



Enabling Multi-cloud ERP Solutions

Multi-cloud solutions provide agility and cost-savings with Rocket® Visual COBOL®



Intex Consulting Group enables digital transformation of textile production by providing Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and Manufacturing Execution System (MES) solutions for all textile processes, from supervising machines to managing the company.

“ With **Visual COBOL** we provide our customers with a range of platform and cloud choices. With minimum effort, we can offer our software as a service with any cloud provider chosen by our customers.”

Intex Consulting Group

CHALLENGE

Digital solutions for the textile industry

The textile industry is among the more intricate industries of our time, and its high-level supply chain complexity can only be managed through digital solutions. With worldwide distribution, Intex Consulting has served this specialized industry since 1985, with its flagship solution written in COBOL, originally deployed to Fujitsu BS2000 mainframes, which were popular in Germany at that time.

Over the years, as many customers transitioned from mainframe and UNIX platforms to Windows for cost efficiency, the company adapted by migrating its COBOL application to Windows. Additionally, it established strategic partnerships to deliver integrated solutions, ensuring comprehensive visibility across the supply chain.

Intex created a real-time integration between SAP® and its ERP solution, so that any production planning directly reflected in SAP with orders and stocks fully synchronized between the systems. This is advantageous

for many larger Intex customers who rely on SAP to run their general business but need the more specialized Intex solution to manage their business. Like many, the textile industry has felt increasing cost pressures, leading to a strong demand for a cloud

CHALLENGE

Provide customers with more flexible application deployment to the cloud, retain decades of business intelligence, and leverage existing development skills.

solution to reduce operating costs versus an on-site solution. To address these needs, the team sought a new solution that supported the latest operating platforms, both in the cloud and on-premises, while enabling full integration with SAP technologies, including the SAP HANA platform edition database.

SOLUTION

Modernizing integration with Rocket® Visual COBOL®

The Intex team looked for options to reuse their COBOL code, and they saw the .NET platform as the best solution to both easily integrate modern technologies and expand Intex's SAP integration to the SAP HANA platform edition. They compared Fujitsu NetCOBOL® with Rocket® Visual COBOL®, defining 'must-have' features such as support for the new .NET versions 5 and 6, and for modern APIs like REST or Cloud Services, which are key for essential integration with other solutions. Because they offer a complete and integrated solution to their customers, Intex also needed a solution to provide e-invoice integration in an expanding list of countries, and one that delivered strong encryption support and adaptation to different requirements depending on the customer's location. During proof-of-concept, they discovered Rocket Visual COBOL provided the best support in these areas, including options for .NET deployment to Linux as well as Windows.

The ability to reuse code containing decades of valuable business intelligence swung the decision for Visual COBOL. With 12,000 COBOL source files and millions of lines of code, the solution made it possible to leverage existing development expertise, while transitioning gradually to the .NET platform. Since the code continued to run as COBOL within .NET, developers retained their current skill set while gaining access to the platform's extensive libraries. The process was highly efficient, with 97 percent of the code compiled automatically, and only minor adjustments needed for a small portion of modules due to deprecated API calls.

SOLUTION

Rocket Visual COBOL allowed Intex to leverage existing development skills and provide customers with the platform and cloud provider of their choice.

AT A GLANCE

[Rocket® Visual COBOL® for Visual Studio.](#)

Industry

Textile.

Location

Germany.

Challenge

Respond to customer demand for more flexible application deployment to the cloud, while retaining decades of business intelligence and leveraging existing development skills.

*Formerly Micro Focus products.

RESULTS

Enhancing development efficiency

With over 12,000 existing source files in the application, the Intex development team chose Visual Studio® Code for COBOL development. During this time, a new release of Visual COBOL with support for Visual Studio Code was in development, and the team actively participated in beta testing through close collaboration with the R&D team. The beta experience proved highly effective, with technical feedback incorporated into the final release, leading to significant improvements.

Rocket Visual COBOL, and its support for Visual Studio Code, improved developer productivity with faster editing and debugging support. The Intex team also moved to GitLab at the same time, to provide a comprehensive code version control repository fully integrated into the Visual Studio Code.

Intex developers have also embraced the advantages of the .NET platform, which has streamlined their workflow. With access to .NET libraries, complex coding tasks that previously required up to 10 days can now be completed in under three, resulting in a 70 percent improvement in productivity and cost efficiency for system-related tasks. The integration of .NET into COBOL code allows for seamless functionality by simply calling .NET functions, fully incorporating the platform into their solutions.

While the team relied on its extensive in-house COBOL expertise to manage most of the migration to Visual COBOL, the support of local technical experts was highly valued. This transition has enabled the company to provide customers with greater flexibility, allowing them to adapt swiftly to the dynamic demands of the textile industry.



70% jump in productivity

Rocket Visual COBOL, with support for Visual Studio code, enhances developer productivity, offering faster editing and debugging support.



Cost-effective deployment

Intex can deploy its application to the cost-effective Linux® platform as well as Windows®, offering customers a range of platform and cloud choices.



97% of code leveraged

With Rocket Visual COBOL, Intex was able to reuse 12,000 COBOL source files, fully leveraging their developer's existing development skills and experience.

*Formerly Micro Focus® products



Modernization. **Without Disruption.**™

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