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Evolution, without revolution

Quick Reference Guide

Migrating from ACUCOBOL-GT to isCOBOL Evolve
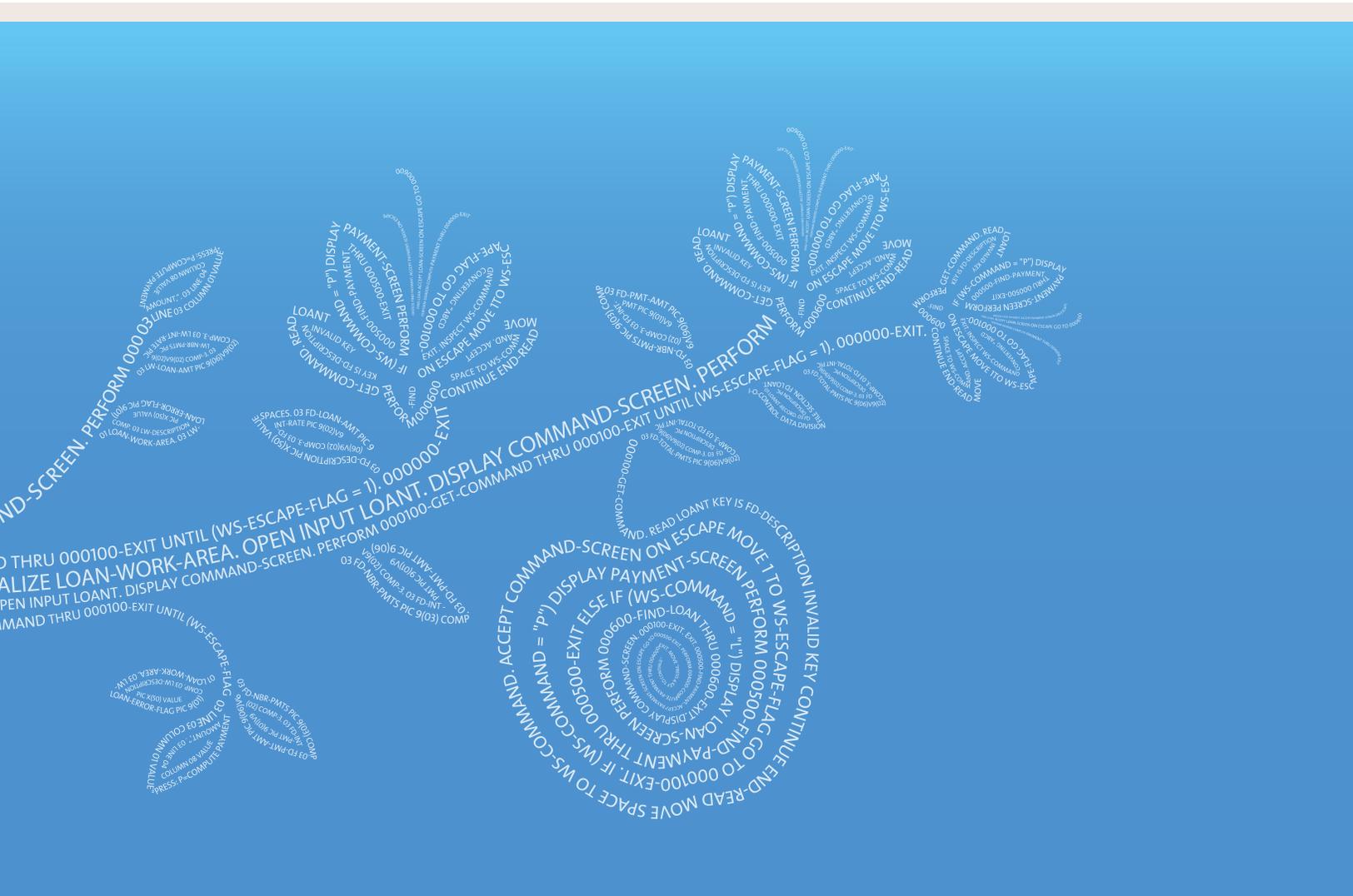
Table of contents

Proven track record
Extensive compatibility
Clear future

With isCOBOL technology from Veryant, you can move to an innovative COBOL platform with lower TCO, a solid roadmap, and numerous options for GUI maintenance and modernizaton, all backed by a dedicated global support team.

