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## Why DCD IV users should upgrade to Control DCD

There are several reasons why users of DCD IV should upgrade to Control/DCD.

If conversion to COBOL 5 or 6 is not done, then the first reason for having Control/DCD is that it addresses the six main concerns in converting from an older COBOL to COBOL 5 or 6.

The six areas we address are:

1. Invalid Data in DISPLAY NUMERIC field where an invalid character exists in other than the low-order character that determines the sign. See [Invalid Data](#)
2. Mismatched COBOL parameters and arguments in COBOL CALLS. (This covers different length sizes and mismatched number of parameters (or arguments) . See [Cobol Parameter](#)
3. Excessive Time of the new compiler ranging from 5 to 10 times (or longer) compiler time and much greater REGION size during execution . See [Excessive Time in COBOL compiles](#)
4. Table Sizes using the OCCURS/DEPENDING clause are exceeded beyond table size . See [Exceeding the limits of table sizes in ODO \(Occurs Depending On\)](#)
5. A DISPLAY NUMERIC field is used before being assigned a VALUE. See [DISPLAY Numeric used before assigned a VALUE](#)
6. Data Fields that have a value moved to it, where the field is not big enough to hold it are overpopulated data times. See [Greater VALUE moved to field GREATER than defined number of digits](#)

Additionally, Control/DCD may be used as a pre-compiler to pull off program errors, avoiding many COBOL compiles under the new COBOL 5 or 6.

Control/DCD offers Forward Tracing of Performed Routines. This brings another dimension to tracing the Procedure Division logic in being able to see how the routines relate to each other and being able to quickly to trace backwards from one further down Performed Routine to the earlier routines that it belongs to. For more information on Forward Tracing, see [Forward Tracing](#)

New in Control/DCD is the ability to detect PERFORM ERRORS in a program. This is loss of control, not easily detectable. Major errors where a GO TO leaves the range of a PERFORM and other MODERATE and MINOR errors are reported on. This feature alone insures integrity in COBOL PERFORM usage. For more information on PERFORM Errors, see [Perform Errors](#)

In DCD IV, the reporting was done in a 133-character report.

In Control/DCD, the output is also reported in an ISPF panel member and in a DDM, Digital Documentation Manual which allows bring the ANALYSIS in PDF format from the mainframe to the PC or other media.

Finding any type of ANALYSIS in Control/DCD on the mainframe or in PDF format is quickly done by using the ampersand character (&) immediately preceding the operand the user is searching information on. For more information on use of the & character, see [Control/DCD Quick Start Guide](#).

One of the most powerful reasons for using Control/DCD over DCD IV is the data name narrative changes provided in COBOL Source Editing or in the new DDM (Digital Documentation Manual).

Besides quickly finding a data-name using the & character preceding the data-name on the mainframe or on the documentation off the mainframe, enhancements were made to the narrative to:

1. Include Data Attributes in the Narrative
2. Allow a new set of ISPF options for including or omitting features in the Narrative
3. Allow different formats for the Narrative
4. Insert Performed Routine Names ahead of Procedure Division Activity for better understanding logic
5. In the DDM only, a condensed relevant Forward Tracing Chart of those Performed Routines with activity for each data-name are included in the Narrative for this data field

To see an example of this Narrative, see [Analyzing a COBOL Data Name during maintenance](#)

*Want to know more? Contact us today. Call 1-800-252-1400 ext. #4 or send an email to [sales@marblecomputer.com](mailto:sales@marblecomputer.com)*