

AMB2007-05

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## **Assembly Language Programming Services Announced** *Make Old .LITs and .SBRs Work With Current AMOS™ Releases*

Dear Alpha Micro Dealer:

Do you have customers with old assembly language programs for which you do not have source code? Are you dependent upon .LITs and .SBRs that need updating? Do you need to add new functionality to an existing, functioning routine? Is the original developer out of business and unreachable? Would you like to offer end users an upgrade to a new generation Alpha Micro server but are concerned that some of this old code may not be compatible? Alpha Micro may be able to help.

### **Where Challenges Can Reside**

Examples of incompatibilities that can plague old software include:

- Inability to handle modern methods of bitmap handling (remember PAKIT.LIT?)
- Inability to understand extended logicals' new UFD layout (e.g.: FIXDEL.LIT)
- Incompatibility with Telnet (TALKTO JLOCK'ed the CPU at times that were incompatible with Telnet-based I/O)
- Conflict with new monitor calls (d/Soft had this problem – since resolved, see Marketing Bulletin AMB2006-05)

### **How We Will Go About The Work**

Over the years, Alpha Micro has developed extensive tools for development and debugging of M68 assembly language programs. We will use these in-house tools for debugging and disassembly of programs.

You will need to supply enough of the original AMOS system, generally including a complete backup, to enable us to work with. You will also need to provide instructions, including any passwords required, to replicate the problem or requirement and effect the solution.

Work will be billed at our standard Technical Support rate of \$150.00 per hour. A written estimate will be faxed to you once a preliminary evaluation has been done. Source code is obviously preferable, but not required.

Modifying a small part of someone else's work can be risky and have unintended consequences. Alpha Micro cannot warrant this type of work. All responsibility to the end user and to the original software developer must reside with you. We will require you to sign a form acknowledging your acceptance of all technical and legal risks before Alpha Micro commences work.

Modifying a program may affect compatibility with other programs. The best way for you to reduce risk is for you to understand just where and how the routines you need modified are used.

## **Fair-Play Rules**

If you are asking us to work on code that does not belong to you, Alpha Micro must respect copyright laws and general fair business practices. We will only perform these services on software where the copyright holder is unreachable (by Alpha Micro as well as you), deceased, or directly or via their license authorizes us to work on their code, with or without source. Ethically and legally, the Golden Rule must apply.

We cannot assist when the copyright holder has made an active decision to discontinue support and does not allow others to work on their older code, or if the copyright holder actively refuses to work with a specific dealer or end user for specific business reasons, such as credit issues. We will not defeat SSD encodement.

Alpha Micro will be the sole determinant of whether a particular situation falls within its comfort zone.

Alpha Micro may choose to resolve problems by modifying AMOS rather than the developer's original product.

## **AlphaBASIC Code Support Not Part Of This Offering**

Alpha Micro is not prepared to offer similar services for .RUN files. Only assembler/machine language code enhancement is being offered at this time.

## **Create Additional Upgrade Opportunities**

Occasionally we hear about old hardware and/or AMOS 1.x still being run because of incompatibility issues. Or we hear about old .SBRs or .LITs that were inherited from long-gone programmers, but where the current developer does not have the ability to add newly necessary features. Now Alpha Micro can help you unlock additional support and upgrade possibilities from sites encumbered by these limitations. Having everybody current benefits us all in the AMOS community.