



The new face of COBOL®

ACUCORP®

## AeroSoft is Flying High with COBOL on the Web

*"Preserving our COBOL made the best business sense. We realized how hard some competitors had worked to migrate similar applications to client/server architectures, only to fail. We also realized that if we were to build the business intelligence of our existing application from scratch, it would take 30-50 man-years to make it industry mature!"*  
 —Thanos Kaponeridis, President and CEO, AeroSoft Systems

### AeroSoft Systems Fast Facts

- Porting a complex Aviation Maintenance and Engineering Management application to a fully secure Web implementation, deployable in-house or through an ASP/ISP
- Locations: Toronto, Canada and Painz, Austria
- Industry: Transportation (Software for Aviation Maintenance and Engineering Management)
- 200 users in six countries
- [www.aerosoftsys.com](http://www.aerosoftsys.com)

### Application:

- DigiMAINT

### Acucorp Solutions:

- Short Time to Market
- Web Deployment
- Data Access

### New Environments:

- Linux
- SCO UNIX
- Windows 2000 Server

### Previous Environment:

- SCO UNIX

### Previous COBOL

- ACUCOBOL-GT®

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### Business Issue

AeroSoft Systems, a commercial aviation ISV, had big plans for the future: they wanted to offer their customers location-independent access to applications as an ASP. Faced with the prohibitive costs and risks of re-engineering their applications, they sought a way to achieve their goal without redesign. They found a cost-effective answer in the Internet. As a long-time user of Acucorp's products, AeroSoft knew that the **extend**® solutions from Acucorp offered the right tools for the job.

### Solution

The concept for a Web-based ASP solution was born in 1999. DigiMAINT is a complex application, and a total re-write of its COBOL components in another language would be too costly and too risky. "You're chasing your own tail, trying to re-engineer from scratch," says Thanos Kaponeridis, AeroSoft's President and CEO. AeroSoft decided to keep their application in COBOL to preserve the business logic.

They started by upgrading to the latest version of the ACUCOBOL-GT development system. Then, rather than develop their own GUI, AeroSoft added a browser front end to their COBOL programs using CGI to do the first pass of screen/menu migration to dynamic HTML automatically. They used Microsoft Internet Explorer as a standard for the familiar look and feel. The ACUCOBOL-GT code lent itself to that task beautifully, and AcuBench® provided the development environment and code control.

About 1,500 programs (1.5 million lines of code) were redeployed this way. In

addition, AeroSoft used AcuODBC® to facilitate access from ODBC-compliant customer applications to data that did not reside in an RDBMS.

### Benefits

Combined with AeroSoft's own Web server delivery, HTML, and across-the-Web printing solutions, **extend** helped deliver an efficient and reliable ASP capability that AeroSoft can now deploy across the Internet. All the costs, from the initial implementation through maintenance and daily operation, are substantially lower than they would be in a classic client/server architecture.

DigiMAINT can now use its file structure in an ODBC environment and has the potential for an SQL interface, all with platform independence using Acucorp's COBOL Virtual Machine. "We moved from SCO to Linux and from Windows NT to Windows 2000 very smoothly," says Kaponeridis. "We are now able to meet the Microsoft Windows surge in North America, as well as the emerging Linux market in Europe." This translates to new revenue opportunities for AeroSoft.

### Future Plans

AeroSoft is currently positioning DigiMAINT as an in-house and ASP solution. They are also exploring the possibilities of accessing a relational database using Acucorp's technology. And AeroSoft will continue to look to Acucorp for more modern solutions, confident in their partnership's high-flying future.