INTRODUCTION

ACUCOBOL-GT® (now 'Micro Focus® extend®') is a COBOL platform that was originally designed to provide developers with a suite of software solutions to maintain and modernize COBOL applications. With a complete line of ACUCOBOL replacement products, extensive compatibility, and 'acu-friendly' migration and modernization features,
isCOBOLTM Evolve from Veryant offers a seamless transition plan and a stable path forward for ACUCOBOL-GT users. Backed by a dedicated team of COBOL experts and over 55,000 production installations, isCOBOL protects existing COBOL investments and offers the perfect blend of COBOL and Java for comprehensive, cost-effective development, deployment and modernization of COBOL applications.

This quick reference guide highlights the benefits of the isCOBOL platform, gives you advice on planning for the move to isCOBOL, and helps you understand similarities and differences between isCOBOL and ACUCOBOL.

Multi Platform

Compelling cost-effective alternative

Web Enablement

Java Integration

The guide includes:

- **An introduction to the isCOBOL Evolve platform**
- **An ACUCOBOL-GT to Veryant product compatibility table**
- **Feature and functionality comparison details**
- **Information on additional isCOBOL advancements**
- **Details on how to get started with a move to isCOBOL**

INTRODUCTION TO ISCOBOL EVOLVE

isCOBOL Evolve offers a compelling and cost-effective alternative to distributed COBOL platforms such as ACUCOBOL-GT and RM/COBOL. isCOBOL technology enables customers to retain and enhance valuable COBOL application and development assets, while taking full advantage of the flexible Java platform in deployment.

Core components of the isCOBOL suite include a 100% portable COBOL compiler and runtime environment; an Eclipse-based Integrated Development Environment (IDE) with a real-time syntax checker; and a 100% portable, graphical debugger that facilitates remote debugging.

With isCOBOL technology, all development and debugging tasks are performed in a familiar, flexible and user-friendly COBOL environment -- no retraining or rewriting code required. The isCOBOL Compiler translates COBOL source code into Java classes that are then executed with the Java Virtual Machine (JVM). Because the isCOBOL Runtime Environment is implemented entirely in Java, the result is an extremely portable, robust solution that simplifies development, administration and implementation tasks. Thin Client and distributed processing capabilities are included in the isCOBOL Runtime Environment, enabling developers to maintain one graphical user interface (GUI), regardless of platform choice or deployment model. Application modernization efforts, such as improved integration and interoperability are also made easier.

The modular design of isCOBOL Evolve supports a wide range of data access options. All common COBOL file organizations and record types are supported, including Indexed, Relative, Binary Sequential, and Line Sequential file organizations, with fixed and variable length records. isCOBOL has a built-in ESQL compiler that translates embedded SQL (EXEC SQL) statements to JDBC calls, and also supports Pro*COBOL and DB2 Precompilers.

isCOBOL Evolve supports ANSI standards and legacy COBOL dialects, so application code can quickly be replatformed to an isCOBOL environment with typically little or no change. With isCOBOL Evolve, 'compile once, run anywhere' is truly delivered and new application modernization features and data options can be rapidly introduced.

ACUCOBOL-GT TO VERYANT PRODUCT COMPATIBILITY TABLE

Many customers who deployed ACUCOBOL-GT based solutions incorporated a wide-range of Acucorp software products and utilities. In addition to SOA options, Web enablements and other modernization features that go above and beyond where ACUCOBOL left off, isCOBOL Evolve includes an extensive array of ACUCOBOL-GT replacement products, including alternatives for products such as AcuConnect (thin client and distributed computing), AcuServer, Acu4GL, and AcuSQL. As detailed in Table 1, Product Family Comparison Table, isCOBOL provides a seamless path forward for valuable business assets implemented originally in isCOBOL.

