

# State Agency

Micro Focus Visual COBOL enables AS/400 migration to the cloud, delivering 60% development productivity improvement and 45% operational cost savings.



## Need for Infrastructure Modernization with Full COBOL Code Reuse

Partnering with local leaders to positively impact and enhance the quality of life in the State's communities, this government agency manages vital programs to help address critical community needs and services. Its IT infrastructure consisted of COBOL-based solutions deployed in an IBM AS/400 data center with associated operating costs.

The agency's IT Director explains the issue at hand: "New applications are developed to

**"Collaborating with Micro Focus (now part of OpenText™) Professional Services consolidated our disparate platforms and gave us a better structured backup and disaster recovery process. We delivered 45% cost savings, improved our development productivity by 60%, and drastically reduced the risk to business continuity."**

IT DIRECTOR  
State Agency

reside on modern cloud platforms, and we need to integrate our core applications with our enterprise solutions. The code within the AS/400 applications was not optimized and was overly complex. We struggled to support the code and desired functionality because of undocumented and compound programming. Overall, we recognize that our AS/400 platform no longer conforms with our modern IT services and functions and so we looked for a change.

Our agency heavily relies on our COBOL-based solutions and with over 250,000 lines of COBOL code, we want to make sure decades of business practice, data integrity, and business processes aren't lost in the process of technological change. We needed to replatform the applications while retaining essential application knowledge and operational capacity. A shift to a proactive development approach allowed us to optimize these applications for enterprise projects."

## Successful Migration from AS/400 to Windows

Exploring different options led the agency's IT team to OpenText. Micro Focus™ Visual COBOL by OpenText™ is designed to transform core business systems written in COBOL using modern technologies, such as .NET. The

## At a Glance

- **Industry**  
Government
- **Location**  
United States
- **Challenge**  
Replace a costly and aging infrastructure to create more agile development processes, while retaining the business logic developed over decades
- **Products and Services**  
[Micro Focus Visual COBOL Professional Services](#)
- **Success Highlights**
  - + 60% development productivity improvement in DevOps-ready modern environment
  - + 45% operational cost savings and 6-month ROI by decommissioning legacy platform
  - + Seamless migration from AS/400 to flexible AWS cloud implementation
  - + Improved system performance
  - + Flexible integration capabilities with potential for advanced data analytics
  - + Eliminated technical debt and mitigated skill loss to drastically reduce business continuity risk

**"[Micro Focus] Visual COBOL improved our debugging capability and has given us clear source code versioning and history. The modern integrated environment makes it easier to attract new development talent into the team, and we are excited to welcome on board skilled programmers to take our solutions to the next level."**

**IT DIRECTOR**  
State Agency

**Connect with Us**  
[OpenText CEO Mark Barrenechea's blog](#)



combination of Visual COBOL and expert guidance from OpenText™ Professional Services offered a best-practice rehosting pathway. The turnkey solution moved the agency's applications from AS/400 to a cost-effective Amazon Web Services (AWS) cloud infrastructure, leveraging .NET. This preserved and re-used existing business logic and most of the application code and data components were migrated as is. Any new applications are easily integrated using standard API technology. In the same project, the DB2/400 databases were all converted to Microsoft SQL Server, making the data easily accessible for all relevant applications via OpenText™ Database Connectors.

### **Micro Focus Visual COBOL Delivers 60% Development Productivity Improvement and Many Other Benefits**

The migration project took just over six months and resulted in the decommissioning of the AS/400 system. This directly led to a 45 percent operational cost reduction and full ROI on the OpenText investment. More importantly though, it revolutionized the development effort with a move towards DevOps and agile operations. "Our developers can resolve any application issues much faster, leveraging the user-friendly Visual Studio environment," comments the IT Director. "We calculate a development productivity increase of 60 percent: moving to a .NET environment means we now take workloads that could consume weeks and months down to just hours and days. In addition, there is a clear separation of source and production systems, and a single development view identifies all programs across any

application. We can address the full scope of the solution and optimize with a far more flexible IDE than was available to us on the AS/400. Micro Focus Visual COBOL improved our debugging capability and has given us clear source code versioning and history. The modern integrated environment makes it easier to attract new development talent into the team, and we are excited to welcome on board skilled programmers to take our solutions to the next level."

The AWS cloud environment delivers scalable on-demand services and proven disaster recovery in minutes. With all data backed up in the cloud, there is no further need for the offsite tape storage services that were required for the AS/400 system. The team has also reduced its paper usage, as it is easy to print to file from the new environment to create an online reports archive. The new SQL databases are quick to render and extract information from, which benefits reporting. Data sources can also be leveraged by Excel or Power BI for more sophisticated analytics. The new system has been fully documented with a complete user interface map for full transparency and visibility. In doing this, the team could remove any unused options to optimize system performance.

### **Eliminating Technical Debt while Reducing Management Risk**

The organization resolved the technical debt of aging IT systems and modernized development with Micro Focus Visual COBOL and AWS. This creates a consistent and unified development collaboration in a high-performance environment. The agency is delighted with the

results, as stated by its IT Business Solutions Manager: "This is an impressive feat on multiple levels, both from a technology and business perspective. I'm most proud of the teamwork and commitment. The journey of the past six months has inevitably given us various challenges, but they've been met and overcome with perseverance and professionalism."

The IT Director concludes: "This great example of everyone working together to achieve a common goal goes down as a major success in our history. Collaborating with Micro Focus (now part of OpenText™) Professional Services consolidated our disparate platforms and gave us a better structured backup and disaster recovery process. We delivered 45% percent cost savings, improved our development productivity by 60% percent, and drastically reduced the risk to business continuity."

Learn more at  
[www.microfocus.com/opentext](http://www.microfocus.com/opentext)