

# Running de.OpenVMS.org

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In May 2006, I got a call from Wilfried Nicol, CEO of PDV Nord...

He had talked to Ken Farmer (admin of [www.OpenVMS.org](http://www.OpenVMS.org)),  
at the OpenVMS Advanced Technical Boot Camp.

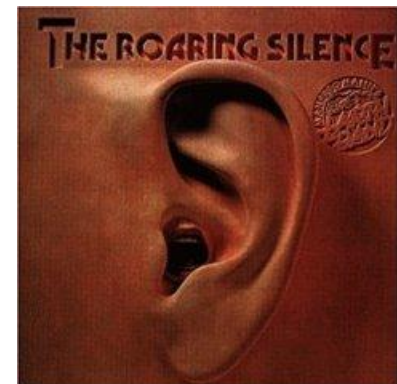
Ken was looking for someone to set up and host **de**.OpenVMS.org,  
the german branch of the OpenVMS.org family of sites.

Wilfried had told him that PDV would gladly host it.  
For the setup, he also had someone in mind – me ☺

Martin P.J. Zinser of Deutsche Börse Chicago already at the Boot Camp  
agreed to co-moderate the site.

After the TUD 2006, Oliver Bach joined in.

I also called for participation on [de.comp.os.vms](http://de.comp.os.vms) –  
the answer was a roaring silence...



Apache 1.3.26	✓
PHP 4.2.2	✓
PhpWebLog 0.52	(✓)
MySQL 4.x	✓
<i>runs on Linux</i>	☹

de.OpenVMS.org would not be LAMP or WIMP, but a **VAMP!**

To make it work under OpenVMS,  
only PhpWebLog had to be ported...

- ❑ Two-Node AlphaServer 4100 cluster
- ❑ HSV-based storage
- ❑ OpenVMS Alpha V7.3-2
- ❑ TCPware V5.6-2
- ❑ CSWS V1.3-1 (based on Apache 1.3.26)
- ❑ CSWS\_PHP V1.3 (based on PHP 4.3.10)
- ❑ MYSQL V4.1-14
  
- ❑ Hosts ~60 virtual web sites
- ❑ Also DNS/FTP/SMTP server, search engine, ...

## □ PHP4 was a problem

- only supports MySQL v3 client
  - not too much of a problem
- no session support in CSWS\_PHP 1.3
  - PHP has it since 4.0 (although can be disabled when building)
- PHP's *mail()* function requires sendmail

## □ ...for me

- I'm in the Perl camp
- I didn't know PHP then - but I like learning-by-doing
- I'm not too good at databases

- ❑ Web-based news management system
- ❑ Development seems to have been abandoned
- ❑ Last version: 0.53 of 30-Oct-2001
  - <http://sourceforge.net/projects/phpweblog/>
  
- ❑ Under security considerations: dubious software
  - not working under *register\_globals=off*
  - (small) parts not working under *allow\_url\_fopen=off*
  
- ➔ Porting wouldn't be enough,  
it really needed cleaning up and (in parts) rewriting

- ❑ Changed file names `xxx.inc.php` to `xxx_inc.php` and directory name `images.d` to `images_d`
- ❑ Replaced session management by my own (using cookies)
- ❑ Replaced calls to PHP's `mail()` function
  - borrowed a snippet from phpBB that sends mail directly to local host using SMTP
- ❑ Added assignments of query string values to PHP variables and set `register_globals=off`
- ❑ Replaced uses of PHP's `file()` function with something that correctly reads non-StreamLF files
- ❑ Massaged output into mostly clean XHTML
- ❑ Added detailed error logging – big aid in debugging
- ❑ Fixed some bugs I found while porting

- ❑ Web site went live on 4-Jul-2006
  - under the name [org.OpenVMS.de](http://org.OpenVMS.de)
- ❑ [de.OpenVMS.org](http://de.OpenVMS.org) was DNS-registered on 1-Oct-2006
  - Ken had problems with his ISP