Table 1. Product Family Comparison Table

	Acucorp Product	**Veryant Equivalent**
Product Family	extend product suite	isCOBOL Evolve
Development Environment	ACUCOBOL-GT Compiler	isCOBOL Compiler
	AcuBench	isCOBOL IDE
	AcuSQL	isCOBOL Compiler built-in ESQL support
	vutil, alfred, acu4glfd utilities	jutil/ctutil, gife, jdbc2fd utilities
	cblutil -lib	Java jar utility
	Boomerang	isCOBOL Remote Compiler
Runtime Environment	ACUCOBOL-GT Runtime ACUCOBOL-GT Runtime (CGI)	isCOBOL Runtime Framework
	AcuConnect AcuThin	isCOBOL Application Server isCOBOL Thin Client

	Acucorp Product	**Veryant Equivalent**
Product Family	extend product suite	isCOBOL Evolve
Runtime Environment	Vision	J-ISAM c-treeRTG Evolve
Add-on Products	AcuXDBC	isCOBOL UDBC c-treeRTG Enterprise
	Acu4GL	isCOBOL Database Bridge (*)
	Xcentrisity Business Information Server	isCOBOL EIS (*)

(*) isCOBOL Database Bridge and isCOBOL EIS are Development system's Add-on, so there are no additional fee for deployment.

In addition to a long list of similarities, isCOBOL picks up where ACUCOBOL left off by delivering "next generation" features such as a Web-enabled, Java Thin Client, the ability to call COBOL programs on the client, a multi-threaded Java Application Server, a Load Balancer, and no user interface limitations.

With the isCOBOL EIS Web Direct feature, organizations can leverage existing COBOL syntax to develop and deploy a universally accessible, zero client rich Internet application (RIA) using standard COBOL screen sections and existing program procedure division and flow. No knowledge of object-oriented programming, JavaScript, HTML, or other Web languages is required.

For companies with numerous thin client end-users or specialized computing requirements, the isCOBOL Load Balancer is available as an add-on product to isCOBOL Application Server. The isCOBOL Load Balancer distributes workloads among clusters of server processes running on the same or different machines for enhanced horizontal scalability or workload separation.

To take COBOL mobile, Veryant provides a COBOL solution for application development on Android mobile devices natively integrate HTML5/CSS3 technologies.

Veryant offers JISAM and c-treeRTG with isCOBOL Evolve. Veryant JISAM is a 100% Java-based indexed sequential access (ISAM) file system that runs on a wide range of platforms. c-treeRTG is a robust technology that delivers performance, scalability, and data integrity without re-rewriting your existing applications.

Veryant has also developed a number of useful tools and utilities, including:

COBFILEIO - The COBFILEIO utility works together with the isCOBOL Compiler to read COBOL source code and generate Java classes that can be used to access COBOL files and records.

ISCONFIG – , The ISCONFIG utility converts an ACUCOBOL-GT configuration file to an isCOBOL configuration file.

ISMIGRATE – The ISMIGRATE utility can migrate files from and to any of the following file systems: isCOBOL JISAM, c-tree, isCOBOL Database Bridge, Acucorp's Vision and others that provide an EXTFH interface.

STREAM2WRK – The STREAM2WRK utility creates a COBOL record description that can be used to read and write XML files also it takes a WSDL file and generates a COBOL description of the 'SOAP Envelopes' used by the service. Two envelopes are generated for each service: an envelope for date request and an envelope for data response.

EASYLINKAGE - that makes calling isCOBOL programs from Java easier than ever. By setting a property value, the isCOBOL compiler will generate a Java class wrapping the linkage section, providing getters and setters for COBOL variables, and will generate methods to run legacy programs or entry points. Just include the Java class source code in your Java project and you're good to go.

SERVICEBRIDGE - provides easy SOAP and REST Web Services development generated automatically from any legacy COBOL program with Linkage Section. It maintain you COBOL investment relevant in a world where Software as a Service (SaaS) is becoming mainstream.

