

Definity-G(x) Demystified:
By Walt Medak

Q: We are told that we could upgrade our Definity-G3V3 to a G3v8 by simply installing the V8 processor, network-control and tone-clock circuit packs and then booting up on our V3 flashcard. Is this correct, and if so, are there any pitfalls. We have closed a facility that had a V8 and want to use that version at our location with the V3 if it's that simple.

A: It's not quite as simple as that. First of all, there have been changes in the flashcard formatting at the V6 level that would have to be overcome, as the V8 won't read the V3 format. Once that's accomplished, it will then boot off of the V6 flashcard, but you must make sure you then replace that flashcard with the one from the V8 or it will not perform a "save-translations" as it has yet another different formatting. After you do all of that, you will still only have the features of the V3, as the V8 software release and it's features need to be activated by the OEM, probably resulting in the cost of re-licensing your V8 all over again. As for pitfalls, you must make sure you remove all data modules before rebooting at each level and then reprogram them once you reach the V8 level or you stand a better-than-average chance of experiencing software corruption. This process is not for the inexperienced or faint-hearted to attempt.

It might be simpler to move the entire V8 from the old location to the location where the V3 is, transfer the license with the OEM (nominal fee) and then reprogram the V8 with the V3's translations. This can be accomplished with the aid of software applications that move the translations from one version to another. They are simple database reformatting applications. There are a couple of different ones I'm aware of, and it can cost anywhere from a thousand dollars or so by an independent, to who knows how much by the OEM (seems to vary). This process also leaves you with both your V3 and V8 programmed so you can recover from any major problems during the cut-over by just switching back to the V3, though major problems should be near non-existent as you can program the V8 off-line and do the cutover after you are sure the translations are correct. No pitfalls with this method.