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Dear DG/UX 5.4 Release 3.00 Customer:

Data General's interpretation of the POSIX 1003.1-1990 Specification led to modifications in DG/UX System 5.4 Release 3.00 Maintenance Update MU01 that may cause applications that make zero length **write(2)** system calls to objects other than regular files to experience unexpected results. LAN Manager for AViiON Systems Revision 2.01, for example, makes such calls.

If you are running DG/UX System 5.4 Release 3.00 Maintenance Update MU01 and LAN Manager Revision 2.01 or another application that makes such calls, contact your Data General Customer Support Center to request the extension `dgux_5.4R3.00.e01`. This extension restores the behavior of the **write(2)** system call for objects that are not regular files to the behavior prior to the DG/UX System 5.4 Release 3.00 Maintenance Update MU01. If your application does not make zero length writes using the **write(2)** system call to objects that are not regular files, you do not need to install this extension.

DG/UX System 5.4 System Release 3.00 with Maintenance Update MU01 is certified to be compliant with the POSIX P1003.1-1990 specification. To comply with section 6.4.2 (Write to a File) of this specification, we modified the behavior of the **write(2)** system call in the case of a write of size zero.

The POSIX 1003.1-1990 Specification Section 6.4.2 (Write to a File) states that for

```
ssize_t write(int fildev, const void *buf, size_t nbyte);
```

if *nbyte* is zero and the file is a regular file, the **write()** function shall return zero and have no other results. If *nbyte* is zero and the file is not a regular file, the results are unspecified.

Our interpretation of the specification led us to modify this behavior for all object types. We have now determined that to comply with section 6.4.2 we only need to modify this behavior for objects that are regular files, not STREAMS devices or other object types.

The modification to the **write(2)** system call released in extension `dgux_5.4R3.00.e01` will be included in DG/UX System 5.4R3.00 Maintenance Update MU02. It is not necessary to apply extension `dgux_5.4R3.00.e01` on any Maintenance Updates other than DG/UX System 5.4 Release 3.00 Maintenance Update MU01.

Sincerely,

Larry Portner
Vice President, Software Engineering