REST,SOAP
Services

JSON,XML
HTML
Integration

FEATURE AND FUNCTIONALITY COMPARISON LIST

By providing nearly 100% compatibility with ACUCOBOL, isCOBOL offers seamless transitions from the ACUCOBOL-GT platform. Some of key areas where isCOBOL supports ACUCOBOL functionality have been highlighted below:

Complete support for ACUCOBOL-GT user interface programming including ACCEPT, DISPLAY, MODIFY, INQUIRE, character and graphical screen section and graphical controls, properties and styles (*) and even SET ENVIRONMENT "KEYSTROKE".

Extensions to the ANSI standard listed in the ACUCOBOL-GT Appendix A.3 (**) Implementor-defined (***) COBOL rules and behavior
Similar names for compiler options (e.g. -ce, -sp, -di, -dv, -dz, -rc, -rm, -rw, -va, -vh, - vu, -vx, -zi, -zy, and more)

ACUCOBOL numeric storage enabled with the -dca compiler option
ACUCOBOL-style handles and use of the word NULL enabled with the -ca compiler option
ACUCOBOL-style thread programming
ACUCOBOL XFD directives

All commonly used C$, W$, WIN$, CBL_, and REG_ library routines, including a platform independent implementation of WIN$PRINTER

File names starting with -P such as "-P SPOOLER" and "-P lp -s -dlaser"

isCOBOL also provides identical support for precompiler technologies such as Oracle Pro*COBOL or DB2 Pre.

Veryant further simplifies a migration to isCOBOL with support for features such as:

The ability to import AcuBench and Totem projects directly into the Eclipse-based isCOBOL IDE.

100% compatible formats for sequential and relative files, including support for
Vision indexed file support with a licensed copy of ACUCOBOL-GT with Vision File Connector facility.

Automatic conversion from Vision index files to JISAM or c-treeRTG Server file formats

Automatic conversion of ACUCOBOL runtime configuration file to the isCOBOL Java Properties file format

Compatibility with existing relational database management system (RDBMS) tables originally accessed through Acu4GL

As denoted above, there are some exceptions to isCOBOL and ACUCOBOL compatibility that need to be taken into consideration during migration if utilized in a particular application:

(*)   Except for ActiveX, .NET and some WEB-BROWSER properties and a few rarely used TAB-CONTROL styles that are not supported by Java Swing.

(**)   Excluding LOCK/UNLOCK THREAD, CANCEL SORT, the proprietary syntax relating to Microsoft ActiveX controls, COM and .NET objects. isCOBOL supports Object- Oriented COBOL syntax which provides a more natural way to interface with these types of objects.

(***)   By default, isCOBOL follows ACUCOBOL in cases where the ANSI COBOL standard leaves a language rule or behavior to be defined by the implementor.

ADDITIONAL ISCOBOL ADVANCEMENTS

As previously mentioned, isCOBOL picks up where ACUCOBOL left off by delivering innovative features such as a Web-enabled Java Thin Client, the ability to call COBOL programs on the client, a multi-threaded Java Application Server, a Load Balancer, and no user interface limitations. As highlighted in Table 2, isCOBOL Advancements, Veryant continues to add new features and further refine the isCOBOL offering. These features are implemented in the same style as other ACUCOBOL features, so they are very easy to learn and already familiar to the ACUCOBOL programmer.

Table 2. isCOBOL Advancements

Feature	isCOBOL	extend
Portable Java-based Thin Client supporting all GUI controls, properties, and styles	Yes	No
Web Launch of Thin Client including all GUI features	Yes	No
Zero-client web-browser deployment of COBOL screens	Yes	No
Create and use COBOL and Java objects using Object-oriented COBOL syntax	Yes	No
Access COBOL indexed files and records as Java classes	Yes	No
Full Unicode Support	Yes	No
Online live data backup, recovery and restore to point in time	Yes	No
Text resources **03 LABEL LINE 2 COL 2 SIZE 12** **TITLE R"username".** **(Set username=Username, username=Usuario, username=Benutzer, etc in language specific resource files)**	Yes	No
Variable length alphanumeric items **77 my-var PIC X ANY LENGTH**	Yes	No

Feature	isCOBOL	extend

Dynamic tables
01 my-table OCCURS DYNAMIC CAPACITY num-items.
   03 my-item1 PIC X(10).
   03 my-item2 PIC 9(5).
	Yes	No