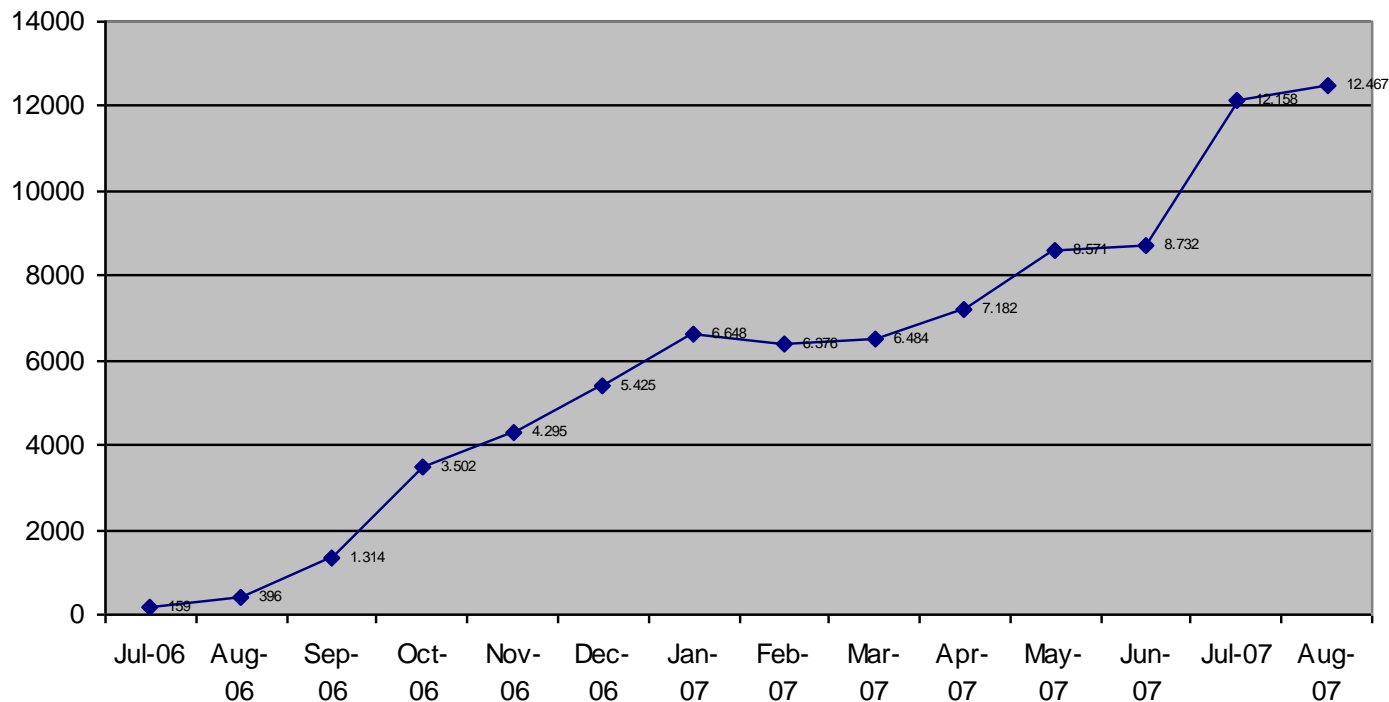


❑ 377 stories posted (as of yesterday)

- about 40 are not translations

❑ On average 97 hits per story

❑ >12000 page requests per month:



## □ Goodies

- RSS 0.91 feed  
<http://de.OpenVMS.org/backend/openvms.rdf>
- WAP edition  
<http://de.OpenVMS.org/wap.php>

## □ ToDo's

- Coordination of moderation & administration
- Digest mailings
- Update to RSS 2.0

