FOCUS Modernization on the Mainframe

Leverage Your Investment in FOCUS and Your Mainframe

There are plenty of reasons to upgrade or enhance your existing FOCUS applications. You can take advantage of advanced features, including web output capabilities, In-Document Analytics, and innovative HTML5 graphics, while improving performance and reducing operating expenses.

Organizations are looking to leverage their software investments by modernizing their existing FOCUS applications with web capabilities. The mainframe – with its reliability, high-capacity workload, built-in backup, and Internet and Java™ application servers – is the ideal platform for reporting and analysis. Because mainframe databases allow for significant network savings, it makes sense to extend mainframe and FOCUS solutions by offering web-enabled features through FOCUS. Customers can immediately build on existing applications and environments, saving money by combining mainframe data with interactive reporting and analysis capabilities, both online and batch:

- Scalability and Performance Improvements – Integration with IBM z/OS technology minimizes CPU usage and reduces the cost and effort associated with running FOCUS on the mainframe. Business Intelligence (BI) and reporting applications can run for free under the IBM zIIP processor. FOCUS runs natively on z/OS and can transfer up to 80 percent of its processing to the zIIP. It is the only BI and analytics platform that intelligently switches processing between the general processor and the zIIP.
Security – Protection is at the heart of your business and the center of the new IBM Z platforms. Major z/OS operating system and z/System firmware and hardware enhancements allow for “pervasive encryption” of all data on the system – at rest and in-flight – with policy-based controls that reduce costs. FOCUS applications running on these systems require no application changes to reap this benefit.

FOCUS web enablement features not only give traditional green-screen FOCUS reports a more visually compelling look and feel, but also extend the core FOCUS query strength of parameterized or self-service reporting. Reports can also be dynamically delivered via e-mail to a user’s desktop or to any mobile device.

The following FOCUS web-enabled capabilities can be leveraged when modernizing existing FOCUS applications or building new BI and analytics applications on the mainframe:

- **In-Document Analytics** – A patented analytics capability enables end users to take the power of BI wherever they go. In-Document Analytics combines data and interactive controls into a single self-contained HTML file, so analytics capabilities are delivered in a completely portable and disconnected environment, with no software required.

- **Excel Integration** – Robust support for Microsoft Excel allows users to make corporate data readily available for use in Excel spreadsheets. This eliminates the need to cut and paste, and prevents the generation of rogue spreadsheets.

- **HTML5 Graphics** – Advanced visualizations can now be generated directly within FOCUS, keeping the application closer to the data, while eliminating data movement and additional processing steps.

- **Information Delivery (Report Distribution)** – This functionality cuts cost by eliminating paper and reducing time spent searching for relevant information. Critical information finds decision-makers in real time, through scheduled or event-driven delivery, intelligence bursting, and real-time alerts – with no per-seat cost for recipients. Any interactive or batch content can be automatically delivered in any format, to any device.

**FOCUS Migration to Web Enablement**

The next step to modernization is to identify FOCUS applications for extension to web capabilities to take advantage of the significant server functionality, such as server multithreading, multi-tier configurations, clustered servers and load management, built-in stress testing, and non-persistence. These features minimize the amount of hardware, software, and staff required to implement and maintain large-scale BI and analytics environments. And FOCUS web functionality helps you integrate your data into operational analytics.

FOCUS web features are the industry’s most complete and flexible BI and analytics platform, enabling companies to use BI and analytics apps more strategically across and beyond the enterprise.

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**Find Out More**

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