Rocket® ConnectiQ

Robotic Process Automation (RPA) for IBM® Z® applications

IBM® Z® mainframes are at the core of many businesses, processing millions of transactions a month. These transactions are often repetitive, and many are handled by humans who perform a series of steps to input data, place an order, process a claim or transaction, or make a change. The applications usually include green-screen interfaces, without streamlined processes or GUIs.

As someone hyper-focused on improving the productivity of the business, finding processes to automate is key. While there are many automation tools for the rest of your platforms, when it comes to the mainframe, widespread automation has remained just out of reach. No automation solutions understand the mainframe well enough to help.

As a result, companies that rely on mainframes need to ensure they always have staff with the skills and knowledge required to manage these processes. However, younger staff who are new to mainframes can require extended on-the-job training, and may struggle to understand how to navigate native interfaces. Even with knowledgeable mainframe staff, these manual, repetitive processes can affect customer service SLAs, extend processing times, increase costs, and introduce the potential for errors.

Product features

- Server-based solution that directly engages with the TN3270 data stream for efficiency and scale

- Reusable web services (REST and SOAP) integrate with other applications or RPA platforms

- Straightforward automation tools for business users

- Consistent business logic through updates to the IBM Z application

Product benefits

Customers can see extraordinary benefits when they implement mainframe automation:

- **Quick and significant ROI:** Customers often see millions of dollars in savings each year

- **Improve automated process rates:** Automate 90%+ of your routine processes, leading to faster throughput on claims processing, payments, and other business operations

- **Reduce employee turnover:** Provide more engaging, less tenuous work by automating the repetitive and monotonous tasks that drive employees to churn

- **Significantly reduce error rate:** Deliver better productivity and higher quality experiences for both employee and customer by minimizing the potential for errors

- **Improve the quality of customer engagement:** Automate repetitive, tedious tasks to improve the quality of customer service and support, freeing reps to focus on higher-value customer interactions instead of manual tasks

Rocket® ConnectiQ easily automates the many repetitive processes that must be executed thousands or millions of times a day on your core IBM Z applications using a technology known as Robotic Process Automation (RPA).

"Robots," or virtual workers, are easily programmed to interact directly with the mainframe's TN3270 interface, inputting data, making decisions, and processing an often-lengthy but predictable set of tasks at incredible scale. These robots can be directed—without additional instructions—to process the most common transactions, freeing up employees to focus on higher-value activities like customer service and more complex transactions. Best of all, RPA helps you hit your target process automation rates.

Efficiency on IBM Z at scale

Rocket ConnectiQ is a server-based solution that enables RPA specifically in IBM Z environments. Most RPA vendors approach the mainframe through an emulator, which is serviceable at low volumes but rapidly inhibits scale and performance for thousands of transactions.

Rocket ConnectiQ can access the mainframe system directly through the TN3270 interface, dramatically accelerating the processing speed. It can support thousands of sessions on a single platform, with both persistent and non-persistent connections.

REST and SOAP web services extend RPA value

Rocket ConnectiQ creates robots which can be run when called by another application or RPA tool, providing additional opportunities for business operational excellence.

Reusable web services are made available through the solution and are often connected to a broader RPA technology from vendors such as Blue Prism or UiPath. These solutions lack the direct TN3270 interface to operate at scale on IBM Z, so a natural handoff to a more purpose-built tool like ConnectiQ enhances the performance of the entire automation workflow.
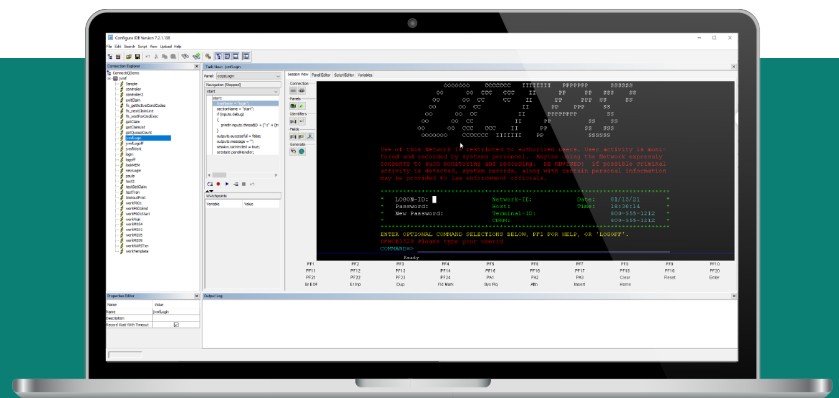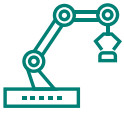
A GUI development environment helps users convert mainframe green screens to web services.

Tasks are created in an easy-to-use environment, with no programming experience required.

Features include screen identification, navigation, and error-handling with unit testing and debugging.

Figure 1: ConnectiQ provides built-in recording and playback, with full editing capabilities.

Automation for business users

Robots can be automated to perform each step of the process through a straightforward robot-definition tool. The tool is easy to use, and the automations are often defined by business users—not programmers. As processes get refined or workflows change, users can quickly and easily update their robots to take on greater challenges. Most customers find that, over time, they can automate far more than 75% of their processes.

Figure 2: Simple administration via easy-to-use web portal
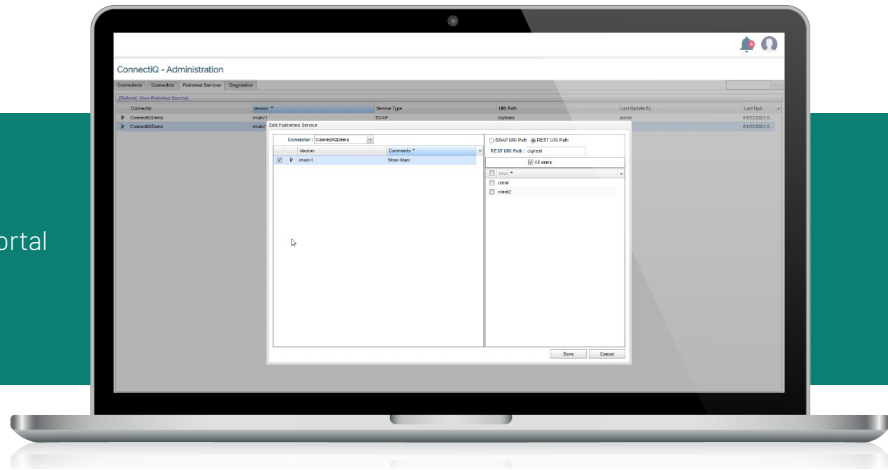
Robots update with the application

Mainframe applications often evolve over time. Due to the way they tag and identify elements of the interface, the Rocket ConnectiQ robots can easily adapt to most changes in the mainframe application without requiring reprogramming. This vastly simplifies the ongoing operation and maintenance of the solution.

Figure 3: Combine multiple screens into a single page

Tech Specs

Server	**Minimum requirements:** • RedHat/CentOS 7 or greater • 4 CPU cores • 12GB RAM • 500MB disk • SSL certificate
Configure IDE	• Microsoft Windows 10
Mainframe connections	• TN3270 and 3270E (Supports Multiple Display Mods) • Supports Encryption (TLS/SSL)

Rocket Software empowers organizations to create legendary impact in the world through innovation in legacy technologies. With deep expertise in IBM Z, IBM Power, and database and connectivity solutions, Rocket solutions power tens of thousands of global businesses, solving real problems and making real-world impact.