

MAIF

Micro Focus Visual COBOL delivers superior user experience and value from existing application investment.

Who is MAIF?

Founded in 1934, MAIF has developed a human-centered mutual insurance model. Each of its 4.2 million members is both an insurer and insured. This philosophy has been reflected in its missions and actions since the origins of the organization. MAIF offers a different, responsible, and efficient trust-based model.

COBOL Basis Allows Modernization in Line with Changing Requirements

For many decades MAIF heavily relied on its BULL mainframe environment. This housed

"Thanks to the reliability and longevity of COBOL, Micro Focus Visual COBOL by OpenText enabled us to breathe new life into our BULL mainframe-hosted business-critical solutions. Having digitized our core services, evoleen.byGecko's CCM ensures that our policyholders always have reliable access to online self-service applications, securing our 24/7 availability guarantee."

PATRICK GUENEAU

IS Architect
MAIF

business-critical solutions to support its policyholders. However, this came to a natural end when, in the early 2000s, BULL announced the end-of-life timeline for its mainframe. By then, MAIF was also in the process of a widespread recentralization, and it wanted to move towards a modernized environment to take better advantage of its online presence.

Patrick Gueneau, IS Architect with MAIF, explains further: "We wanted to offer more self-service options to our policyholders and modernize and digitize their experience, in line with their changing needs and lifestyles. Thankfully our architecture was designed using COBOL and this simple fact meant we were able to leverage Micro Focus™ Visual COBOL™ by OpenText to change the environment without changing the business logic or component parts."

Micro Focus Visual COBOL provides organizations such as MAIF with the ability to create new customer value from existing application investments. By reusing core application logic, Micro Focus Visual COBOL removes the risk associated with re-write or replacement strategies which expose the business to uncertain costs and extended delivery time frames. With Micro Focus Visual COBOL, organizations can quickly and safely respond to new business requirements with predictable and highly cost-effective results.



At a Glance

Industry

Insurance

Location

France

Challenge

Move from a mainframe environment to a more open, hybrid, architecture and modernizing key business applications for a better user experience

Products and Services

Micro Focus Visual COBOL

Success Highlights

- + COBOL code base ensures smooth migration from BULL mainframe to a UNIX-based environment
- + SOA approach ensures basis for future modernization
- + Improved system availability through transparent and simultaneous transaction and batch processing
- + Better user experience with enhanced Web-based self-service capabilities for policyholders
- + Streamlined development ensures rapid response to changing business requirements

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Faster Batch Processing and a New Service-Oriented Architecture Approach

MAIF chose a service-oriented architecture (SOA) approach, including web services to move the key insurance solutions to a much more open UNIX-based environment. This was then the platform from which future modernization could take place and on which new services could be built. All front-end solutions were modernized, leveraging Java-based rich interfaces, and streamlining the development effort with the user-friendly Micro Focus Visual COBOL interface. Where once solutions were running in client/server mode on MAIF advisors' PCs, today they are Web applications that continue to call on the COBOL core while offering a far superior user experience.

Because MAIF operates in many French territories, including Reunion Island, Guadeloupe, and Martinique, the transaction processing window is quite long, which does not leave much time to batch process all the daily transactions. If ever there was an issue with an anomaly or an incident, a decision would need to be made on whether the transaction processing window could be opened despite batch processing not having finished yet. And, of course, as more of MAIF's business became digitized, online availability still needed to be guaranteed even during the batch processing window. This is when MAIF turned to evoleen.byGecko.

Patrick Gateau, Co-Founding Partner at evoleen.byGecko, picks up the story: "We are a computer engineering company specializing in digital solutions to help large organizations

modernize their operations. To ensure that large volume batch processing is as reliable and secure in the new, more open, environment as it was on the mainframe, we have developed COBOL Checkpoint Manager (CCM). This is designed to manage simultaneous and transparent transaction and batch processing. When system performance is at risk, batch processing will be paused and saved at that point. This will automatically restart, based on system performance parameters, so that the 24/7 availability is always guaranteed."

Micro Focus Visual COBOL Creates New Value for MAIF Users

CCM adds significant value to MAIF as Micro Focus Visual COBOL users. Because of the balanced approach, CCM stabilizes performance and processing time with clients often experiencing up to 20 percent faster processing time in large batch volumes. It manages transactions and eliminates the need for data locks, by way of managed system shutdowns, while guaranteeing data integrity in the event of a system crash without the need for complex restart procedures. "With over 100 daily batch processes, the CCM functionality is really crucial to us," comments Gueneau. "We no longer need to worry about batch processes or how long they take when we design our solutions, as the simultaneous process will manage it all transparently. Our 24-hour process monitoring team completely relies on the batch process committing updates automatically to enable transaction processing. If we need to stop a batch for any reason, it can be restarted without any risk."

He concludes: "Thanks to the reliability and longevity of COBOL, Micro Focus Visual COBOL enabled us to breathe new life into our BULL mainframe applications. Instead of a disruptive 'big bang' migration, we could modernize different elements of our environment over time and gradually move them to a hybrid platform, where data moves seamlessly between on-premises backend applications and Azure-based cloud Web environments. Having digitized our core services, evoleen.byGecko's CCM ensures that our policyholders always have reliable access to online self-service applications, securing our 24/7 availability guarantee."

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