Associate files with standard input, output and error streams:
SELECT stdin ASSIGN TO "-S IN"
   ORGANIZATION LINE SEQUENTIAL.
SELECT stdout ASSIGN TO "-S OUT"
   ORGANIZATION LINE SEQUENTIAL.
SELECT stderr ASSIGN TO "-S ERR"
   ORGANIZATION LINE SEQUENTIAL.
	Yes	No

Print to PDFs and print preview: **SELECT pdf-file** **ASSIGN TO PRINT "-P PDF /docs/print.pdf"** **SELECT ptr-prev** **ASSIGN TO PRINT "-P PREVIEW"**	Yes	No
Add icons to menu items: **WMENU-ADD-BITMAP,** **WMENU-CHANGE-BITMAP** **WMENU-DELETE-BITMAP**	Yes	No
Capture the current screen: **W$CAPTURE**	Yes	No
Scale and rotate images, and inquire their size: **W$SCALE, W$ROTATE and W$IMAGESIZE**	Yes	No
Load fonts directly from ttf files (i.e. without installing them) **W$CREATEFONT**	Yes	No
Determine which type of resource is associated with a handle **FUNCTION HANDLE-TYPE**	Yes	No
Retrieve current machine IP address and hostname: **J$NETADDRESS**	Yes	No
Call COBOL programs on the thin client **CALL CLIENT "myclientprog" USING …**	Yes	No

Feature	isCOBOL	extend

Render HTML in graphical controls that display text
For example, to show an animated GIF in a LABEL:
03 LABEL
    line 2 col   25
    lines   5 cells size   9 cells
    title   '<html><img src="file:Files/lb.gif"></img></html>'
	Yes	No

Add tooltips on ALL controls with the HINT property
03 ENTRY-FIELD
    line 2 col   25 size   9 cells
    value   w-name
    hint   "Enter your name here"
	Yes	No

Use RGB values to set colors of any controls:
03 LABEL
    line 2 col 25 size 9 cells
    title   "gray label"
    color   rgb x#c0c0c0.
	Yes	No

Entry field format masks to assist user data entry:
03 ENTRY-FIELD
    line   2 col   25
    size   9 cells value   w-date
    format-string "##/##/####"
	Yes	No

Retrieve user selected text from entry-field: **INQUIRE ef-1 SELECTION-TEXT w-text.**	Yes	No
Display vertical LABELs	Yes	No
Ability for user to reorder GRID columns: **03 GRID …** **reordering-columns**	Yes	No

Display controls in GRID cells during MSG-BEGIN-ENTRY:
DISPLAY COMBO-BOX LINES 5
    HANDLE ComboBoxHandle
    UPON GridHandle(EVENT-DATA-2, 4)
	Yes	No

Hide and show GRID columns	Yes	No

Feature	isCOBOL	extend

Select multiple lines in the GRID
05 MyGrid GRID SELECTION-MODE 12
   ROW-SELECTED-FOREGROUND-COLOR rgb x#9CB0E3
   ROW-SELECTED-BACKGROUND-COLOR rgb x#2D4D9F
	Yes	No

Export the GRID content in .xls and .xlsx formats
  MODIFY GD-Handle
     EXPORT-FILE-NAME "myfile.xlsx"
     EXPORT-FILE-FORMAT ".xlsx"
     ACTION ACTION-EXPORT
	Yes	No

Add icons to COMBO-BOX items and TAB-CONTROL labels
MODIFY ComboBoxHandle, ITEM = 1,
       BITMAP-NUMBER = 20
MODIFY TabControlHandle, TAB-INDEX = 1
       BITMAP- NUMBER = 1
	Yes	No

Allow user to edit TREE-VIEW items	Yes	No
Dynamically add and remove tab pages and change page labels in the TAB-CONTROL	Yes	No
Tab-Control as an ACCORDION container	Yes	No
Easier management of Tab-Control pages through the style ALLOW-CONTAINER	Yes	No
SLIDER and RIBBON controls	Yes	No
Intercept mouse events on BITMAP control **MSG-MOUSE-CLICKED** **MSG-MOUSE-ENTER** **MSG-MOUSE-EXIT**	Yes	No
Interface with JAVABEAN controls	Yes	No
Add icons and colors to STATUS-BAR panels **PANEL-BITMAP,** **PANEL-BITMAP-NUMBER, PANEL-BITMAP-WIDTH,** **PANEL- BITMAP-ALIGNMENT and PANEL-COLOR**	Yes	No

