



Fast and Effective Developer Onboarding Process

Seamless developer onboarding and system insight with Rocket® COBOL Analyzer*



David Kopf Instruments designs and manufactures a complete line of high-quality stereotaxic instruments and accessories for neurophysiological research.

“ The information **COBOL Analyzer** provides can make or break a business. Within half an hour of installation, I had a general synopsis of what I was dealing with, and I could dive in very quickly without having complete business knowledge.”

Eric Duchacek, Developer, **David Kopf Instruments**

CHALLENGE

Navigating a 40+ year-old system without documentation

David Kopf Instruments, a long-established business, developed a custom solution decades ago to manage labor and manufacturing costs. Over the years, they added modules for accounts payable, receivable, and a general ledger to the application. In 2007, the many development languages used in the system were converted to COBOL, running on Rocket® Net Express™. By then, the system had grown to 750,000 lines of code.

When their lead developer announced retirement, the company realized that a new developer would need to be taught the ins and outs of a system that was 40+ years old. JoAnne Simmons, IT Coordinator at David Kopf Instruments, explained: “Even with a developer who knew the system inside out, making changes was never easy. He would need to work out exactly how changes could affect our system. If a mistake was made, this could have dire consequences. A new person coming into the role would not have the knowledge to make the right

decisions, and with no system documentation to refer to, he would be totally in the dark. We realized we needed help in mapping out the code infrastructure of the system so that proper impact analysis could be done.”

CHALLENGE

A 40+ year-old system, a retiring specialist, and a lack of documentation turned onboarding new talent and implementing COBOL code changes into a significant challenge.



SOLUTION

Streamlining code analysis and development with Rocket® COBOL Analyzer

Rocket® COBOL Analyzer gave developers the ability to continuously analyze code, both before and after changes, within their local environment and before committing updates to production. It visualized how components fit together, highlighted their dependencies and relationships, and provided visibility into the program structure, identifying all code affected by the planned code change. This allowed developers to easily analyze and navigate COBOL codebases of any size and complexity.

David Kopf Instruments participated in the COBOL Analyzer Beta program just as a new developer, Eric Duchacek, came on board. With extensive COBOL experience, Eric had previously written his own programs to perform analysis into unfamiliar systems. Reflecting on his experience, he shared: “In previous projects, I would charge up to \$30,000 and spend at least four months mapping out the dependencies within the solution before I could really start any active development work on it. I had worked with the Rocket® Enterprise Analyzer solution to analyze and understand mainframe solutions in the past and was pleased to discover its COBOL cousin.”

COBOL Analyzer was quickly installed, verified all COBOL code, and visualized it in a diagram view for the first time. It immediately generated reports showing the exact relations between code components. An interactive tool revealed which programs touch which files and how data flows within the system. When changes needed to be made to the system’s data schema, COBOL Analyzer provided an immediate overview of what would be impacted before drilling into the code.

SOLUTION

Rocket COBOL Analyzer provided an immediate system overview, showing the exact relations between code components and what would be impacted by changes before drilling into the code.

RESULTS

Accelerating productivity and knowledge transfer

COBOL Analyzer facilitated a smooth knowledge transfer from a long-time developer to one unfamiliar with the business and its system. With the help of COBOL Analyzer, David Kopf Instruments' new developer became productive within hours instead of months, avoiding the need for a homegrown analysis solution or a time-consuming reverse-engineering process.

Simmons expressed her satisfaction with the outcome: "Of course, it helped that Eric is an experienced COBOL developer, but COBOL Analyzer definitely got us up and running much quicker than we had anticipated."

She concluded: "We enjoyed the opportunity to take part in the COBOL Analyzer Beta program. We feel COBOL Analyzer came along just at the right time to set us up perfectly for the future."

*Formerly a Micro Focus® product



Expedited productivity

COBOL Analyzer enabled a smooth knowledge transfer, allowing new developers to become productive in hours rather than months, saving both time and costs.



Immediate insight

COBOL Analyzer provided an immediate overview of how changes would impact the data schema before drilling into the code.



Continuous analysis

COBOL Analyzer allowed developers to continuously analyze code before and after making changes, ensuring accuracy before committing updates to the system.

AT A GLANCE

Rocket®
COBOL Analyzer*

Industry
Manufacturing.

Location
USA.

Challenge

To gain visibility into the code structure of a decades-old COBOL solution to provide a smooth developer onboarding process, and to conduct continuous code impact analysis for easier changes to the system.

 **Rocket** software

Modernization. **Without Disruption.**™

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