Rocket software

Modernizing Development for a Major Distribution Network

Enhancing efficiency and future-proofing applications with Rocket® Visual COBOL®*

COMPANY OVERVIEW

A large North American business services company with thousands of partners relies on a complex backend enterprise resource planning (ERP) system to process millions of orders. To meet unique business requirements, the company developed custom modules in COBOL to augment their off-the-shelf ERP solution.

CHALLENGE

The organization faced a significant risk

A large organization relied heavily on extensive customizations to their ERP system, developing thousands of programs written in COBOL to

CHALLENGE

The company needed to replace their heritage COBOL system, preserving critical business logic while gaining adaptability without downtime or lost functionality.

support critical business processes. Over time, those customizations became a challenge, as each ERP system upgrade required significant rewrites or adjustments to the custom code. The development environment also limited how quickly the organization could adapt to changing business needs.

When the ERP provider announced they were moving away from COBOL, the organization faced a significant risk: their custom modules could soon become unsupported, putting key operations at risk. The organization needed a solution to modernize their development processes and improve flexibility without losing the valuable logic embedded in their legacy COBOL code.

SOLUTION

Unlocking new opportunities for talent acquisition and retention with Rocket Visual COBOL

Recognizing that a complete rewrite was not feasible, the organization pursued a proof-of-concept using Rocket® Visual COBOL®. The successful demonstration validated the approach, leading to the implementation of Visual COBOL and Rocket® COBOL Server over the following year. The code conversion process was straightforward, supported by comprehensive training.

By moving to the modern IDE within Visual COBOL, the organization unlocked new opportunities for talent acquisition and retention. This wasn't merely an upgrade — it transformed their daily workflow, making development more intuitive and efficient. The transition also empowered the IT team to address previously challenging user requests, like integrating mapping tools to pinpoint network partners more quickly.

SOLUTION

Rocket Visual COBOL provided a modern development platform that enabled integration with other systems and offered enhanced product interfaces to end-users.

RESULTS

A more efficient and user-friendly development environment

Visual COBOL provided a more efficient and user-friendly development environment, enabling the organization to modernize their technical infrastructure while preserving over two decades of valuable COBOL business logic. This seamless integration into a modern development workflow enabled substantial interface enhancements and fostered a dynamic partnership between end-users and developers.

By actively participating in process improvements and contributing valuable insights directly into the development cycle, business users have helped the organization gain a significant competitive advantage. Meanwhile, the IT department has evolved from a support function into a strategic business partner, positioning the company for greater agility and sustained success in the future.

Modernization

Bringing COBOL workflows into Visual Studio® has accelerated both development and delivery.

Investment protection

Preserved and extended a 20-plus-year investment in COBOL business logic and data across thousands of programs.

Agility

Streamlined development processes enabled a faster response to business requirements, ensuring IT can adapt quickly to market changes and new opportunities.

*Formerly Micro Focus® product

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