MICRO FOCUS®
Leading the Evolution™

DATA SHEET

RELATIVITY®

Business Challenge

COBOL applications are at the heart of many IT organizations' portfolios. These COBOL applications typically run some of the most mission-critical applications that ensure continuity of operation or deliver competitive advantage. Within these systems is a wealth of valuable business data that, until now, was only accessible to those COBOL applications. Any requests for external access usually resulted in custom reporting or extract tools to be written and frequently these would be "snapshots" of the data, not a live view.

IT departments receive many more requests for custom solutions than they can afford to deliver, end-users are frustrated as they can't access valuable business intelligence data and the company sees increased costs and reduced opportunities for increasing revenues.

Relativity allows core data from sophisticated RM/COBOL® applications to be re-tooled as a full-featured relational database. The data can then be joined with other disparate data and accessed by Windows-based tools seamlessly and transparently. By using Microsoft's ODBC™ standard, Relativity makes integrating core data into distributed client/server applications a straightforward and efficient process.

Product Overview

The purpose of Relativity is to provide access to data contained within files managed by COBOL applications. COBOL is an excellent language for storing and manipulating business data. However, many of the ad-hoc query, reporting, executive support system, and decision support system programs available today are unable to access the COBOL data in any proficient way.

The ODBC interface presents data to a program in the form of tables. A table contains rows, which are similar to records in a COBOL file. A row contains columns, which are similar to fields in COBOL records.

Key Benefits

- Support for standard ODBC interface makes it easy for standard database tools to be used on existing assets
- Expose COBOL data to standard business intelligence tools and other programming languages to enable real time analytics for everyday business analysts
- Provides a standard based interface to applications enabling access to the COBOL across the IT portfolio reducing duplication and encouraging integration of systems

Detailed Feature Overview

Using Relativity, developers empower end-users of an application with the capability to directly access live COBOL application data in a Windows environment using the powerful Relativity Relational Database Engine on UNIX™, Linux™ or Windows servers, NT server, or locally on Windows. They can use their choice of the many available reporting, decision support systems (DSS), and executive information software (EIS) tools to manipulate and analyze the data with tools they already know.

Relativity is a product containing several related tools.

Relativity DBMS

The Relativity DBMS (Database Management System) is software that implements an ODBC-compliant and relational database view of actual, operational COBOL data files.

Relativity Data Manager

This component implements the ODBC interface, the file to relational database transformations, and the application data file access routines.

Relativity Server Administrator

The Relativity Server Administrator utility program is used in two-tier (client/server) configurations of Relativity when the data being accessed reside on a remote server machine.

Relativity Governor Administrator

The Relativity Governor Administrator utility program provides a mechanism to limit the resources used by queries that Relativity performs. The purpose of this limitation is to allow the System Administrator to regulate the impact of Relativity on a production system.

FAST IMPLEMENTATION

Relativity can yield real results in a matter of hours. A full relational database view of complex COBOL application data typically can be completed in one to three months. Once this minimal effort is

expended, end users can access and manipulate your application information as easily as that contained within any traditional RDBMS.

EASE AND POWER FOR DEVELOPER AND USER

Using **Relativity's Database Designer**, which features an easy-to-use graphical interface with on-line help, developers can quickly define a relational view of COBOL application data. File descriptions are quickly imported directly from the COBOL source code and can then be dragged and dropped to create new relational database tables. These features result in cost and time savings during application development.

The **Relativity Schema Extractor** utility program is used to provide the Relativity Designer with details about the COBOL application's data files. Similar to a compiler, the Relativity Schema Extractor utility is used to create a COBOL schema file from a COBOL source file.

DATA SECURITY

The **Relativity DBA** is a tool that is used by the Database Administrator to assign user names and passwords to the End Users. These security features can be used to restrict access to the COBOL data. The Relativity DBA provides the ability to create a group of users, to describe the tables and columns that the group may access, and even how they may access the tables and columns, such as the ability only to read them. Names of End Users are created and associated with the groups. With user names, there also may be associated passwords.

Other Key Features

- **Flexibility:** With Relativity, the existing COBOL applications continue to function, without change. As much or as little of the application may be replaced or augmented by modern GUI-based tools at any time.

Product Specifications and System Requirements

Multiple Windows, UNIX and Linux platforms

On UNIX, Linux:

- unixODBC 2.2.7 or later
- iODBC 3.51.1 or later

On Windows:

- Microsoft ODBC Driver Manager v3.5 or later
- Microsoft ODBC Data Source Administrator v3.5 or later

For additional information please visit: www.microfocus.com