

PRODUCT SHEET
CA COBOL/XE

CA COBOL/XE r3.0



CA COBOL/XE is designed to simplify, improve and shorten the cycle of developing online CICS applications. CA COBOL/XE combines an extended ANSI COBOL-based language with interactive CICS online program development facilities. CA COBOL/XE is designed to let batch programmers utilize their existing COBOL programming skills to write online programs that will run at 3270-type terminals under CICS/TS.

Overview

CA COBOL/XE combines an extended ANSI COBOL-based language with an interactive online CICS program development facility.

Business value

CA COBOL/XE enables COBOL batch programmers to write online applications without having to learn command-level CICS. CA COBOL/XE is designed to shield programmers from the technical details of CICS. CA COBOL/XE does this via an online development facility.

Features

Mainframe 2.0

CA COBOL/XE has adopted a key Mainframe 2.0 feature that is designed to simplify your use of the product and enable your staff to install, configure and maintain it more effectively and quickly.

- **Electronic Software Delivery (ESD):** The Mainframe 2.0 ESD enables you to install CA COBOL/XE using standard utilities—without requiring you to reconstitute a tape cartridge. This new procedure helps speed installation and facilitates a consistent install process across the mainframe products from CA Technologies, shortening the learning curve for mainframe staff.

Key features

CA COBOL/XE provides the following tools to simplify the development of online applications:

- **ANSI COBOL:** CA COBOL/XE uses standard ANSI COBOL plus some extensions (a few new verbs and parameters) that provide the support necessary for online programming.
- **PAINT:** It includes an online interactive screen-painting facility. Users simply draw (“paint”) their screen layouts on the terminal screen and CA COBOL/XE automatically generates the required field definitions. PAINT lets users quickly and easily create a panel used by an application. Panels can be stored and reused by different applications.
- **CAT:** A data dictionary that lets users enter field definitions on simple, fill-in-the-blank screens is also included.
- **Online debugger:** This feature lets users test CA COBOL/XE-generated programs online. The debugger can monitor the execution of any CA COBOL/XE program and enables the user to specify points in the program (breakpoints) where program execution should be halted. At these points, CA COBOL/XE displays a diagnostic debug screen and the user can change program data, set or remove breakpoints and resume or terminate program execution.
- **CA COBOL/XE extensions:**
 - **RECORD VARYING:** This clause in the FD allows CA COBOL/XE programs to determine the size of a variable-length record that has just been read and control the size of a variable-length record.
 - **NAME:** This clause on the OPEN statement allows the CA COBOL/XE program to specify the external name of a file at execution time.

- **DESCENDING:** This START verb option allows VSAM files to be read backward.
 - **READ WITH LOCK and UNLOCK:** These verbs provide the CA COBOL/XE program with exclusive control of records being updated.
 - **DISPLAY and ACCEPT:** These verbs allow the programmer to define a 3270 screen in the CA COBOL/XE program.
 - **NORMALIZE:** This verb edits and converts free-form numeric data into a fixed-form numeric data item.
 - **ENTRY:** This statement gives the programmer the ability to specify alternate entry points in a called program.
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Delivery approach

CA Services provides a portfolio of mainframe services delivered through CA Technologies internal staff and a network of established partners chosen to help you achieve a successful deployment and get the desired business results as quickly as possible. Our standard service offerings are designed to speed deployment and accelerate the learning curve for your staff. CA Technologies field-proven mainframe best practices and training help you lower risk, improve use/adoption and ultimately align the product configuration to your business requirements.

Benefits

CA COBOL/XE can provide significant resource savings by simplifying, improving and shortening the cycle of developing online CICS applications. CA COBOL/XE is an online development facility that shields programmers from the technical details of CICS. Free from the burden of programming in command-level CICS, your developers can quickly and easily create powerful online applications that can bolster the productivity and efficiency of your IT environment.

The CA Technologies advantage

CA Technologies has 30 years of recognized expertise in robust, reliable, scalable, and secure enterprise-class IT management software. CA COBOL/XE is a key component of the Mainframe 2.0 initiative from CA Technologies to change the way the mainframe is managed forever by helping you maximize the value of our mainframe products and by providing a simplified experience and innovative solutions that deliver value quickly and flexibly.