

MOVING TO APS FOR z/OS 5.0

WHY SHOULD I UPGRADE TO APS FOR z/OS 5.0?

There are a number of important reasons for moving to the latest release of APS for z/OS. These can be summarized as follows:

1. First, Micro Focus is committed to providing a first-rate level of support for all products it releases. To do this, it spends the necessary resources providing support for all maintained products. Over time, this means that older products will stabilize and not receive the same level of support as their later counterparts. To plan to move to the latest release of the APS product is to be in a position to receive the best possible level of support from Micro Focus.
2. Additionally, Micro Focus' ability to provide support for products also depends on 3rd party software or hardware upon which our products operate. For example, later releases of operating systems and other system software by IBM for the z Series, means that older versions may not be fully supported. Micro Focus is therefore limited in terms of the level of support it can provide by 3rd parties.
3. Furthermore, 3rd party vendors may introduce facilities within later releases that will not have been certified by Micro Focus on earlier releases of APS. For example Micro Focus cannot make any guarantees that APS for MVS 4.0 will operate correctly on later versions of IBM's operating system (z/OS). Micro Focus is aware, as an example, that IBM is now shipping the Language Environment Run-Time with some changes to the defaults compared with previous revisions. Specifically the ALL31 setting has been changed to 'ON'. This changes the execution dynamics of programs such that this setting has to be switched to 'OFF' in order for APS for MVS 4.0 to run. This has to be undertaken by the System Administrator and might only be encountered because of a failure in execution. By comparison, APS for z/OS 5.0 is aware of this ALL31 default change, and provides a new Applications-Specific Run-Time option to provide the necessary flexibility.
4. Any issues reported to Micro Focus against APS that require a software fix will be resolved by fixing the latest release of APS, namely APS for z/OS 5.0. Customers still using APS for MVS 4.0 should be aware that any requests for fixes would only be available by upgrading to the latest release.
5. Finally, APS for z/OS 5.0 includes not only certification against the latest IBM releases, but also includes software fixes for over 60 important customer-reported issues, as well as a small number of requested enhancements.

WHILST I PLAN MY UPGRADE, WILL APS FOR MVS 4.0 CONTINUE TO WORK UNDER IBM z/OS?

Micro Focus has no control over the operating environment in which APS executes. For this reason alone we are unable to make any guarantee that APS for MVS 4.0 will execute correctly under z/OS or against later releases of IBM system software.

Only when Micro Focus invests resources to certify the APS release against specific IBM releases can such guarantees be made. We have already found issues (such as the ALL31 default setting, as detailed above) where execution problems might occur. We cannot be certain that other issues do not exist.

Whilst there is anecdotal evidence from some customers that APS for MVS 4.0 does run correctly under z/OS, this is because of a small number of changes already made to the operating environment, but this still carries the risk of failure of running software under an uncertified operating environment.

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WHAT ARE THE MIGRATION ISSUES MOVING TO APS FOR z/OS 5.0?

WHAT IS MICRO FOCUS' GENERAL ADVICE ON MOVING TO THIS RELEASE?

The installation procedure for APS 5.0 is essentially the same as earlier releases of APS. Customers will have the same upgrade issues they have had in the past, namely reapplying changes they made in their current release of APS to APS software installed in the APS 5.0 release.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO IF I HAVE NOT MADE CUSTOMIZATIONS TO MY EXISTING APS PRODUCT?

If the customer has made no customizations then moving to 5.0 should be a straightforward task. This would ordinarily be less than a days work.

A full overview of the installation procedure for APS for z/OS 5.0 is detailed in the hardcopy Installation Guide, provided with the product. The hardcopy Getting Started manual takes you through typical application creation examples. Users familiar with previous versions of APS will recognize the very close similarity between the versions.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO IF I HAVE MADE CUSTOMIZATIONS TO MY EXISTING APS PRODUCT?

The task for these customers is to reapply changes made in their existing release, to the equivalent modules within the APS for z/OS 5.0 release.

Moving to a new release of APS on the mainframe will require the customer to undertake previous customizations on the new product. This effort will differ depending on the customizations previously undertaken.

Most work is going to be retrofitting customizations made to previous installations of APS. Micro Focus would be able to advise in certain situations, but typically such previous customizations are very specific to the user environment, and most users would wish to be responsible for this work themselves.

As a guideline, customers who customize APS would typically make changes to the following software components:

- ISPF panels and help panels (ISPPLIB and ISPPLIBH PDS's)
- Rule files (APSMACS PDS)
- Control files (CNTL PDS)
- File tailoring (ISPSLIB PDS)

Customers will need to reapply their modifications to the new files shipped in APS 5.0. All modules in the above mentioned PDS's have been changed in the APS 5.0 release. Most of these changes are copyright and company name related. Unfortunately, we do not have a list of files that had significant changes only. We advise customers to ensure each of their modifications from previous releases is carried forward.

WHAT CHANGES ARE REQUIRED TO EXISTING PROJECT/GROUP DATA?

Moving to Micro Focus APS for z/OS 5.0 will require no conversions or migrations of project data.

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IS THERE FURTHER DOCUMENTATION TO HELP ME PLAN MY MIGRATION?

Yes, Micro Focus can provide additional material, which outlines the steps in planning a migration from APS for MVS 4.0 to APS for z/OS 5.0. Please contact your Micro Focus support representative for further details.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I CONSIDER?

Release Notes

Another item to be aware of is related to the CEEUOPT override module and this is documented in the release notes on the CD. The release notes will also include any other information important to users moving to 5.0.

Product Enhancements

Some minor enhancements will also be provided within this initial release, for example:

- Support for the COBOL Compiler directive: pgmname(longmixed) via a new parameter, "LM", specified for the A2PGMGGEN step. When the parameter is used, the PROGRAM-ID name that is generated in the COBOL code will be enclosed in quotes.
- DB2 users can now specify Count (*) within Online Express, or use COUNT (*) with the DB-OBTAIN command to return a count of rows meeting the qualification specified.
- Many improvements will be incorporated into the COBOL pre-processor (APSCBL2) and the rules engine. These improvements will provide more flexibility with respect to data name usage and data base qualification.
- Report Writer will provide alternatives that customers have requested when defining the mock-up specification for some fields like date and page number.
- Several improvements will be made to the processing and notification where syntax errors are encountered in the COBOL pre-processor (APSCBL2) and the rules engine making resolution much easier.

Additionally, a list of fixes applied to this product is available from your Micro Focus representative.

Release Certification

APS for z/OS Version 5.0 has been certified for the following IBM Releases:

Z/OS	Z/OS 1.2
Enterprise Cobol	Enterprise Cobol V1R1
CICS	CICS V5R3 (TS 1.2)
IMS	IMS TM V6R1
DB2	DB2v7r0
ISPF	ISPF V2R3+

The following information should be noted if considering running APS for z/OS 5.0 against IBM releases earlier than those certified above:

APS for z/OS 5.0 was tested with OS/390 2.8 and z/OS 1.1, z/OS 1.2. No testing was done with older releases of OS/390 like 2.1 nor with older LE runtimes.

Micro Focus could not certify against older releases of LE due to the changes made within APS for z/OS 5.0 to support z/OS ALL31 compatibility. In older releases of OS/390 the product could fail to execute because of the link of all APS for z/OS modules with the CEEUOPT module from IBM. Our suggestion for customers looking to run against earlier versions of OS/390 would be for the customer to invest a couple of days effort to install the base APS for z/OS product and raise any questions to Micro Focus. Further discussions with IBM may then be required.