

Get Cloud-Ready

Quick wins on the road to
Destination Cloud





The Modernization Imperative

Your business must constantly adapt to change and your IT systems must adapt with you. 92 percent of organizations see their COBOL and mainframe applications as a strategic necessity but they're also keen to take advantage of cloud computing. Modernizing these assets is a critical part of your strategic journey to cloud, even if cloud is not the direct end goal.

So whether your destination is the cloud, or you want to be able to interact with newer modern technologies more effectively and efficiently, we have some steps you can take now to get your journey started.

Three steps to get you started on your journey to the cloud.

1

Get cloud-ready by adopting Agile practices and moving strategic applications to a modern x86 or virtualized environment.

2

Migrate and optimize by extending application value into the cloud using DevOps-enabled, virtualized, containerized platforms and services.

3

Go cloud-native to deliver faster with new application architectures and a DevSecOps approach.

Let's take a look at how we help our customers to get cloud-ready.

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Start with Quick Wins

Application modernization can be complicated.

It takes time and careful planning to determine the best path to the cloud while ensuring your business continues without interruption. Fortunately, there are valuable steps you can take today while simultaneously planning your path to being cloud native.

The best way to get ready for your journey is with quick wins:



Deploy code analysis



Replatform applications to commodity hardware



Use modern code management and dev tools



Automate unit testing, target containers and orchestration



Use code analysis tools to plan your journey.

Most journeys require a map. Code analysis tools like Micro Focus Enterprise Analyzer can help you understand your current application structure. Find dependencies and map data structures. Your team gets immediate value from training and improved efficiency while you plan your future. Here are two use cases of moving IBM Z to Enterprise Server.



With over three million individual private and business customers, AG is Belgium's largest insurance company.

After its mainframe modernization replatforming project, AG's new open environment processes 14 million transactions a day and delivers \$75 million per year in cost savings.

What was the challenge?

To meet new digital market opportunities, AG needed to move business-critical systems from a mainframe environment to achieve integration and efficiency benefits.

What was our solution?

[Micro Focus Enterprise Developer](#), [Micro Focus Enterprise Server](#),
[Micro Focus Professional Services](#)

What were the benefits?

- 75% operational cost savings and four- to five-year ROI.
- Faster time to market with new customer offerings.
- Continued leverage of strategic COBOL assets with clear modernization goals.
- Created an open environment to enable data-driven strategies.

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"Micro Focus enabled us to build and unify a new data-driven backbone for our company. With this backbone we can leverage new technologies, such as containerization and APIs to open ourselves safely to our distribution partners' systems while continuing our technological evolution."

PHILIPPE VAN BELLE

Chief Information & Technology Officer, AG



"The new Micro Focus development environment has opened our eyes to so much opportunity. We are looking to move to a DevOps model with more end-to-end serviceability in the cloud. Our productivity has increased by 30 percent and we are more responsive to the business."

John Vanzanten
Senior Developer, Empire Life



Canadian Empire Life Insurance Company provides insurance and other financial services.

Empire's smooth move to a low-cost and distributed mainframe environment boosted developer productivity while paving the way to DevOps.

What was the challenge?

To be more responsive to growing business requirements and achieve costs savings, Empire Life wanted to move toward DevOps and simplify support and maintenance for its complex mainframe production environment.

What was our solution?

[Micro Focus Enterprise Developer](#), [Micro Focus Enterprise Server](#)

What were the benefits?

- 30% development productivity increase.
- Up to \$1.5 million annual cost savings.
- Readiness for move to DevOps.
- Higher quality products and services.

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Re-platform applications to commodity x86 hardware.

While it's possible to move mainframe applications directly to a cloud platform, some organizations choose to first move to commodity x86 hardware since it keeps the data and applications in house. Micro Focus Enterprise Server enables mainframe applications to run on x86 hardware with minimal changes. See how DWP moved a mainframe to Visual COBOL through a partner-delivered migration, and how APRA AMCOS moved from a distributed COBOL application on Unix to a new Linux environment.

Part of the UK's Critical National Infrastructure, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) administers benefits to 20 million citizens.

Instead of a “like for like” digital transformation project, it exceeded expectations to deliver “like for much better.”

What was the challenge?

Steadily increasing batch processing times limited flexibility on DWP's stable but aging platform, so they sought to improve release deployments while reducing batch processing and system maintenance efforts.