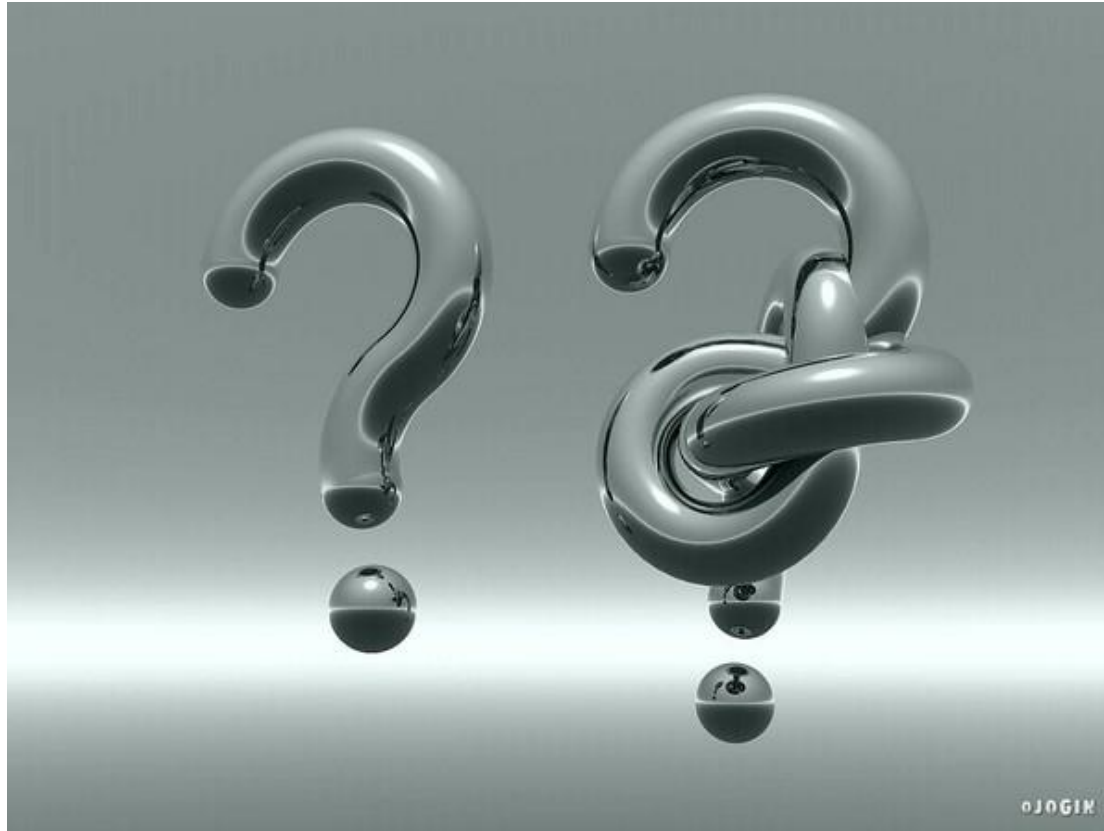
## OpenVMS & Unix Software Product Library Overview

<http://de.OpenVMS.org/spl.php>

- ❑ Originally, just a tool to aid finding stuff in PDV's SPL CDs
- ❑ Now contains the complete list from Ajilon Consulting Labs, [http://www1.aclabs.com/MasterIndex/consolidations\\_external.shtml](http://www1.aclabs.com/MasterIndex/consolidations_external.shtml)
- ❑ Planned: integrate data from the SCM (Software Compatibility Matrix) which contains min. and max. VMS versions that a software is certified for
- ❑ Problem: SCM is formatted as a human-readable table

- ❑ my co-moderators Martin P.J. Zinser and Oliver Bach
- ❑ PDV-Systeme for hosting and sponsoring the site, and for letting me get in touch with VMS
- ❑ Wilfried Nicol for poking me to do it
- ❑ Jean-François Piéronne for his MySQL port to OpenVMS

and...



Questions?