vtLicense-G3 Network License Servers

The vtLicense-G3 server is a compact network appliance that provides virtual Alpha and VAX host systems (vtServers) with network access to license keys. When used with redundant host hardware, vtLicense servers provide the framework for high availability, disaster-resilient computing environments.

Figure 1—vtLicense-G3 Server

The right to use vtAlpha and vtVAX Bare Metal virtualization products is validated with information registered in a USB memory device, also known as a key or dongle. Each vtAlpha and vtVAX instance is given a license at start-up and then is periodically checked that the valid license is still accessible.

In most cases, the USB key is installed to an available USB port on the vtServer host PC; however, this configuration may not be meet the needs or requirements of a business or entity. For example, if host migration is initiated, such as VMware or vMotion, then it may be necessary to physically move a USB device. Sometimes a direct-attached USB port may not be available, especially when the host system is a virtual machine. Other times, an entity may request strict physical security for the USB devices to deter accidental or unauthorized removal.

Provide Flexible, Secure Configurations

vtLicense servers address all these configuration issues by providing network access to the USB-based licenses, which can be simultaneously accessed by multiple host systems. If the virtual Alpha or VAX instances are moved to a new host, their assigned license are accessible through the network, without any additional physical intervention and minimizing the re-configuration time.

vtLicense servers are managed remotely through a web browser interface, similar to vtMonitor. This interface allows remote placement of the units and minimizes impact in the event of a physical disaster.

vtLicense servers contain at least one internal USB port that can be accessed only by removing the unit cover. This unit cover provides enhanced physical security for the license contents.

Provide Reliability and Redundancy

Besides adding flexibility and security to datacenter configurations, vtLicense servers can be used to increase the uptime of virtual VAX and Alpha systems.

An example of a redundant, high-availability configuration is shown in Figure 2. In this diagram, the various hardware components are distributed across multiple network segments for maximum redundancy and availability.

Figure 2—vtLicense-G3 Server
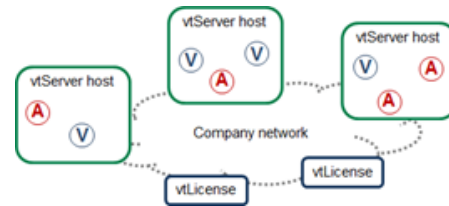
Each vtServer host may run one or more instances of vtAlpha and vtVAX. These instances include either production or disaster recovery events. Additional host hardware can be provisioned to allow these instances to fail over to backup systems, either through manual intervention or automatically. When used with vtLicense servers, the vtAlpha and vtVAX instances automatically discover their licenses across the network.

Redundant vtLicense servers and license keys are the final element in forming a configuration with no single point of failure. To allow for cost-effective, disaster-resilient configurations, reduced-cost, failover licenses for vtAlpha and vtVAX are available. These Disaster Recovery Licenses provide 30 days of run-time, consumed in 10-minute increments with no expiration date.

vtLicense-G3 is provided in a 1U, 9.8 inch (249 mm) deep rack-mountable enclosure. All connections are on the unit's rear panel. Operator controls and status indicators are on the unit's front panel. vtLicense-G3 Part Number models 01, 03, and 05 each have one (1) external and three (3) internal USB ports; vtLicense-G3 Part Number models 02, 04, 06 have three (3) external and one (1) internal USB port.

Figure 3—Front Panel
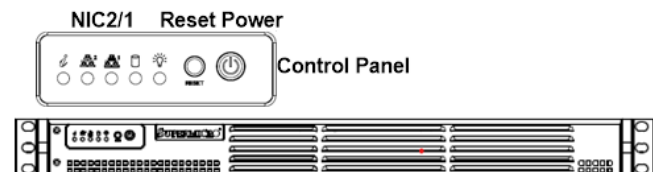
To power off the unit, press and hold the power button for 7 seconds.

Figure 4—Rear Panel
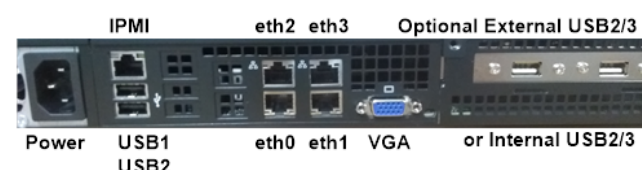
The vtLicense-G3 comes with four (4) Ethernet ports that can be configured as a network bond with two (2) or more ports (eth0–eth3).

These four (4) Ethernet interfaces provide redundant network connectivity. If connected, the 2nd, 3rd, 4th interface is used as a failover if the primary network connection is lost.
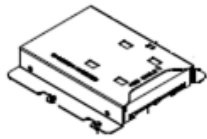
Provides Optional Storage

The vtLicense server can be purchased with a SATA III SSD disk drive, either 500 GB or 1 TB, to be used as external network file system (NFS) storage for the vtServer(s). The vtLicense server is configured to be an NFS server, and so, the vtServer must be configured to locate the remote NFS storage on the vtLicense server. The vtLicense storage can be used for vtAlpha or vtVAX live data, such as: virtual disks, virtual tapes, and VMS Shadowing. The vtLicense storage option can also be used to store compressed virtual disk and virtual tapes for data recovery in case of a vtServer failure or for other archive functions.

Table 1—Product Offerings

Part Number	Type of Storage			
	USB Internal	USB External	SSD Disk 500 GB	SSD Disk 1 TB
vtLicense-G3-01	✓			
vtLicense-G3-02		✓		
vtLicense-G3-03	✓		✓	
vtLicense-G3-04		✓	✓	
vtLicense-G3-05	✓			✓
vtLicense-G3-06		✓		✓

The external USB ports support both vtAlpha and vtVAX license keys. The vtLicense-G3-02/04/06 has two (2) USB ports (refer to Figure 4) in the position labeled *PCI slot*.

Table 2—USB Storage

Part Number	Description	Figure
vtLicense-G3-01 vtLicense-G3-03 vtLicense-G3-05	2-USB Internal	
vtLicense-G3-02 vtLicense-G3-04 vtLicense-G3-06	2-USB External	

vtLicense-G3 Optional storage: 1-Disk 500 GB or 1-Disk 1TB 2.5" SSD SATA III can be used as remote NFS storage for vtServer live virtual disks, virtual tapes, and VMS Shadowing, or to store compressed data for data recovery or archive.

Table 3—SSD Disk Storage

Part Number	Description	Figure
vtLicense-G3-03 vtLicense-G3-04	1-Disk 500 GB	
vtLicense-G3-05 vtLicense-G3-06	1-Disk 1 TB	

Specifications

Some product details and their descriptions are in the following tables:

Table 4—Chassis

Parameter	Value
Form Factor	1U Rackmount
Height	1.7 in. (43 mm)
Width	17.2 in. (437 mm)
Depth	9.8 in. (249 mm)
Gross Weight	10 lb (4.5 kg)

Table 5—Front Panel

Feature	Function
Buttons	Power On and Off button. Hold for 7 seconds to turn the unit off or on.
	System Reset button
LEDS	Power
	Hard Drive Activity
	(2) Network Activity
	System Overheat

Table 6—Power Supply

Parameter	Value
AC Voltage	100 to 240 VAC 50 to 60 Hz 4.2 Amps
DC Voltage	+ 5 VSB, 2 Amps +12 V, 16 Amps +5 V, 8 Amps +3.3 V, 8 Amps -12 V, 0.5 Amps