!32 “learns” about it and optimizes the code transparently. No interaction on your part is required. (Users who *do* want to control features of FX!32, such as modifying the time when optimization takes place, can do so through the FX!32 Manager. But user interaction is not necessary, and most sites would do best by letting FX!32 do all the work.)

After the code is optimized, the application runs faster. This is because FX!32 translates features of the application that were used during the first time it was run into native Alpha. FX!32 may not need to reoptimize the application on subsequent times when you use it, although it keeps checking. If you access additional features of the application, FX!32 optimizes the application to convert those features as well into native Alpha code.

This advanced methodology gives users uncompromised application performance that is comparable – or superior – to that offered by the best Pentium platforms.

Harness the Power of Alpha

When your application runs, it takes advantage of native Alpha libraries and the operating system. What does this mean to you? Here are two examples of the way FX!32 lets your x86 applications tap into native Alpha code:

- When you install Microsoft Excel using FX!32, subsequent uses of the application run faster because FX!32 optimizes those features of the code that you access. And even though Excel is

an x86 program, the calls that Excel makes to the math library are executed in native Alpha code.

- When you use Netscape to access the web, FX!32 connects the x86 interface to the Alpha operating system. Even though the function calls (such as using the scroll bar and displaying an image) are part of the x86 application, they are executed at the operating system level. Therefore, your application can harness Alpha performance to display photos and videos, and to scroll up and down the window at top speeds.

Alpha has all the elements needed for success: unbeatable performance, 1800 native Windows NT applications, and a close alliance with Microsoft. And with the added boost of FX!32, Alpha offers high-performance x86 compatibility.

System Requirements

- Alpha-based NT system
- Windows NT 4.0
- 32MB of memory at a minimum; 64MB of memory is recommended

For More Information

DIGITAL FX!32 is distinguished from all other translation and emulation schemes, both hardware and software, by its high performance and transparent execution of x86 applications. To learn more about FX!32 and Digital Semiconductor’s product portfolio, visit the Digital Semiconductor World Wide Web site:

<http://www.digital.com/semiconductor>

To download the FX!32 Kit, free of charge, visit the DIGITAL FX!32 World Wide Web site:

<http://www.digital.com/semiconductor/amt/fx32>

Award-Winning DIGITAL FX!32



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