

COMPAQ

AlphaStation XP900

Release Notes

EK-DS10V-RN. A01

August 1999

URLs

The AlphaStation XP900 page is at <http://www.compaq.com/products/workstations/xp900/index.html>.
Technical documentation can be found at <http://www.compaq.com/products/workstations/xp900/index.html>.
Firmware release updates are at <http://ftp.digital.com/pub/DEC/Alpha/firmware/> and also at <http://www.service.digital.com/patches/index.html>.

IDE drives

- All drives run at the same speed of 16 MHz.
- IDE drives do not support ID renaming, so if you have cluster configurations with multiple DS10s, ES40s, or XP900s you need to be aware of naming conflicts.

Windows NT requirements

- Service Pack 4 is not supported on these systems.
- With Windows NT 4.0, you must run Service Pack 3 on Rev 2.3 of the EV6 processor.
When Rev 2.5 of the EV6 processor is released, then Service Pack 5 will be required.

I/O

ELSA Gloria synergy PCI graphics adapter (Compaq p/n 400712-B21; Digital Classic p/n SN-PBXGK-BB)

With SRM console version 5.4-2, the ELSA card must be installed in one of the bottom two PCI slots, logical slots 14 and 15, which are physical slots 1 and 2. The card will not operate if installed in the upper two PCI slots.

KZPCM-DA PCI to 2-channel UltraSCSI and Ethernet combo adapter SCSI

The KZPCM-DA card does not have a connection point for the disk activity LED. Therefore, if you are using this card, the disk activity LED on the system control panel will not light or indicate disk accesses.

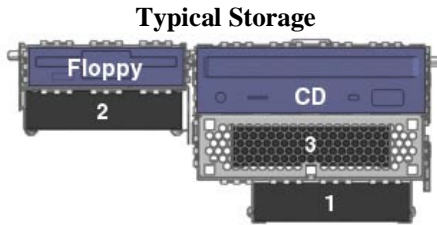
Ethernet

For 100 MHz operation (fast), we recommend setting your Ethernet controller to run in **auto-negotiate** mode. For 10 MHz operation, check your router or repeater documentation to verify that it can auto-negotiate. You set this environment variable at the SRM console:

```
>>> set ew*0_mode auto-negotiate          where * is a or b, indicating corresponding Ethernet port
```

See page 2-45 of the *AlphaStation XP900 Console Reference*, EK-DS10V-CR, for more information.

TLZ10 tape drive



If you order the TLZ10 tape drive with your new system, it will be installed in the proper storage area. This note applies only to tape drives being installed later.

Systems without the TLZ10 tape drive typically ship with the CD-ROM in the position shown. If you install a TLZ10 tape drive into an installed AlphaStation XP900, the CD-ROM must be moved to storage bay 3. Then the TLZ10 tape drive is installed into the upper right storage bay, where the CD-ROM usually resides.



WARNING: To prevent injury, access is limited to persons who have appropriate technical training and experience. Such persons are expected to understand the hazards of working within this equipment and take measures to minimize danger to themselves or others.

SRM commands

You can find the latest firmware release updates at <http://ftp.digital.com/pub/DEC/Alpha/firmware/> and also at <http://www.service.digital.com/patches/index.html>. See Chapter 2 of the *AlphaStation XP900 Console Reference* (shipping with your system and also downloadable at <http://www.compaq.com/products/workstations/xp900/index.html>) for detailed information on SRM commands.

mc_cable

If you install Memory Channel 2 (CCMAB-AA) on this system, note that the diagnostic test **mc_cable** does not work properly with the SRM console V5.4-2. This will be fixed in a future revision of the SRM console.

show fru

The **show fru** command is not yet supported. This will be fixed in a future revision of the SRM console.

RMC escape sequence not echoed on terminal

When you switch from the SRM console to the remote management console (RMC), you enter the key sequence of Ctrl/Left bracket, Ctrl/Left bracket, R M C. Only the MC part of the key sequence will be echoed on your terminal screen. This is not a fault. The RMC console prompt appears and you are in the remote management console.

```
>>> Press CTRL [ CTRL [ R M C
```

```
>>> MC Only "MC" is echoed.
```

```
RMC> The RMC prompt appears.
```

Recompile VAX programs for Alpha before running

We advise customers using programs that were translated from VAX to consider recompiling the program for Alpha or be watchful for problems in their translated programs.

During the course of qualification testing, we discovered a problem in the UETP load test that was created using VEST/TIE. VEST/TIE was a tool developed in the early days of Alpha to translate VAX code to Alpha code. The VEST/TIE tool has been retired and as such no testing was done to see if translated code met the architectural requirements of EV6 Alpha processors. We are investigating the nature of this problem.

USB ports

USB support is not available at this time.