



## PARTNERS IN SUCCESS

### Fast Facts:

- Located in Graz, Austria
- Warehouse logistics and automation solutions
- Over 50 years experience, 1,000 employees worldwide
- Revenue: \$180M
- Clients include Sony, Avon, Tiffany, Merck, Pfizer
- [www.knapp.com](http://www.knapp.com)

### Application:

- Internal system for order processing, production planning, warehouse maintenance, and stock replenishment

### Business Needs:

- Interoperability
- Portability
- Development productivity
- Windows look and feel

### New Environment:

- ACUCOBOL-GT®
- ACUCOBOL-GT Thin Client
- DEC COBOL, C
- OpenVMS on HP DEC AlphaServer
- Windows PC clients

### Previous Environment:

- DEC COBOL, C
- OpenVMS on HP DEC AlphaServer
- Windows PC clients

# KNAPP Shelves DEC COBOL for Acucorp's Thin Client Technology on OpenVMS

*"We chose Acucorp mainly because of the ability to develop and compile on Windows and easily run on OpenVMS."*

*—Robert Zöbinger  
Manager Software Development*

### BUSINESS ISSUE

KNAPP Logistik Automations GmbH has over 50 years experience in warehouse logistics and automation. KNAPP's innovative solutions include warehouse layout design and installation, staff training, software, and technical operations.

Vital to KNAPP's success is a proprietary application for managing internal business operations. This application was written in DEC COBOL running on OpenVMS. When end of support for the OpenVMS version used by KNAPP was announced, KNAPP searched for a solution that would maintain its existing applications and provide portability across different platforms. These applications also needed to interoperate with C modules. Additionally, KNAPP wanted to modernize the look and feel by changing from character-based screens to graphical user interfaces (GUI).

### SOLUTION

Due to the time, expense, and risk, KNAPP ruled out rewriting in a new language. Instead, they chose to modernize their COBOL using components of Acucorp's *extend*® toolset. To address portability and interoperability, KNAPP used the ACUCOBOL-GT® Development System. ACUCOBOL-GT includes a powerful compiler and COBOL Virtual Machine™ that allows KNAPP's applications to be moved from one platform to another without recompilation. ACUCOBOL-GT also includes facilities for interoperating with C programs that enables KNAPP's programs to call its C modules. Acucorp's graphical development technology enabled KNAPP to add native GUI entirely in COBOL.

For deployment, KNAPP used Acucorp's Thin Client technology, which enables its applications to display a GUI on a Windows client without any third-party tools. Acucorp's support team remained available to KNAPP developers throughout the implementation process, providing ongoing support when needed.

### BENEFITS

KNAPP avoided a costly rewrite process by modernizing their valuable business logic and applications. This protected key functionality while obtaining interoperability with other languages and databases. Their new portability means when the inevitable time comes to switch platforms, it can be done easily and with no recompilation. By deploying new GUI using ACUCOBOL-GT Thin Client, performance is not compromised, as may be the case with other GUI implementation methods. Additionally, KNAPP's users are highly satisfied with the new Windows look and feel of their applications.

### FUTURE PLANS

KNAPP plans to convert their remaining DEC COBOL applications to create a single code base. They will use the AcuBench® development environment to improve developer productivity and reduce maintenance costs. KNAPP will also use Oracle together with RMS tables in one project. With Acucorp's Acu4GL® technology, KNAPP's applications can access Oracle and other databases.

The new face of COBOL®

**ACUCORP®**

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