Rocket® software

Rocket® AcuConnect®

(formerly a Micro Focus® product)

Frustrated by bottlenecks? Tired of character-based screens on UNIX terminals? There comes a point in nearly every organization's development when business requirements exceed computing resources. So how do you meet the demands of your changing business without spending a lot of money? Rocket **AcuConnect** is the answer — a client/server solution that lets you distribute your resources for optimal performance and functionality.

Product highlights

Rocket **AcuConnect** is a COBOL client server solution that can be deployed in a **Distributed Processing** architecture or in a **Thin Client** architecture.

In a **Distributed Processing** deployment, you can divide application processing among multiple UNIX, Linux, and Windows machines for optimal performance. You can perform most of your processing on the client or most on the server, or you can divide the processing any way you wish.

In a **Thin Client** architecture, only the user interface portion of your application runs on the client, a 32-bit Windows machine. The rest runs on a UNIX, Linux, VMS, or Windows server where data access is local. Because only user interface commands are passed to the client, network overhead is minimized.

Key benefits

- Improve performance.
- Reduce network management costs.
- Alleviate software distribution concerns.
- Build a graphical front end for non-Windows applications.
- Extend the life of older equipment.

Key features

Rocket **AcuConnect** is a versatile COBOL listener that lets you make the most efficient and strategic use of your existing computing resources. Rocket **AcuConnect** can be deployed in a **Distributed Processing** architecture or a **Thin Client** architecture.

Thin Client architecture

The **Thin Client** technology consists of three components:

1. A small program on the Windows client called the Rocket® **ACUCOBOL-GT* Thin Client** (acuthin). The **Thin Client** communicates with the application running on the server and handles the display of the user interface. Acuthin is available as an executable file, an Dynamic Link Library (DLL), or an ActiveX control (Web Thin Client).
2. The Rocket **AcuConnect** remote COBOL listener service (acurcl) on the server. The listener waits for requests from the **Thin Client** to launch the COBOL program.
3. A standard **ACUCOBOL-GT** runtime on the server.

Few requirements of the end user

In a **Thin Client** deployment, end users do not need to have a COBOL runtime or the application on the deployment environment. They just need acuthin, which requires fewer than 2MB of disk space. If you use the Web version of the **Thin Client**, acuthin can be downloaded and installed automatically when users visit your web site or click a link to launch your application.

Automatic updates

The **Thin Client** automatically detects version incompatibility between itself and the server software and downloads and installs a compatible version of itself. This eliminates the downtime and cost associated with manually updating each end user's machine, especially beneficial for remote end users.

Graphical user interface for UNIX, Linux and VMS

With the **Thin Client** technology, non-Windows applications such as those running on UNIX, Linux and VMS servers, can display a full Graphical User Interface on Windows clients. You can even leverage ActiveX controls and the Windows help system from your UNIX, Linux or VMS application.

High performance

Many applications perform better when deployed in this fashion compared to other networking techniques.

When applications are run on the server, data access is local so retrievals and updates are faster. Server machines are generally faster and more robust than client machines. Only screen updates are passed to the client. This keeps network I/O to the bare minimum, reducing traffic and improving response times.

Centralized application maintenance

When an application resides solely on a server, program installation is easier than when application logic is split between a client and a server. Upgrades and distribution are simple to accomplish, and program maintenance is centralized and therefore easily completed.

Enhanced security

Applications deployed in a thin configuration enjoy enhanced security, because all programs and data reside on the server. An alias file that holds all the information needed to invoke the appropriate application on the server ensures that only those applications you authorize can be launched from the client.

Distributed Processing architecture

In a **Distributed Processing** architecture Rocket **AcuConnect** comprises a standard **ACUCOBOL-GT** runtimeon the client, and a remote COBOL listener (acurcl) and an **ACUCOBOL-GT** runtime on the server. To launch a server program, the client uses standard COBOL CALL syntax. You embed a CALL in he client application, and Rocket **AcuConnect** launches the server application for you automatically.

High performance

With Rocket **AcuConnect** you can offload the processing of programs with intensive disk I/O such as reports, CPU-bound calculations and sorts onto a server. Rather than causing an input and output transaction for every record, programs can process multiple I/O statements in "batch" on the server with the results being sent across the network in one block of data. This dramatically reduces network traffic and improves performance.

Maximum resource utilization

Rocket **AcuConnect** lets you balance your processing load between multiple servers to make the most efficient use of your existing resources. Interactive components, such as the user interface, can be processed on the client system while computation-intensive components, such as batch reports, can be processed on faster machine with newer technology. By utilizing your resources effectively, you can extend the life of older equipment and cut costs.

Flexibility

Rocket **AcuConnect** gives administrators complete flexibility in the location of their program and data files. The choice of servers is completely arbitrary and can be changed without modification of the client or server programs that have been deployed.

Simple installation

Rocket **AcuConnect** runs as a self-contained process (Service on Windows, daemon on UNIX). All the systems administrator need to do is to create various configuration files to have the tasks execute on the appropriate server. These configuration variables can also be set programmatically so the choice of server can be made at run time.

Highly configurable

You can specify the remote path of the server components in the CALL statement, or you can define the path in a configuration file on the client. Then without modifying or recompiling the original code, you can run the same program on any machine in your network just by changing the client configuration file.

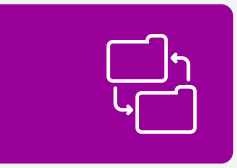
Rapid internet deployment

Because it is not practical to distribute processing to client machines over the internet, Rocket **AcuConnect** is an ideal solution for rapid Internet deployment. With Rocket **AcuConnect**, the client program simply routes a request to the URL or IP address of the machine hosting the COBOL listener, and Rocket **AcuConnect** takes over from there.

Remote program debugging

Rocket **AcuConnect** configuration variables allow you to debug remote programs in a variety of ways: With a TTY, an xterm or the **Thin Client**. This flexibility enables users to easily debug their remote programs.

Other key features



File transfer capabilities

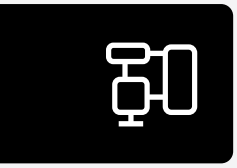
You can transfer files between the application host and display host (client) and between directories on the display host. This lets you decide where you want certain files to reside, on the client or server machine.

Dynamic configuration setting

Rocket **AcuConnect** lets you set server configuration/variables on the fly using the “acurcl-config” command. This simplifies system configuration and lets you respond to changing business needs.

Rocket **AcuServer*** support

Rocket **AcuConnect** can be used in conjunction with Rocket **AcuServer** to provide access to remote data files when the data and applications are stored separately. Rocket **AcuConnect** does not need Rocket **AcuServer** to provide file access if the data resides on the same server as the remote applications. With Rocket **AcuConnect**, you can store your data and program files where it makes the most sense, providing flexibility in the location of files.



Rocket **Acu4GL*** support

Rocket **AcuConnect** can be used in conjunction with Rocket Acu4GL to provide transparent access to data in relational database management systems. This allows users to access data in a variety of data sources, including relational databases.

* formerly Micro Focus® products.

Rocket® software

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