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Version 8.1 | highlights at a glance

Applying Windows XP and Vista control styles to graphical user interfaces headlines the production side of Version 8.1. Development related highlights include new conditional compiling features. Many other enhancements expand and improve upon the major features of 8.0 such as AcuXUI.

	The Enhancement	The Value
ACUCOBOL-GT® – Compiler		
Conditional compiling	The compiler now supports conditional compilation through the use of special constructs in the COBOL source file and by accepting command-line arguments that turn on compiler directives and set constants to values. This enables you to define conditions and whether or not lines/sections of code compile based on those conditions.	• Enables you to maintain a single source stream but compile it differently for different run-time (object code) variations. The same source code can have multiple branches of source code streams. By setting conditions you only include the "relevant" source code in the compilation.
Non-debugging programs	You can now compile a COBOL program so that it will not stop and enter the debugger.	• This is useful if you distribute COBOL objects and allow your users to create their own COBOL programs, but you don't want them to be able to debug your programs.
ACUCOBOL-GT – Runtime		
Vista & Windows XP visual control styles	By default ACUCOBOL-GT applications will now automatically use XP or Vista control styles when specified on the workstation (via the Windows Control Panel Display options).	• A more modern look and feel to applications that will also match the user's preferred Windows setting.
-Q Windows printing improvements	The -Q configuration feature has been enhanced with several new options. You may now specify paper format, paper tray, duplex printing, collate printing, color print, using current printer, using windows default printer and reset printer.	• Many more features to enhance the printing capabilities of your applications so that they more closely resemble "native" Windows programs.
C$XML improvements	You can now parse strings passed by reference.	• Improved interoperability, as you can now access XML data in cases where you only have a pointer to the source, such as a pointer returned from some other function or obtained from a website.

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	The Enhancement	The Value
ACUCOBOL-GT – Runtime continued		
.NET improvements	The error reporting messages for the LoadEntity and GetContainer functions have been improved to include why the failures occurred. Code improvements were made to the "wrunnet.dll" module. While these changes are invisible to the user, application performance improvement may be observed.	• No time spent trying to determine the cause of these errors. • Faster loading of controls.
Thin Client		
Instantiating non-GUI COM objects on host server	You can specify that a COM object is to be wholly instantiated on the specified server where the COM object is registered, all the work is done, and all resources reside.	• Better performance by carrying out operations or functions on the host server rather than the client.
Acu4GL®		
Table open improvements (DB2, ODBC)	New and more efficient internal API is available to use when searching and opening database tables.	• Faster processing of queries that search and open database tables – the larger the database, the more noticeable the performance gains becomes.
AcuBench®		
Report designer improvement	Enhancements to the report designer includes automatic generation of PERFORM loops via the property stylesheet, as opposed to the COBOL source file.	• Reports that can be entirely generated from the PSF file.
Automatic bitmap scaling	AcuBench now supports the BITMAP-SCALE property introduced in Version 8.0 via a new property option located on the property window.	• Automatic screen section code generation for enabling bitmap scaling.
AcuSQL®		
UNIX 64-bit	Support for AcuSQL connections to 64-bit drivers in the UNIX environment.	• True 64-bit connections.
AcuXUI®		
Grid control support	Support for grid controls.	• More complete GUIs.
Control refinements	Refinements were made to existing supported controls, events, applets, and bitmap handling.	• GUIs that look "cleaner" and behave more predictably in the target environment.
Setting OS display themes	Command-line options enable you to change the default OS display theme for a given AcuXUI deployment.	• Choice in OS displays themes for changing the look and feel of an AcuXUI interface.

For more information on these or other enhancements, contact your Acucorp representative today.