

AlphaCD 06/2000 Release Notes

This AlphaCD contains all the software changes to AMOS and related software that have been tested and released since the 10/99 AlphaCD. This document lists the major software changes and additions, some of which have previously been released to the field but are being consolidated here for convenience to our customers. These release notes talk about:

- The versions of AMOS[®] software and documentation available, and what's new in them
- The new AlphaTCP release, version 1.5A.
- The structure of the AM-PC[™] 4.2A software section
- New third party software releases-- Autolog, Starr Accounting, and Metropolis, PR06/2000
- Other AMOS compatible software releases since the prior AlphaCD
- Updates to the unsupported software section of the AlphaCD
- What's new in the AlphaCONNECT product section
- How to use the CD

AMOS VERSIONS AVAILABLE

As always, the AlphaCD includes the latest versions of AMOS: the June patch releases of AMOS 2.3A and AMOS 1.4E. AMOS 2.3A (patch release 6/00) adds AM-7000 support software, as well as several problem resolutions. AMOS 1.4E is the year 2000 compliant version of AMOS 1.X with various problem resolutions. The Eagle 100TX and 100MX versions of the software have also been updated.

For specific details on the latest patches to AMOS, go to our TABBS website at <http://www.tabbs.alphamicro.com>. You must be a registered user on TABBS to access the file library of AMOS patches.

The Alpha Micro Package Manager (AMPM) also lets you keep all AMOS related products up to date. For more information on AMPM, please refer to the AlphaTCP Administrator's Guide (DSM-00187-11), page 6-19.

AMOS Documentation

As always, on-line documentation is contained in the *DOC* folder in the DOS partition of the CD. This folder includes all marketing bulletins and documents released or updated since the previous AlphaCD release in October 1999. plus all the prior documents included on the previous CD.

To access these documents, open the Toc.pdf file to bring up the on-line Documents table of contents and follow the instructions at the beginning of that document.

New documentation includes the *AM-7000 User's Manual*, *AM-7000 Service Manual*, and *Installation Instructions for Roadrunner 75 Upgrades*. Updated documents include the *AlphaTCP Administrator's Guide*, *AMOS System Commands Reference Manual*, *AMOS Monitor Calls Manual*, *AlphaBASIC XCALL Subroutine User's Manual*, and several more.

Remember, documents that have been added or changed since the last AlphaCD are marked with an asterisk in the table of contents. The table of contents is the file TOC.PDF in the root folder of the on-line documentation section. It is bookmarked with each major section so you can quickly jump to any document section.



As always, the *DOC* folder includes both 16-bit (Windows 3.X) and 32-bit (Windows 95 and 98) versions of the Adobe Acrobat reader, *Ar16e301.exe* and *Ar405eng.exe*, located in the Acrobat subfolder. If you don't already have the Reader on your PC, just execute the appropriate file to install the version you want.

NEW RELEASE OF ALPHATCP

A new release, AlphaTCP 1.5A, has been included on this AlphaCD. The enhancements in this release are set forth in the AlphaTCP 1.5A Release Notes, document DSS-10613-00.

UPDATES OF HORIZONTAL APPLICATIONS

The following horizontal applications have been updated from the version contained on the previous AlphaCD to include various problem resolutions:

- AlphaWRITE 1.2A
- AlphaWRITE 2.2

ALPHACD-WRITER

AlphaCD-WRITER is the software that supports the AM-402 SCSI CD-Recorder for AMOS based systems. With the latest release, the software has been enhanced to support re-writable CDs. This software consists of a utility called *MAKACD*, which is PIC-coded on a per system basis. Details of this software are contained in the *AM-402 Installation Instructions*, included in the documentation area on the AlphaCD.

ISAM'S /N SWITCH

ISAM's /N switch has been around for some time, but has not been widely known and is not documented in the current technical manual. The following edit levels of the software added /N switch capabilities:

- [128] /N switch was added to optionally disable sequence check via the system command.
- [133] If a job has LOKSER turned off (J NLK), then sequence checking will be disabled via the /N switch.
- [136] Changed /N switch to work with LOKSER whether it is installed or not.

AM-PC 4.2A STRUCTURE

This AlphaCD includes an update to AM-PC 4.2A, incorporating AMOS 2.3A, PR 06/00 and AlphaTCP 1.5A, and removing the DOS setup program. In the AM-PC area, there are five subdirectories. The first of these contains a single executable file which you can use to install AM-PC directly from the CD. The other four directories are diskette images which you can copy to diskette and use to install AM-PC at customer sites when you cannot use the AlphaCD. When creating installation diskettes, you must give the diskettes these labels:

AMPC_1
AMPC_2
AMPC_3
AMPC_4

The installation program looks for these exact labels; you will not be able to install the software from diskette if the diskettes are not labeled properly.

