Micro Focus and the Department of Defense

The Battlefield of the Future

What does the battlefield of the future look like — and how do we prepare our warfighters to win that battle? Is it urban or desert, is it defending against guerrilla insurgents, or rooting out terrorists in the city center? Is it delivering shelter and medicine to those in humanitarian need, or is it in the new cyber domain, where hackers and foreign intelligence organizations probe the Department of Defense’s (DoD) 15,000 networks millions of times a day? At Micro Focus, we are committed to helping the DoD prepare for tomorrow’s battles today.

Much of the DoD – its 4,000 installations in 88 countries – is run on yesterday’s technology; mainframes and servers that provide critical support to intelligence, logistics, and operational missions. The warfighters of tomorrow need real-time access to information systems that were designed before smartphones or tablet computers existed. The challenge is to preserve those critical systems, an investment of hundreds of millions of dollars, thousands of man-hours, and years — if not decades — of proven capability, and make them available to warfighters on the ground today. To ensure they are accessible via hand-held devices or network-connected computers, through the cloud or through a virtualized network; and make it work on the battlefield of the future.

The Case for COBOL

Many of the DoD’s critical systems are written in COBOL, a programming language that has been around for more than 50 years. The language may be legacy, but it’s also proven; 90 percent of daily global financial transactions are processed in COBOL and it boasts a developer community in excess of one million. Today, 100 percent of Fortune 100 companies rely on COBOL for their bottom line. This is not a programming language on the decline, or one to replace with a new, costly, and unproven alternative. But there is a legitimate need to migrate existing systems for the future needs of the warfighter — and that’s exactly what companies, federal agencies, and the DoD have been turning to Micro Focus for since 1976.

MICRO FOCUS SERVICES

COBOL Without Barriers

COBOL is the world’s most powerful, precise, and high performance business computing language — which is why it’s no surprise that many of the DoD’s core systems operate on this proven platform. Because of the language’s longevity, these systems have evolved along with the defense agencies they support, and they continue to perform mission-critical tasks efficiently and reliably. With Micro Focus, the DoD can now access COBOL on whichever deployment platform or framework makes most business sense. By taking COBOL forward to new platforms like .NET, Java Virtual Machine (JVM), and the cloud, agencies can now deliver critical applications to the warfighter – wherever the battle may take them — extending DoD’s reach and significantly reducing mainframe costs.
Virtual Mainframe

DoD applications operate best when they are free to deliver maximum value on the right platform for the right mission. Releasing applications, development, or testing activities from restrictions — or even migrating an entire mainframe environment — increases the DoD’s agility to respond to emerging threats and evolving mission requirements. It also can save agencies significant mainframe costs — even in the first year of implementation.

- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) replicated a zOS environment onto HP-UX-Itanium and deployed the servers to Afghanistan, increasing performance and providing an additional capability that directly supports the mission — at a much lower cost than implementing a true mainframe.
- An Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD)-level agency moved applications off zOS and onto Solaris, reducing yearly mainframe costs from $14.5 million a year to only $2.7 million a year — an 81 percent reduction.
- The U.S. Postal Service migrated mainframe zOS applications to zLinux and achieved savings of $6 million a year.

Application Development

Developing software for the DoD can be a costly and complex process, especially in an environment populated by multiple platforms and programming languages. Micro Focus tools help DoD software teams develop and deliver better applications through closer alignment to mission needs, improved quality, and faster, stronger delivery processes — independent of language or platform. We provide a toolset that combines all phases of the development lifecycle, from Requirements Definition and Management to Testing and Software Change Management. This integrated software quality approach is included in the leadership category of Gartner’s Magic Quadrant and positions agencies to deliver results on time and within budget. Whatever the preferred development environment, whatever the need, DoD agencies can now benefit from world class tools to define requirements, test applications, and manage configuration and change.

The Micro Focus Difference

As government leaders continue to rein in spending, the DoD is facing serious budget challenges. But that does not mean it has to sacrifice its commitment to delivering on its mission, or its promise to the warfighter — to provide them the best infrastructure and the most effective tools to achieve their goals. At Micro Focus, we are dedicated to upholding that integrity, which is why our promise is a simple one: to help the DoD migrate its infrastructure for the future needs of the warfighter, while providing a proven path to significant cost savings in year one. For thirty-five years, we have helped organizations across the globe migrate their systems, providing tangible results that make a difference today, while laying the foundation for tomorrow.

Micro Focus solutions are available through

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About Micro Focus

Micro Focus has proudly supported the government since our founding in 1976. For more information, visit us at www.microfocus.com/federal.

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