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# Rocket® Visual COBOL® Preps MAIF's Modernization for Unix

MAIF, founded in 1934 and based in France, has developed a people-centered mutual insurance model. Each of its 4.2 million members are both an insurer and insured. Driven by innovation and social commitment, their mission-driven approach has been reflected in their actions since their inception. They continue to offer a unique, responsible, and efficient trust-based model.

## Challenge

For decades, MAIF relied heavily on its mainframe environment provided by an information technology (IT) service and consulting company to house the business-critical solutions that support policyholders. However, the company announced the end-of-life timeline for its mainframe in the early 2000s. This coincided with MAIF's widespread recentralization plans, making it an ideal time to move toward a modernized environment that would take better advantage of their online presence.

Patrick Gueneau, IS Architect with MAIF, explains:

"We wanted to offer more self-service options to our policyholders and modernize and digitize their experience, in line with their changing needs and lifestyles. Thankfully our architecture was designed using COBOL and this simple fact meant we were able to leverage Rocket® Visual COBOL® by Rocket Software to change the environment without changing the business logic or component parts."

Rocket Visual COBOL provided MAIF with the ability to create new customer value from existing application investments. Organizations that reuse core application logic with Rocket Visual COBOL are able to remove the risks associated with re-write or replacement strategies. With Rocket Visual COBOL, organizations can protect against exposure to uncertain costs and extend delivery time frames while quickly and safely responding to new business requirements with predictable and highly cost-effective results.

MAIF needed to move from an expiring mainframe to an open, modernized hybrid architecture to create a better online experience for their users.

## At a glance

**Industry:** Insurance

**Location:** Spain

**Challenge:** Simplify a complex and expensive IT infrastructure, while making this process transparent for its users and minimizing risk to business-critical solutions.

**Products and Services:**

- Rocket Enterprise Developer.
- Rocket Enterprise Server Reflection.

**Success Highlights:**

- COBOL code base ensures smooth migration from BULL mainframe to a UNIX-based environment.
- SOA approach ensures basis for future modernization.
- Improved system availability through transparent and simultaneous transaction and batch processing.
- Better user experience with enhanced Web-based self-service capabilities for policyholders.
- Streamlined development ensures rapid response to changing business requirements.

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**PATRICK GUENEAU**
IS ARCHITECT
MAIF

## Solution

The decision was made to utilize a service-oriented architecture (SOA) approach, including web services that would move the key insurance solutions to a more open UNIX®-based environment. This platform could be further modernized in the future to host new services. All front-end solutions leveraged Java®-based rich interfaces, streamlining the development effort with the user-friendly Rocket Visual COBOL interface.

With MAIF operating in many French territories, including Reunion Island, Guadeloupe, and Martinique, transaction processing windows can be quite long, leaving little time to batch process daily transactions. If an issue arose from an anomaly or incident, a decision would need to be made on whether the transaction processing window could be opened despite batch processing not having finished. As more of MAIF's business became digitized, online availability had to be guaranteed, even during the batch processing window. This is when MAIF turned to evoleen.byGecko.

Patrick Gateau, Co-Founding Partner at evoleen. byGecko, joins the conversation:

"We are a computer engineering company specializing in digital solutions to help large organizations modernize their operations. To ensure that large volume batch processing is as reliable and secure in the new, more open, environment as it was on the mainframe, we have developed COBOL Checkpoint Manager (CCM). This is designed to manage simultaneous and transparent transaction and batch processing. When system performance is at risk, batch processing will be paused and saved at that point. This will automatically restart, based on system performance parameters, so that the 24/7 availability is always guaranteed."

Rocket Visual COBOL ensures a seamless migration to a UNIX-based environment, and an SOA-approach ensures future modernization.

## Results

COBOL Checkpoint Manager (CCM) adds significant value to MAIF as Rocket Visual COBOL users. Its balanced approach stabilizes performance and processing time, with clients often experiencing up to 20 percent faster processing time in large batch volumes. It manages transactions and eliminates the need for data locks through managed system shutdowns, guaranteeing data integrity in the event of a system crash without the need for complex restart procedures.

"With over 100 daily batch processes, the CCM functionality is really crucial to us," says Gueneau. "We no longer need to worry about batch processes or how long they take when we design our solutions, as the simultaneous process will manage it all transparently. Our 24-hour process monitoring team completely relies on the batch process committing updates automatically to enable transaction processing. If we need to stop a batch for any reason, it can be restarted without any risk."

He concludes:

"Thanks to the reliability and longevity of COBOL, Rocket Visual COBOL enabled us to breathe new life into our mainframe applications. Instead of a disruptive 'big bang' migration, we could modernize different elements of our environment over time and gradually move them to a hybrid platform, where data moves seamlessly between on-premises backend applications and Azure-based cloud Web environments. Having digitized our core services, evoleen.byGecko's CCM ensures that our policyholders always have reliable access to online self-service applications, securing our 24/7 availability guarantee."

## Impact

### Smooth Migration

Rocket Visual COBOL ensured a smooth migration to a UNIX-based environment, removing risks around re-write or replacement strategies.

### Improved Availability

COBOL Checkpoint Manager stabilized performance and processing times, resulting in 20 percent faster processing and guaranteed data integrity.

### Future Growth

A service-oriented architecture moved key insurance solutions to an open UNIX-based environment and sets the stage for future modernization.

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