

DATA SHEET

MICRO FOCUS MAINFRAME EXPRESS ENTERPRISE EDITION® TEST SERVER

Business Challenge

Many organizations rely on mainframe applications to run critical parts of their businesses. Whether servicing existing customers or delivering a competitive advantage, these applications require frequent updates and enhancements to satisfy changing business requirements. As these applications are mission critical in nature, significant testing must be carried out before updates are released into production.

Required pre-production test phases are often a bottleneck in the release process and a source of spiralling operating costs. Unfortunately, the investment required in additional mainframe capacity to complete testing phases in optimum timeframes is significant. For most organizations, this investment is so significant that it compromises the amount of tests executed and the timescales to complete required testing are extended. These compromises delay products, services, and revenue generating opportunities.

Product Overview

Micro Focus Mainframe Express Enterprise Edition (MFEEE) Test Server is a mainframe COBOL application execution environment on Windows. As applications execute on Windows just as they would on the mainframe, a wide variety of pre-production testing activities can be performed on low cost commodity hardware rather than on the mainframe. MFEEE Test Server supports IBM COBOL, IBM Assembler, IBM CICS, IBM IMS-TM, IBM JCL, IBM DB2, IBM IMS-DB, IBM z/OS file formats and standard mainframe utilities. The source code is simply copied from the mainframe and compiled on Windows. The applications can then access data on the mainframe or alternatively, appropriate subsets of data can be moved to the Windows server which can be accessed locally to improve performance. Test teams, quality assurance engineers, end users, or Java and C programmers who are developing composite applications that utilize mainframe COBOL applications, can access the application running within the MFEEE Test Server environment to conduct their testing without consuming mainframe processing power.

Key Benefits

- Slash costs of key functional testing activities by using commodity Windows servers
- Complete testing phases faster as test cycles are not constrained by inadequate mainframe processing power
- Improve quality, as more testing can be accomplished in shorter time frames
- Find issues in batch performance or online transaction throughput earlier via more frequent baseline testing during release cycles
- Reduce costs related to massive increases in processing power normally required to test consolidated applications during mergers and acquisitions
- Accelerate innovation by providing Java or .NET programmers with a more responsive environment to perform unit testing against.

Feature Overview

SUPPORT FOR A WIDE VARIETY OF MAINFRAME APPLICATIONS

MFEEE Test Server includes a comprehensive set of tools and capabilities to enable just about any mainframe COBOL application to run on Windows including:

- Batch applications with JCL controlling the execution of COBOL or Assembler programs accessing DB2 or IMS databases or VSAM files
- Online CICS or IMS applications written in COBOL or Assembler
- CICS or IMS applications accessed via 3270 BMS or MFS screens or .NET/Java front ends
- Composite applications where .NET or Java applications on Linux, UNIX or Windows invoke mainframe COBOL programs or access mainframe data sources.

ENABLES PRE-PRODUCTION TESTING TO BE CONDUCTED OFF THE MAINFRAME

Once application source code is recompiled for execution on Windows, MFEEE Test Server can be used to support many types of testing while minimizing use of mainframe resources:

- .NET or Java programmers can conduct unit testing against applications and data on Windows rather than the mainframe
- Significant portions of Quality Assurance testing including functional regression tests, batch tests and manual testing can be conducted against applications running on Windows
- Selected performance and benchmarking activities can be conducted on Windows once base line metrics have been established
- Most user accept testing (UAT) can be conducted against the applications running within the MFEEE Test Server environment - end users are oblivious to the fact that the applications are actually executing on Windows

MAINFRAME CONNECTIVITY CAPABILITIES

To compile applications and execute them without accessing the mainframe, source and data must be moved from z/OS to Windows. To effectively do this MFEEE Test Server includes:

- Seamless and secure access to mainframe application source code and data resources
- Facilities to easily download source code and test data from the mainframe
- Remote access to mainframe data from the MFEEE Test Server environment
- Automated source synchronization between mainframe and LAN, including access to popular host configuration management systems such as CA-Endevor, Panvalet and Serena ChangeMan ZMF

SUPPORT FOR DATA ACCESS ON WINDOWS

MFEEE Test Server includes a complete set of tools and capabilities to enable applications to run against test data on Windows rather than the mainframe. Key capabilities and features include:

- Mainframe compatible file system that supports VSAM file types (KSDS, RRDS and ESDS), as well as Partitioned Datasets (PDSs) and Generation Dataset Groups (GDGs)
- Mainframe compatible DB2 and IMS DB databases that run on Windows
- Data file and database editors to enable QA engineers to define data structures and insert, update or delete data records quickly and easily to support testing on Windows
- Full EBCDIC character set support to ensure compatibility with the mainframe environment.

Product Specifications and System Requirements

Windows® XP, Windows Vista, Windows Server 2008, Windows Server™ 2003 connected to existing IBM System z mainframes or compatible mainframes.

For additional information please visit: www.microfocus.com