



# Marketing Bulletin

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## **d/Soft™ Products Available for AMOS® 8.x and AMPC™ 7.0** *ANDI™, d/VUE™, d/BASIC™, TSASS™ Run on AM-8000 and Eagle 750 & 800*

Dear Alpha Micro Dealer:

You know their names: ANDI. d/VUE. d/BASIC. d/SPOOL™. TSASS. d/UTILITIES™. d/APPOINTMENT™. MCL™. d/MAIL™. d/SHELL™. d/ASM™. You may even remember the quirky newsletter that their imaginative author mailed out. And if you are a long-time AMOS person, you have probably speculated as to what "Dravac" actually stands for. But if you use these products, you probably already know that until now, they would not run on the new series of Alpha Micro servers.

That incompatibility has been remedied. You can now offer SuperFalcon (with AMPC 7.0), Eagle 750, 800, and AM-8000 upgrades to sites that employ d/Soft software.

### **The Reason for the Incompatibility**

In an effort to bring added functionality to AMOS, d/Soft added their own set of monitor calls to AMOS. To make them operate, d/Soft installs a routine that traps the monitor call interrupt processing vector, then tests whether each monitor call is a d/Soft call, in which case it is handed off to a d/Soft routine.

AMOS 8.x and its sister product AMPC 7.0 handle monitor calls entirely differently from previous AMOS releases. The interface between the PC and AMOS sides requires a new mode of communication between the AMOS monitor and the PC-side EXE. Therefore, d/Soft's monitor call trap routine is no longer functional.

While both d/Soft and Alpha Micro have wanted to resolve this conflict, d/Soft has not been able to devote the time required to make the necessary changes to interface with the new monitor call handling system. Meanwhile, a number of Alpha Micro dealers and end users have required system upgrades, but could not install them due to the incompatibility. The chorus of voices has continued to grow, thus Alpha Micro had to resolve the matter on its own.

### **The Solution**

Alpha Micro has created a special version of the EXEs for AMPC 7.0 and AMOS 8.x that emulates the 2.3A-style monitor call system. When a call is determined to have come from d/Soft, we hand it off to d/Soft, otherwise AMOS treats it as one of its own.

This extra logic consumes some overhead, approximately 12% of CPU resources. For this reason, the special d/Soft versions will not be distributed unless you specify that you want them at

order time. *If you do not use d/Soft products, do not use this version of the EXEs on your systems, or else you will experience an unnecessary slowdown.*

In addition to the special EXEs, a PIC code must be purchased from Alpha Micro to activate d/Soft compatibility.

## **On the d/Soft Side**

You will need to follow a specific installation procedure for a specific release of the d/Soft software which Alpha Micro will distribute. Alpha Micro has prepared installation instructions that explain the necessary steps.

You must already have, or obtain from d/Soft, a PIC Code for the 5.x versions of their products. Earlier d/Soft versions will not work. All of our development and testing has been done on the latest d/Soft release, for obvious reasons.

## **Limited Support Available**

Because the d/Soft products are not our own, we cannot promise that we will be able to remedy every problem that you may discover. We will, however, do our best to resolve possible issues, within what we can control on the AMOS side.

## **Other d/Soft Resources**

Contact information for d/Soft themselves:

728 Main St.  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360  
(570) 476-1906 or (570) 236-7912  
[mlewis@xelent.net](mailto:mlewis@xelent.net)

You may in fact receive more prompt support from one of the other people in the AMOS community who offer d/Soft development and consulting services. Please contact Alpha Micro Technical Support at (800) 487-7877, and we will steer you towards the best organization to meet your particular needs.