Feature	isCOBOL	extend
Undock TOOL-BAR using the MOVEABLE style **DISPLAY TOOL-BAR MOVEABLE HANDLE toolbar-handle**	Yes	No
Docking windows **DISPLAY DOCKING WINDOW LAYOUT W-LAYOUT** **HANDLE h-main** **DISPLAY DOCKABLE WINDOW UPON h-main**	Yes	No
MDI Windows **DISPLAY MDI-PARENT WINDOW HANDLE h-mdi** **DISPLAY MDI-CHILD WINDOW upon h-mdi**	Yes	No
Placeholder functionality on ENTRY-FIELD and COMBO-BOX while the field is empty	Yes	No
Debugger source code colorization, background color for copybooks, show results of REPLACING, set and inquire graphical control properties, display group variables a tree, copy/paste selected lines, edit and continue debugging (in IDE), quick watch data-items and control properties, remote debugging.	Yes	No

Mobile solution

Logging
Transaction and
SQL

GETTING STARTED WITH A MOVE TO ISCOBOL

Veryant's innovative isCOBOL technology is highly compatible with today's common COBOL dialects, enabling quick and efficient migration from ACUCOBOL to the isCOBOL platform.

As with other COBOL-to-COBOL transitions, the key steps involved in a conversion to isCOBOL are:

- **Set up the isCOBOL Evolve Software Development Kit (SDK)**

- **Recompile the application with the isCOBOL Compiler; review the compiler output and make minor syntax modifications where necessary**

- **Migrate data using conversion utilities included with isCOBOL (if necessary)**

- **Set up the isCOBOL Runtime Environment, including environment variables and data connections**

- **Integrate with external software libraries and routines such as those written in the C**

- **programming language**

With isCOBOL, organizations have the choice of either migrating an entire application codebase at once, or of taking a phased approach which sets the pace of a conversion according to resource availability and desired timeframe. During a phased migration, an organization's developers continue to maintain an application with the ACUCOBOL compiler, while simultaneously working on the same set of source code to compile and execute with isCOBOL. With isCOBOL software's compiler and runtime compatibility settings, the overall level of effort required for conversion can be kept to a minimum.

When considering a move to isCOBOL, the Veryant support team can help assess the level of effort required. If desired, Veryant also offers services to build a limited representative prototype of an application running in an isCOBOL environment. This exercise includes a thorough analysis process that helps determine how straightforward the transition to Veryant will be for an organization.

With assistance from Veryant, it typically takes customers less than two days to get a clean compile of their application source code with isCOBOL. With an additional two days, a working prototype of an application running with isCOBOL can be produced.

The isCOBOL documentation set also includes a reference guide for transitioning from ACUCOBOL-GT.

Evolution not
Revolution

Application
Modernization

ROI
Improvement

CONCLUSION

Organizations are converting applications from ACUCOBOL-GT to the isCOBOL platform for many reasons:

- **to gain the advantage of a COBOL development and Java deployment model without rewriting or retraining**
- **to improve ROI and dramatically lower COBOL licensing fees**
- **to deploy to multiple platforms using a single set of source code**
- **to modernize applications with graphical thin client and web client options**
- **to natively integrate with leading Web and application server technologies**
- **to support a wide range of data access options and capabilities**
- **to implement mobile application**

With over 100,000 production installations worldwide, isCOBOL protects existing COBOL investments and offers the perfect blend of COBOL and Java for comprehensive, cost-effective development, deployment and modernization of COBOL applications.

Veryant welcomes the opportunity to work together with you to develop a plan to protect and enhance your valuable COBOL-based assets.

For more information on migrating to isCOBOL Evolve, visit us online at www.veryant.com or email info@veryant.com.

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