Reach Out and Touch the Mainframe with TouchUX

Once the thing of science fiction, touch screens are now commonplace in the work world. At best, using a touch interface can feel effortless and productive. At worst, it can be a slow and maddening process finding the buttons and functions you need. Unfortunately, accessing a mainframe application on a touch screen often falls into this second category. But it doesn’t have to.

Getting in Touch with the Green Screen

To get to mainframe applications, your users are likely using a terminal emulator like Micro Focus® Reflection® Desktop. You may also be serving up this Windows application to mobile devices using a virtual environment like Citrix or VMware. The problem is that these Windows-based applications do not account for the reduced screen real estate of mobile devices and are not designed to accommodate a touch-based user experience.

Mainframe applications require program function keys that aren’t available on Windows keyboards. In addition to being set up differently, touch screen keyboards often offer limited keys, with special characters on a second or third page of keys.

Similarly, the ribbon interface in Windows applications like Reflection Desktop is a perfect productivity tool when you have a mouse to guide your pointer. For smaller touch screens, tapping the many, tiny options within an application can be difficult.

For accessing mainframe applications on a touch screen, it would be best to have a simplified, streamlined interface with the kind of easy-to-tap buttons that make good touch interfaces such a pleasure to use. That’s what Reflection TouchUX can do.

A Mainframe-Focused Keyboard

A standard mobile device keyboard usually doesn’t include the keys necessary to interact with a mainframe application or buries function keys two or more taps deep, and the keyboard itself often takes up a lot of valuable screen space. In contrast, the Reflection TouchUX keyboard is a transparent overlay which includes necessary program function (PF) and attention identifier (AID) keys. Like other keyboards, there is a second “page” of options, but in Reflection TouchUX these options are geared to the symbols and items mainframe application users are most likely to need.

Reflection Desktop at a Glance

- **Mainframe-Focused Keyboard:**
  Provides a keyboard with a transparent overlay, which includes necessary program function (PF) and attention identifier (AID) keys.

- **Ease of Use:**
  Allows users to hide the keyboard in order to see mainframe screen easily.

- **Full Screen Mode:**
  Offers a full screen mode so you can take full advantage of every pixel of screen available to you.

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Product Flyer

Reflection Desktop

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Peek Key
If the transparent keyboard gets in the way, Reflection TouchUx provides an easy way to move it aside. A tap of the peek key in the lower right corner of the keyboard makes the keyboard vanish temporarily, allowing users to see the mainframe screen more easily.

Full Screen Mode
Reflection TouchUx also offers a full screen mode so you can take full advantage of every pixel of screen available to you. In full screen mode, users can view the entire green screen, without the Reflection Desktop task bar at the top. A small button in the top right of the screen lets users return to the normal view.

Session Switcher
Most users use Reflection Desktop to access multiple host applications, so switching between sessions should be easy—which is why Reflection TouchUx features a session switcher. It works much the same way that switching between web browser pages works on mobile devices. You tap the switcher button, which then pops up the available sessions. You can swipe to scroll through them, then tap the session you want.

Bringing a Mainframe to the Tip of your Finger
The touch-screen future is here. But behind the sleek surface are the same mainframes and mainframe applications that have powered transactions and data processing for the last 50 years. The task of the modern IT department is to keep today’s users working productively on all their devices as they access these legacy applications. With Reflection TouchUx, you can put mainframe power at the tip of your users’ fingers.
A single tap on the session switcher brings up a carousel of available sessions which users can switch to with another tap.

**About Micro Focus**

Since 1976, Micro Focus has helped more than 20,000 customers unlock the value of their business logic by creating enabling solutions that bridge the gap from well-established technologies to modern functionality. The two portfolios work to a single, clear vision—to deliver innovative products supported by exceptional customer service. [www.microfocus.com](http://www.microfocus.com)

**The Reflection Connection**

For 30+ years, Reflection terminal emulation software has worked behind the scenes to connect your business and customers to the information they need.

Everyone is connected to a mainframe in some way. Whether you are an executive for a large enterprise, a small business owner, or an individual consumer, Reflection makes it easy to safely access IBM, UNIX, OpenVMS, and HP systems and data from any device.

In short, Reflection connects you to the data that runs the world.
At best, using a touch interface can feel effortless. At worst, it can be a slow and maddening process. Accessing a mainframe application on a touch screen often falls into this second category, but with Reflection TouchUx, it doesn’t have to.