



The new face of COBOL®

ACUCORP®

Javits Center Opens New Doors to Success

“Since transforming the CICS portion of our application and switching from Micro Focus COBOL to ACUCOBOL-GT®, data processing times have dramatically decreased and end-user productivity has increased. The applications are also better positioned for the company’s eventual expansion.”

—Ed MacDonald, CFO, Jacob K. Javits Convention Center

Fast Facts:

- Opened April 1, 1986
- \$150 million annual revenue
- Offers 814,400 feet of exhibition space
- Has hosted more than 2,400 events
- Employs approximately 10,000 people
- www.javitscenter.com

Application:

- Business operations: oversees finance, invoicing, human resources, scheduling, order entry, purchasing, and advertising
- Handles over 15,000 new transactions each day

Business Needs:

- Platform Conversion
- Portability
- Data Access
- Windows Look and Feel

New Environment:

- Microsoft Windows 2000 Server
- Microsoft SQL Server 2000

Previous Environment:

- CICS Emulation
- Microsoft SQL Server 6.5 and SQL Toolkit
- Micro Focus COBOL

Business Issue

After migrating from an IBM VSE/CICS mainframe, the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York City re-hosted its custom financial, booking, invoicing, human resources, order entry, purchasing, and advertising applications in a Micro Focus COBOL environment with CICS emulation support. The Javits Center required a solution that would upgrade its server and SQL database, provide solid, continuing support, offer a direct route to Windows graphical user interfaces, and protect the organization from the risk and cost of additional COBOL migrations in the future.

Solution

The Javits Center team chose Acucorp’s ACUCOBOL-GT development suite to satisfy their business requirements, which included a critical upgrade to Microsoft Windows 2000 Server and Microsoft SQL Server 2000. The team considered Fujitsu COBOL, Micro Focus Net Express, and even a complete rewrite in Visual Basic, but concluded that none provided an easier or more flexible approach to preserving, modernizing and future-proofing the existing business logic than ACUCOBOL-GT. With this conversion, the Javits Center team has successfully upgraded its database, and is gradually transitioning from a character-based user interface to a Windows graphical interface.

The Javits Center’s proprietary code was migrated to ACUCOBOL-GT by Acucorp Professional Services Partner, Unicon Conversion Technologies, Inc., whose conversion expertise and automated conversion tools have made the company an industry leader. Complex

SQL queries in the existing code provided unique challenges, but the Acucorp support team was very responsive and provided tailored solutions.

Benefits

The migration to open systems improved application and reporting speed—reducing report time from hours to minutes. This allowed users to run their own reports, and eliminated the need for overnight technical shifts for reporting and backup. Now, as the Javits Center prepares for physical expansion, ACUCOBOL-GT has given its proprietary applications room to grow. According to Senior Vice President and CFO Ed MacDonald, “In addition to being significantly faster, the system now has the capacity to handle an expansion that could double the number of customers we serve.” With Acucorp’s *extend*® family of products, Javits Center technical personnel can now keep up with future Microsoft operating system and SQL releases, sparing them from future migrations. Equally important, the MIS staff at the Javits Center has found the responsiveness of Acucorp’s technical support team to be invaluable.

Future Plans

The Javits Center plans to acquire surrounding West Side real estate in preparation for New York City’s bid to host both a Summer Olympics and a professional football team. Anticipating increased distance between server and clients and a multiplied number of daily transactions, Javits developers expect that Acucorp’s Thin Client technology and COBOL-friendly GUI support will play a key role in the successful growth of their applications.

Acucorp, Inc. 1-800-262-6585

or +1-858-689-4500 info@acucorp.com

Acucorp Benelux B.V. +31 (0) 30 272 7040

Acucorp Deutschland GmbH +49 (0) 89 455 659 0

Acucorp France S.A.R.L. +33 (0) 1 53 34 9000

Acucorp UK Limited +44 (0) 20 8843 7100

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