



# Modern Agriculture Built on Modern Systems

How a U.S. agricultural company adopted web-based operations with Rocket® Visual COBOL®\*

## COMPANY OVERVIEW

This US-based agricultural company manages large-scale operations that depend on precise asset management and streamlined processes. The organization values operational efficiency and continuous improvement to support its core business activities.

### CHALLENGE

## Aging hardware threatens operational tracking

The company's entire business operations, from tracking field locations to managing vital records for its assets, were built on a foundational tracking application developed in the 1980s.

### CHALLENGE

The company urgently needed to replace obsolete data capture hardware while retaining the logic of its critical foundational tracking system.

For decades, employees had used specialized data capture hardware to input data directly into character-based green screens. However, this reliable system faced a critical threat when the manufacturer ceased production of these heritage devices. With no way to acquire or replace the required hardware, the company's entire method for tracking and managing its operations was on the verge of breakdown. The business urgently needed a fast, reliable, and effective way to interface its existing core application with modern, browser-based scanning technology to avoid operational delays.

### SOLUTION

## Transforming core applications with Rocket® Visual COBOL®

A strategic partnership was initiated with the customer through a targeted, 40-hour engagement. The primary focus of this collaboration was twofold: to facilitate a comprehensive skills transfer and to drive the necessary application modernization. By leveraging the advanced refactoring technology within Rocket® Visual COBOL®, Rocket's team guided the organization through the process of upgrading to the current software release and adapting its existing, time-tested programs.

Previously, the application's logic was routed to an outdated green screen interface, which was incompatible with modern hardware. The team was able to re-engineer this process by building RESTful web services. This transformation meant that critical details, such as identification numbers and operational records, could now serve as direct inputs to a modern web service. This innovative approach empowered the company to deploy contemporary devices equipped with standard web browsers, completely bypassing the need for heritage hardware and its associated maintenance challenges.

### SOLUTION

The company refactored its existing programs into web services, empowering the use of modern, browser-based devices.

## RESULTS

# Expanded integrations and future-ready operations

By transforming its closed programs into open, flexible web services, the company not only resolved its immediate hardware crisis but also created a framework that balances long-term objectives with short-term performance. This critical shift enabled employees to interact with a modern, intuitive user interface, which significantly reduced the learning curve and accelerated onboarding for new hires. Furthermore, because the core system now communicates through standardized APIs, the company's internal web team can easily and securely access essential business data to update the corporate website in real time. Looking ahead, the incorporation of RESTful services will make future hiring much easier. The organization will no longer need new hires to have extensive COBOL experience. Instead, it can attract talent ready to interact with the system through standard web services, fostering a more dynamic and innovative development environment.

\*Formerly a Micro Focus® product



## Seamless hardware modernization

Obsolete hardware was replaced with modern, browser-based devices, streamlining operations and improving data access.



## Enhanced system integration

The core application was successfully opened to external systems via RESTful APIs, improving connectivity and data sharing.



## Future Talent

With RESTful services, hiring will be simpler and more flexible, opening access to a broader range of talent.

## PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS

# Rocket® Visual COBOL®

### Key features

- Modernize heritage program logic with advanced refactoring technology.
- Create and integrate RESTful web services.
- Supports modern web and mobile interfaces.

### At a glance

- Bridges traditional applications with modern web browsers.
- Generates APIs for improved business-to-business connectivity.
- Reduces dependency on specialized heritage programming skills.



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