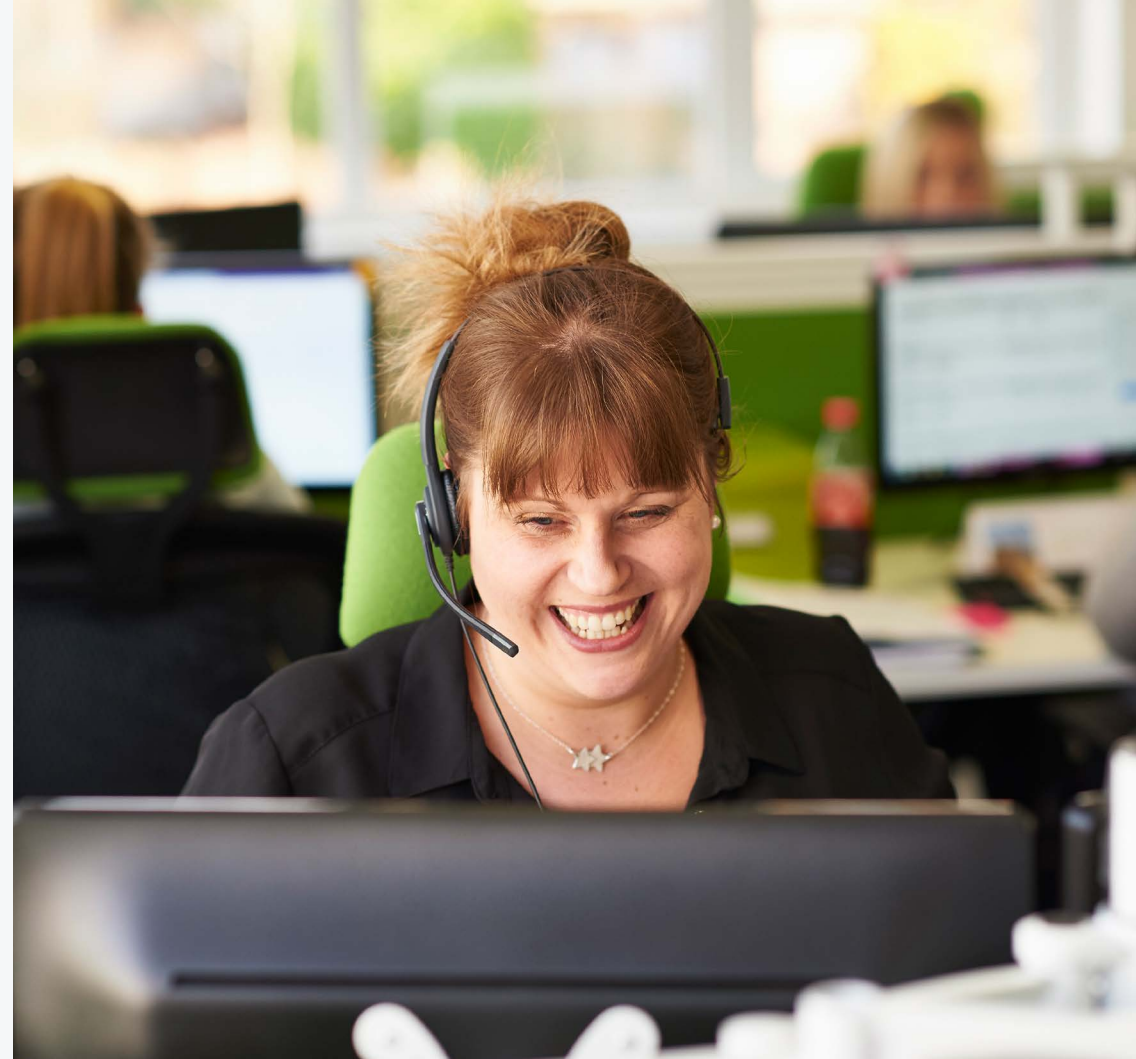
What was our solution?

[Micro Focus Visual COBOL](#)

What were the benefits?

- Up to 60% batch processing improvement times.
- Increased deployment capability to achieve over 800 releases in first 12 months.
- Achieved £147 million Net Present Value in business case cost savings.
- 100% implementation success with no service or user disruption.

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“Leveraging Visual COBOL we created a CI/CD and container pipeline approach in AWS to give us rapid deployment capability. Instead of two major releases each year, over the last 12 months we deployed 800 times.”

Mark Bell

Virtual Machine Environment, Replacement Programme Deputy Director, DWP



"When we first invested in COBOL decades ago, who would have thought that streaming music would even be a thing? But here we are, and it is testimony to the longevity of COBOL and the strategic direction of Micro Focus that we are successfully riding the digital transformation wave in our industry."

Mark Atkins
Business Support and Infrastructure Manager, APRA AMCOS



As a music rights organization, APRA AMCOS represents more than 100,000 songwriters, composers, and music publishers, licensing music and distributing royalties to its members.

It needed to tune up application performance to address explosive growth in the digital streaming market.

What was the challenge?

APRA AMCOS looked to accommodate the massive increase in streaming music data locally and globally by modernizing its dated IT infrastructure.

What was our solution?

[Micro Focus Visual COBOL](#)

What were the benefits?

- 200% performance increase from COBOL upgrade and commodity hardware platform.
- Smooth upgrade with one million lines of code migrated in one week.
- Created scalable solution for multi-territorial digital hub.
- Enabled prompt payment to music creators.

