

Micro Focus Mainframe Express Enterprise Edition

Nearly every business is looking to deliver new or improved products and services to stay competitive, gain market share and drive growth. Such innovation normally requires support from subject matter experts (SMEs) within the IT group. Unfortunately with many IT organizations spending in excess of 80% of their time keeping existing applications compliant and functioning as expected, the appropriate SMEs cannot be freed up to support an innovation agenda.

IT teams need new approaches to enable them to balance keeping the business functioning while allowing key developers to focus on innovation initiatives to improve corporate performance.

Product Overview

Micro Focus® Mainframe Express Enterprise Edition is a Windows based analysis and integrated development environment (IDE) for mainframe COBOL development organizations that has been proven to deliver productivity improvements of at least 30%.

The product supports IBM COBOL, IBM Assembler, IBM CICS, IBM JCL, IBM DB2, IBM IMS (TM and DB), IBM z/OS file formats and SORT utilities on Windows. This means the day to day analysis, edit, compile and debug tasks to maintain and improve core online and batch applications can be undertaken on Windows workstations. Each developer can work offline from the mainframe using their dedicated workstation or laptop rather than relying on mainframe processing power.

Analysis and compilation tasks that can take hours on the mainframe can be completed in minutes. In addition, as all the development, testing and modernization tools are at the developers fingertips they can complete analysis and development tickets quicker, perform more comprehensive unit testing with less effort, and deliver higher quality updates significantly faster. Developers then connect back to the mainframe where all updates are synchronized and promoted for subsequent testing phases on the mainframe.

Key Benefits

- Drive productivity up by as much as 50%, as developers re-use existing skills and expertise within a highly productive graphical environment with a dedicated CPU that removes all potential mainframe processing bottlenecks
- Free developers time allowing more business requirements to be fulfilled with the same resources while releasing key SMEs for initiatives which will deliver the biggest benefits

Product Specifications and System Requirements

- Windows Vista
- Windows 7.0
- Windows Server 2008
- Windows Server 2003 connected to existing IBM System z mainframe or 100% compatible mainframe

- Slash overall costs of service design and service transition as more compressive unit testing can be accomplished earlier
- Deliver new or improved business services faster by using tools to expose existing mainframe transactions as Web services for faster re-use, and to help aggregate complex screen flows into more intuitive, productive user interfaces
- Increase IT flexibility as existing mainframe application developers can quickly become SMEs on more applications, and non-mainframe developers can very quickly contribute to mainframe application development if required.

Key Features

Powerful Integrated Development Environment

- A complete mainframe application maintenance, development and modernization environment that exploits the graphical user interfaces of Windows and the power of modern processors to improve developer productivity.

Full Application Development Life Cycle Support on the Desktop

- Support all phases of the mainframe application development life cycle, from initial application design and generation, through analysis, development, compilation, unit testing and debugging
- Existing Micro Focus APS or AppMaster Builder application specifications can be imported for ongoing application maintenance and development using the existing application generation paradigms
- Application understanding and analysis capabilities enable developers to learn more about their application structure, understand the potential impact of individual changes and reduce the risk of inadvertently introducing errors

- The IDE provides rapid access to all of the tools needed to maintain, improve, modernize and test COBOL-based applications that will be deployed on IBM mainframes including Enterprise COBOL, COBOL for OS/390, COBOL for MVS, COBOL/370, VS COBOL II and OS/VS COBOL applications
- Improved testing via sophisticated visual debugging capabilities for analysis of the execution flow of applications to help determine changes, ensure that updates deliver the desired results, and resolve any unforeseen coding issues.

Application Modernization through SOA Express

- Capture business processes supported through existing mainframe CICS or IMS applications
- Automatically generate reusable services through industry-standard components in the form of Java Beans, EJB, .NET, XML, WML, Web services and J2ME
- Simplify and aggregate complex user interfaces and screen work flows
- Expose valuable processes and business rules as Web services for rapid re-use in new applications.

Effective Team-Working and Collaboration

- Provides application work-grouping to allow developers to share source files, data and program executables
- Supports secure, centralized team management and greatly simplifies the task of setting up a shared development environment for many users
- Defines up to 10 levels of source, copy or load libraries that can reside on the LAN or the mainframe and be viewed by all the developers in the workgroup (equivalent to having concatenated mainframe datasets)
- Utilizes LAN or host based source code management systems and collaboration tools such as CA Endeavor or Microsoft Visual Studio Team Foundation Server to maximize team efficiency.

Host Connectivity

- Seamless but secure access to mainframe application source code and data resource
- Test data (e.g. VSAM, QSAM, DB2 and IMS) and source code can be easily downloaded from the mainframe, or kept on the mainframe and accessed remotely from within the IDE
- Automated source synchronization between mainframe and LAN development libraries, including access to common host configuration management systems such as CA-Endevor, Panvalet and Micro Focus ChangeMan ZMF
- Submission of JCL from the IDE to be executed on the mainframe
- Visibility of the mainframe job output queue from the workstation, without the need to log on to TSO.

Comprehensive Mainframe Subsystem Support

The IDE includes support for mainframe application and operating environment elements without which no mainframe programmer could be truly productive, including:

- Tools to manage test data including a data file editor which can operate in both EBCDIC and hexadecimal modes
- Integrated support for JCL and REXX including full multi-step JCL engine with support for JES2 and JES3
- Mainframe compatible CICS transaction processing and BMS screen support to enable complete online CICS application to be executed, tested and debugged on the workstation
- An IMS TM transaction processing environment including MFS screen processing to enable online IMS TM application to be executed, tested and debugged on the workstation
- IMS-DB and DB2 database compatible databases and comprehensive mainframe file system support
- IBM mainframe assembler edit, compile, debug and run time support.

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