CONTROL/DCD & COBOL 6.1 MIGRATION

Marble Computer, Inc.

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Control/DCD

Managing a COBOL migration to COBOL 6.1 on Mainframe Applications can have hidden problems depending on the versions of COBOL being upgraded. Much of the knowledge about Legacy COBOL applications is long gone. For years organizations have been adding new code and not removing what is no longer needed. So program code has increased without a corresponding decrease for unused code.

Larger programs by their very nature become much harder to remediate and migrate. These programs might contain hidden syntactical problems and other legacy code problems that will not be accepted by the COBOL 6.1 compiler.

Current COBOL 6.1 migration strategies are:

1. Start a Pilot Project on a small application which has a limited number of programs.

2. Select an entire application and migrate the application under a tactical project plan.

3. Migrate a program within a target application when it is opened for code change.

4. Develop a Regression Testing Plan.

The new Enterprise Compiler requires more CPU resources for a single compile. Recommendations are to increase address space requirements (200MB) and allow for longer run times (3-12X).

Control/DCD allows for faster COBOL 6.1 migrations, fewer compiles, and the ability to ensure successful regression testing.

Additionally Control/DCD highlights code that needs to be removed from the program due to syntax error or that is un-executed.

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IBM estimates that there is now around 350 billion lines of COBOL code being maintained throughout the world. These are mainframe production applications that store and serve as much as 70% of the world’s Enterprise Data (e-Week 5/30/14). With a dwindling supply of expertise and a retiring workforce what will happen to these Mainframe based applications?

Did you know......

Marble Computer has been in business since 1983.

Our widely used product DCD IV helps major corporations manage their mission critical applications 24x7.
Why Control/DCD

Control/DCD creates an Alternative Compile Listing (ACL) for each program to be evaluated. This means a COBOL compile is not required to use DCD’s capability. Control/DCD in effect is a pre-compiler. The ACL creates a narrative for each program processed. Control/DCD finds incompatible syntax and functions that are rejected by the COBOL 6.1 compiler. An entire application can be processed in one batch job.

The online function of Control/DCD allows processing a single program utilizing the ISPF Editor’s FIND Command and Control/DCD’s Key-Words. The format is simple and easy to learn.

By utilizing ISPF, Control/DCD is easy to learn, easy to implement and cost effective.

Additional information provided by Control/DCD includes, data usage errors, code not found, perform errors and more. These features allow for faster completion of the migration project. Programmers with little knowledge of the program code can make the changes in confidence knowing that Control/DCD is providing accurate information.

Control/DCD gives the project management team the Analytical Software to make a COBOL 6.1 Migration project successful. As well as delivering the project on time and under budget.
Control/DCD
How It Works:

Control/DCD creates a new powerful way to use the ISPF editor that makes it simple for the COBOL programmer to quickly understand the flow of a program as to data and process. Business rules are easily interpreted, data analysis is made simple, dead code is found and can be eliminated.

By utilizing Control/DCD’s simple command structure and operational command words, programmers can issue an ISPF FIND for Macro functions.

Sample command structure:

Find &(Operand)

Some OPERAND Examples:
FIELD-NAME
CALL
COPY
CODE-NOT-USED
ERRORS
FORWARD-TRACING
OPEN
PERFORM-ANALYSIS
PERFORMED-ROUTINES
SQL
HELP

By utilizing Control/DCD’s simple command structure and operational command words programmers can issue a Find for Macro functions like Code-Not-Used or Forward-Tracing.

Documenting the complete flow of a single data field is available with one simple FIND command to show the complete flow (and more) on that data field.

Forward tracing shows the flow of the program logic through the Procedure Division.

Follow the use of nested performs through their looping functions.

Flag errors such as differences in Reserved Words, all the way back to COBOL 68 or COBOL 74. Now your programmers can bring the code up to COBOL Version 6.1 without the fear of introducing errors.

Deliver well documented COBOL programs for regression testing knowing that the code does not re-introduce old or create new Job Failure possibilities.
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Control/DCD’s Benefits

Adds an Intelligent COBOL Analytical capability to your COBOL 6.1 migration Project.

No compile is necessary prior to using Control/DCD. Control/DCD produces an alternative compile listing (ACL) that makes the COBOL compiler listing obsolete and Control/DCD output is viewed under the ISPF editor, thus saving CPU resources during and after migration.

Utilize Control/DCD’s batch capability to process an entire COBOL application without a single compile. No special training required to understand the output’s Alternative Compile Listing with program narrative. So the adoption rate is fast and efficient.

Control/DCD’s online ISPF capability requires very little training.

By using the &, as in 'Find &Operand' the programmer is now in control of the code from the Working Storage Section to Procedure Division including all Record formats as well as all Copybooks.

Productivity is dramatically increased from the time the code is opened for migration until it’s ready for Regression Testing.

Management statistics are produced so that the final code changes can be analyzed as to the quality of the program as well as the programmer. Project management is now able to deliver projects on time and under budget. Your organization’s migration project will be completed quickly and efficiently.

Control/DCD is compatible with IBM’s Enterprise COBOL Suite.

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