

DATA SHEET

MICRO FOCUS NET EXPRESS® WITH .NET

Business Challenge

Economic pressures on corporate IT departments have never been harder than today. IT teams have to balance keeping the organization functioning while continuing to deliver innovation and support for business initiatives to improve corporate performance.

The Microsoft .NET framework has rapidly become one of the standard development and deployment platforms being used across the enterprise. By adding COBOL support for .NET and Visual Studio, existing COBOL applications can exploit .NET services and be deployed alongside other .NET languages.

Product Overview

Micro Focus Net Express® with .NET is a COBOL development environment that takes core business processes and extends them to the .NET Framework and other distributed platforms. Using Net Express with .NET you can quickly construct enterprise components and services from your existing business logic and use these to develop new Microsoft® .NET, web or client/server applications across your distributed enterprise. Net Express with .NET provides an environment both to build new applications and leverage proven business logic, data and programming resources, dramatically reducing the development cycle and accelerating deployment of contemporary business applications.

Business Benefits

- Develop and test managed and verifiable COBOL applications for the latest .NET Framework (v3.5) to quickly launch new business initiatives using the latest technologies
- Use the most productive, modern IDE, Visual Studio for highly productive development and testing.
- Build modern user interfaces using Windows Presentation Foundation (WPF) for improved usability and productivity
- Integrate with external services using Windows Communication Foundation (WCF) for flexible deployments and systems integration.
- Access relational databases via ADO.NET for access to standard database and increased business efficiency.

Detailed Feature Overview

DELIVERING COBOL INTO THE .NET FRAMEWORK

Net Express® with .NET provides a highly productive, functionally rich development and analysis environment for the creation, reuse, extension, analysis and maintenance of COBOL applications deployed on Windows. All of the capabilities of Net Express are available to support COBOL development (see the Net Express Data Sheet for details) and Net Express with .NET elevates COBOL to a 'first class citizen' within the Microsoft .NET Framework.

Using Net Express with .NET, COBOL applications will compile to MSIL (Microsoft Intermediate Language) and execute in conjunction with the Microsoft CLR (Common Language Runtime). COBOL applications therefore have access to the functionality of the .NET Framework while at the same time existing assets can be reused and extended. Net Express with .NET combined with Visual Studio 2008 provides the capability to target multiple versions of the .NET Framework 2.0, 3.0 and 3.5 and both managed and verifiable code COBOL applications can be deployed either as 32- or 64-bit applications.

Reusing and Extending COBOL Code in the .NET Framework

Existing procedural (non object-oriented) code can be reused in the .NET Framework without the need to re-architect it as object oriented code. New multiple run unit support enables procedural COBOL code to be accessed multiple times simultaneously, for example when called from a Web Form Interface or a series of Web services. As well as supporting the reuse of existing COBOL code under .NET, enhanced Object COBOL syntax and data types provide natural and concise exploitation of the .NET Framework from COBOL applications.

HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE COBOL DEVELOPMENT WITH VISUAL STUDIO 2008

Net Express integrates with and extends Microsoft Visual Studio 2008, combining the ease-of-use and familiarity of Visual Studio with the power and usability of COBOL, to deliver a strategic development environment including:

Ability to easily build, customize and maintain Visual Studio COBOL projects, create solutions combining COBOL projects and those in Microsoft languages

Net Express with .NET includes the Microsoft Visual Studio 2008 Shell or alternatively adds COBOL support to your own Visual Studio 2008 (all editions except Express Editions)

- Pre-supplied COBOL project types for common types of COBOL applications such as console or Web applications
- New additional COBOL templates in Net Express with .NET reduce the development time for your new applications and modules by supplying the building-blocks to kick-start new applications
- COBOL Class Browser capability through the Visual Studio Class View facilitates rapid effective COBOL Object Oriented development
- COBOL language colorization, Watch Windows, breakpoints and more when coding and debugging
- COBOL applications with Visual Studio - Enhanced IntelliSense support provides prompting to aid the development for both procedural and object oriented code

The same Visual Studio IDE can be used to build and seamlessly debug composite applications consisting of COBOL, Visual C#®, Visual Basic® .NET and all other languages supported by Visual Studio 2008.

REUSING AND RAPIDLY EXTENDING COBOL SQL CODE WITH ADO.NET

Net Express provides ground breaking capabilities for creating, reusing and extending COBOL SQL applications:

- Reuse and retain existing OpenESQL application portability through ODBC
- Provide managed ADO.NET data access without source code change

OTHER KEY FEATURES

- **COBOL with XML** allows creation, consumption and update of XML documents using familiar COBOL syntax
- **Production Debugging and Diagnostics** allow Net Express to be used to investigate issues in live production systems
- **Integration with Server Express on UNIX** supports the development and deployment of applications across Linux, UNIX and Windows.
- **OpenESQL** transparently translates embedded SQL statements into ODBC API calls for access to multiple relational database systems.

Product Specifications and System Requirements

Windows® XP, Windows Vista, Windows Server 2008, Windows Server™ 2003, or Windows 2000

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