THIRD PARTY SOFTWARE UPDATES:

The following third party software products have been updated by their respective developers, and are identified as 06/00 patch releases (PR06/00):

- Metropolis 7.5
- Starr Accounting
- Autolog from Soft Machines

Remember, these products are provided as a convenience for our dealers, developers, and end users. Alpha Micro has not tested or qualified these software products, and takes no responsibility for their installation or use. If you have any questions about any of these products, please contact the specific developer.

UNSUPPORTED SOFTWARE SECTION

The unsupported software section of the AlphaCD has been updated with many programs donated by various people. Take a look to see what has been added.

THE NQL SOLUTIONS (FORMERLY AlphaCONNECT) PRODUCTS

The DOS side of AlphaCD continues to include the latest released versions of AlphaServ.com's NQL Solutions products, formerly called AlphaCONNECT. Included are:

AlphaCONNECT Pro 1.1a, AlphaServ.com's original data harvesting and publishing application, contained in the \Acpro subfolder.

StockVue 2000 Plus, version 4.1, the latest version of this powerful stock and business tracking tool. StockVue 2000 Plus is a free product which works only with Windows 95, Windows 98, and Windows NT 4.0 and later. See the Svreadme.txt file included in the \Sv2000 subfolder.

NQL (Network Query Language) is AlphaServ.com's scripting language designed to simplify the creation of agents, bots, and web applications for the programming community. The version on this AlphaCD is a 30-day trial version. See the NqlRead.txt file included in the \nql subfolder.

These products are in subfolders under the \Nqli folder. For installation instructions and additional information, see the \Nqli\Readme.txt file.

For more information about the NQL Solutions product line, visit the NQL Solutions World Wide Web site at <http://www.nqlsolutions.com>.

HOW TO USE THE ALPHACD



These instructions replace the ones previously found in the *AlphaCD Software Distribution User's Manual* booklet included with the CD.

Using the CD from AMOS

If your AMOS computer has a CD-ROM drive permanently attached, follow these steps:

1. Type **ACD/U** RETURN to unmount the old CD.
2. Remove the CD from the drive.
3. Insert the new CD into the drive.
4. Type **ACD** RETURN to mount the new CD.

If you need to temporarily attach a CD-ROM drive to the computer (it *must* be a SCSI CD-ROM), follow these steps:

1. Type **SCSI** RETURN to see what SCSI IDs are available on your computer.
2. Follow the instructions for your CD-ROM drive to set the drive's SCSI ID to an available ID.
3. Make sure no one is using the computer and power it down following the instructions in your *Owner's Manual*.
4. Attach the CD-ROM drive to the external SCSI connector or an available connector on an external SCSI cable. Be sure not to exceed the allowed length of the physical SCSI bus. This is especially important on the Wide SCSI-2 bus.

Be sure the SCSI bus is properly terminated. If you are adding the CD-ROM at the end of the bus, this means putting the terminator in one of the SCSI connectors on the CD-ROM.

5. Turn on power to the CD-ROM drive and insert the AlphaCD, then power up the computer.
6. Type **ACD** RETURN to mount the CD.



These instructions are different than those with earlier versions of the AlphaCD. While the earlier instructions worked in most configurations, plugging the CD-ROM drive into the SCSI cable with the computer on could damage either the CD-ROM drive or the computer itself. This is especially true with newer, high-performance computers. Therefore, ***we do not recommend*** attaching the CD-ROM drive, or any peripheral device, while there is power on the SCSI bus.

For instructions on modifying your system initialization file so the CD-ROM drive is always accessible and can be read by any user, please see the *System Operator's Guide to the System Initialization Command File*, DSO-00002-00, Rev. 02 or later. For more information on the ACD command, please see the *AMOS System Commands Reference Manual*, DSO-00043-00, Rev. 04 or later.

Disconnecting the CD-ROM

To remove the CD-ROM from the computer after you're finished using it, you can type **ACD/U** RETURN to unmount the CD, then take the CD out of the drive. To remove the drive from the SCSI cable, power the computer down, detach the drive, then turn the computer back on. ***We do not recommend*** removing the CD-ROM drive, or any peripheral, from the SCSI bus while power is applied to the bus.

After removing the CD-ROM, be sure to replace the external SCSI terminator in the external connector on the computer back panel or in the SCSI connector on the last external device.

Using the CD from DOS or Windows

You can access the information in the DOS partition of the AlphaCD as you would any other DOS/Windows CD—just place the CD in your CD-ROM drive and use any command or Windows feature (such as Windows Explorer) to open or copy the files you want.