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Move to modern source code management systems and development tools.

Traditional mainframe source code management and development tools often struggle to support Agile practices. By adopting modern development tools integrated with Visual Studio, Eclipse or VS Code—such as Visual COBOL and Micro Focus Enterprise Developer or by adopting Git extensions for Micro Focus ChangeMan—your team moves closer to the continuous integration (CI) practices they will need after moving to the cloud. See how Advanced, SD Worx People Solutions, and SYSPRO adopted Agile practices and modern tools.



“Our choice of Micro Focus COBOL over 25 years ago is still paying dividends for us. We have enjoyed continued wide platform and OS support and have now made the move to the cloud, leveraging Visual COBOL and its Docker support.”

Gary Cowell

Solution Architect for e5, Advanced



Advanced software solutions simplify complex business challenges for public sector, enterprise, commercial, and healthcare organizations.

Their recent COBOL deployment streamlines cloud delivery and enables optimized server infrastructure, rapid time-to-market, and DevOps practices.

What was the challenge?

Advanced looked to offer a new SaaS/cloud version of its accounting process management solution “e5” while still leveraging valuable existing COBOL code.

What was our solution?

[Micro Focus Visual COBOL](#)

What were the benefits?

- Faster on-boarding of new customers—from half a day to just minutes.
- Docker-based deployment into AWS provides seamless and rapid deployment.
- Streamlined DevOps process with continuous testing and deployment.
- Choice of RDBMS including open source provides attractive commercial options.

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With over 75 years' experience in workforce management, SD Worx People Solutions touches over four million employees every month through its 70,000 customers.

Deploying Enterprise Developer enables SD Worx to mitigate risk and delivers development collaboration and flexibility to the company's mature COBOL solution.

What was the challenge?

Mainframe and COBOL-based applications were business-critical, but no longer met modern expectations. Driven by the need to respond faster to evolving business requirements and improve developer efficiency, the company chose a reuse and continuous modernization strategy.

What were our solutions?

[Micro Focus Enterprise Developer for Z](#), [Micro Focus COBOL Server](#)

What were the benefits?

- A future-proof solution with cloud-ready deployment options.
- Improved developer collaboration with a unified modern IDE.
- Faster response to changing business requirements.
- Full risk mitigation through code reuse and continuous modernization.

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"Micro Focus's advanced integration capabilities with Azure DevOps give us an end-to-end solution. We can now converge our development lifecycles using the same IDE. Micro Focus calls this run and transform, and that is exactly what we are doing."

Filip Van Gorp

Enterprise Architect, SD Worx People Solutions



"Visual COBOL has enabled us to bridge the skills gap and engage with a younger generation of developers, who are now excited about COBOL and view it as a career development opportunity."

Russell Hollick
Chief Software Architect, SYSPRO



SYSPRO ERP software is designed to address industry-specific challenges for manufacturers and distributors.

It embraced innovation with Visual COBOL to deliver a modern and agile development environment, boosting productivity and performance by 30 percent.

What was the challenge?

SYSPRO wanted to use industry-standard tooling to complement Agile software development practices to more easily on-board new developers unfamiliar with COBOL.

What were our solutions?

[Micro Focus Visual COBOL](#), [Net Express Server for COBOL](#)

What were the benefits?

- Ability to on-board new developers more quickly and easily.
- Up to 30 percent improvement in development productivity.
- 30 percent improvement in application performance.
- Simplified application installation and setup for customers.

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Automate unit testing while targeting containers and orchestration.

Many common cloud environment practices can be implemented before a move. Application delivery can be accelerated and made more reliable by automating unit testing and using containers and orchestration tools. See how Kmart Australia automated unit testing, and targeted containers and orchestration to adopt new requirements and commercial models.



As one of the most profitable retailers and consumer product developers in Australia, Kmart leverages Micro Focus Enterprise and AWS-driven modernization as its launchpad for innovative new business models, growth, and savings.

What was the challenge?

Responding to rapid growth, Kmart chose to adapt its technology to meet fast-changing business requirements and acquire data-driven decision making to open up new business models.

What were our solutions?

[Micro Focus Enterprise Developer](#), [Micro Focus Enterprise Server](#),
[Micro Focus Enterprise Analyzer](#), [Micro Focus Enterprise Test Server](#)

What were the benefits?

- Data-enabled use of innovative business models and new routes to market.
- Increased flexibility and scalability through AWS deployment.
- Faster development and more modern skillset.
- Annual operational cost savings of \$4 million.

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“Not only has this given us annual operational cost savings of over \$4 million, but the partnership between Micro Focus, AWS, Infosys, and ourselves has turned Kmart into a technology-enabled business, ready to grow and take on new routes to market and business models, while always delivering the best products at the best price to our customers.”

Group Head of Merchandising and Inventory IT
Kmart Australia

Let's explore how the cloud can accelerate your digital transformation strategy.

Watch the webinar ›

