



# Jury Systems Incorporated

Decades of application value moves seamlessly into the cloud with Rocket® Visual COBOL®



**JURY SYSTEMS**  
INCORPORATED

Jury Systems Incorporated is focused on improving jury management for over 500 clients in North America, expanding their international presence, including Canada and Australia. Its products are designed to help court clients handle real-world challenges, and the organization is constantly looking for ways to improve both the user and juror experience.

“ With **Visual COBOL** we can support both solution versions easily, as they share the same code base. Any enhancements we make in the system are immediately reflected in both versions. This streamlines our development, ensures consistent high quality and gives our clients full deployment flexibility.”

**Mark Sheinbein**, President and CTO, **Jury Systems Incorporated**

## CHALLENGE

### Transforming operations with innovative technology

A court’s jury operation is one of its most public-facing functions. Jury Systems aims to automate staff duties to help users provide an excellent service to jurors, through products and services such as ensuring a cleansed Master Juror File, processing requests, giving jurors attendance, conducting payroll at the end of their service, and more.

Mark Schienbein, President and CTO of Jury Systems, explains the origins of the solution: “Back in the late 1980s, I was part of a consulting team tasked to work with Los Angeles Superior Court (LASC) on building their jury management system. The largest jury operation in the world, LASC hosted the resulting system on their resident mainframe. We delivered a distributed system using PCs running COBOL as the desktop terminal. Subsequently other — and often much smaller — courts voiced an interest in running the LASC jury management system. These courts had similar

requirements but lacked the advantage of LASC’s large IT infrastructure. Because the mainframe and desktop programs were all based on COBOL, we were able to port the application to a completely PC/LAN-based implementation.” After several years of implementing this ported character-based jury system, eventually known as JURY+ Classic, Sheinbein founded Jury Systems Incorporated with the goal of developing a Windows®-based system that built on the experience gained from the LASC solution but with a light-weight platform with a much wider appeal.

## CHALLENGE

Using the ported character-based Jury+ Classic as the foundation, Jury Systems looked to develop a flexible Windows-based platform with a wider appeal.

## SOLUTION

### Advancing solutions with Rocket Visual COBOL

Because of Y2K concerns, Jury+ Classic quickly gained traction and was soon followed by Jury+ Next Generation, a system that included the desired relational database integration and graphical user interface.

Following its release in 1999, the development team continued to enhance the solution's functionality. They successfully incorporated new technologies such as image processing, online juror access, an IVR interface, mobile apps, and SMS texting. When Sheinbein identified the need for a web-based version of Jury+, the company was able to offer the new option to its customers without major rewrites, thanks to the solution's COBOL base and modernization tools.

## RESULTS

### Seamless transition and enhanced productivity

As the web interface is intuitive and familiar for regular internet users, the transition from Next Generation to Web Generation is seamless and simple, requiring minimal training and support. Users enjoy the added graphical features, and because the web version renders different, more information fits on a single screen, meaning transactions are achieved with fewer clicks and user productivity is boosted.



**Mark Sheinbein,**  
President and CTO,  
**Jury Systems Incorporated**

We wanted the basis of our system to be flexible with different deployment options and integration capabilities with a relational database. Above all, we wanted a user-friendly and graphical interface. We chose COBOL as the development language because we felt this gave us the most flexibility at the time. The solution included an integrated development environment for both Windows and OS/2, which suited our purposes perfectly and allowed us to quickly launch a solution to the market.”

## SOLUTION

With the same relational database backend, both Windows- and browser-based solutions can share the same Rocket® Visual COBOL® for Visual Studio®\* development environment.

The web version also paved the way to an Amazon Web Services® (AWS®) cloud hosting model where Jury Systems hosts their clients' COBOL-based jury management solution, including data. This provides a hassle-free option with easier access for maintenance and ensures clients can always take advantage of the latest features.

When asked about their early decision to leverage COBOL, Sheinbein is clear: "Choosing COBOL all those years ago has really paid dividends for us. In fact, without it we wouldn't have a web or cloud-hosted version. I question whether we would even have a business. We are a small team and rewriting JURY+ was never a viable option for us. With Visual COBOL we could evolve our compiler relationship over decades as our business needs changed. We leverage intellectual property acquired over a long time with a modern development environment that allows us to respond quickly to clients' customizations or new regulatory requirements."



### Streamlined

Rocket® Visual COBOL® supports Windows and browser-based versions effortlessly, with enhancements immediately reflected in both versions.



### Flexible

Rocket® COBOL provides the foundation for flexible system with different deployment options and integration capabilities with a relational database.



### Adaptable

Visual COBOL helps Jury Systems evolve their compiler relationship over decades and as business needs change.



### Future-proof

The cloud-hosted model ensures clients always have access to the latest updates and features, keeping their jury management systems modern and efficient.

#### AT A GLANCE

## Rocket® Visual COBOL® for Visual Studio.

\*Formerly Micro Focus products.

#### Industry

Technology.

#### Location

California, USA.

#### Challenge

Meet the demand for a user-friendly, cost-effective web and cloud-hosted version of a tried and trusted COBOL solution.



Modernization. **Without Disruption.**™

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