



Product Release Announcement

Micro Focus APS for z/OS v5.0

As many of our customers are already aware, Micro Focus APS is a highly productive development environment for creating mainframe applications, online and batch, using CICS, IMS/TM and data resources in VSAM, IMS/DB and DB2. APS generates 100% native code with no proprietary run-time support.

With over ONE BILLION lines of code running in production daily, APS is the proven solution to deliver high quality, high performance applications. APS allows users to develop their critical business applications better and faster.

Using APS, businesses can:

- Increase developer productivity by 40%
- Build COBOL applications with outstanding performance
- Deliver reliable applications with no proprietary run-time environment
- Leverage developer skills across a wide variety of environments including CICS, IMS/TM and batch
- Leverage mainframe data assets in VSAM, DB2 and IMS/DB without extensive developer training

To continue serving our APS users today and in the future, Micro Focus is pleased to announce **Micro Focus APS for z/OS 5.0**, available immediately. Below are answers to the most frequently asked questions about this new release. You can find out more about APS by visiting www.microfocus.com/products/aps/.

Why is this release important to you?

This release of APS will benefit Micro Focus' customers in a number of ways:

- 1) It further demonstrates our commitment to our application generator customer base
- 2) It provides customers with the latest fix level for APS
- 3) It provides a number of useful enhancements requested from customers
- 4) It is certified against and engineered for the latest releases of IBM's operating systems and subsystems

What Platforms are supported with this release?

APS runs on any processor that supports the following required system software

- IBM MVS, OS/390 or z/OS 1.2
- IBM Language Environment (LE)

What Environments are supported with this release?

APS for z/OS supports the following DB/DC target environments

- MVS-IMS DC
- MVS CICS
- MVS-ISPF Dialog
- ISPF Prototype
- MVS-SQL
- MVS-IMS DB
- MVS-IDMS DB
- MVS-VSAM

APS also supports the following COBOL compilers:

- OS/VS COBOL
- VS COBOL-II
- COBOL for OS/390
- Enterprise COBOL

What IBM Certification has been granted to Micro Focus?

This release of APS has been certified against the latest versions of IBM system software:

- IBM z/OS 1.2 Operating System
- DB2 Version 7.0 and 7.1
- CICS 5.3 TS Version 1.2 and 1.3
- IMS Version 6.1
- ISPF Version 2.3
- COBOL for OS/390 Version 2.2, Enterprise COBOL 1.1

(The APS source COBOL modules were compiled with COBOL for OS/390 Version 2.2)

What are some of the newest features in the new APS release?

This release of APS contains a number of functional enhancements:

- 1) Support for the COBOL Compiler directive: pgmname(longmixed) via a new parameter, "LM", specified for the A2PGMGEN step. When the parameter is used, the PROGRAM-ID name that is generated in the COBOL code will be enclosed in quotes.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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.
- 4) Report Writer will provide alternatives customers have requested when defining the mock-up specification for some fields like date and page number.
- 5) 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.

This release also includes resolutions to 70 of the most important issues raised by our customers since the last release of APS. For a list of the fixes to address many of these issues, please see our website or contact your support representative

How much will the new release cost?

This product is available as a free upgrade to all maintenance paying customers

What is going to happen to AppMaster Builder?

AppMaster Builder (AMB) is the sibling PC-based version of APS. We are not making an update to this product in its current form, but instead it will form part of the forthcoming new strategic mainframe application development offering Mainframe Express Enterprise Edition. Please visit www.microfocus.com/products/MFEEE for more information on this strategic upgrade.