

CSI International® Modernizing VSE

John Rankin

June 10th – 12th, 2026
VM Workshop 2026
Richmond, VA



CSI INTERNATIONAL

Overview

- z/VSE[®], VSEⁿ: *a Solid Foundation*
- Twenty Years of IBM Mainframe Development
- The State of Cobol VSE/ESA
- z/Cobol[™] for z Series
- Embracing the Power of the Hardware
- Performance Operation
- Embracing the Modernization of VSE
- z/Talent[™] Apprentice and Educational Program
- CSI International[®] Commitment



z/VSE[®], VSEⁿ: *The Foundation*

- z/VSE[®] is the oldest operating system still in use today
- While IBM no longer supports it, 21st Century Software continues
- IBM's World:
 - ✓ z/Series[®] :
 - VSEⁿ, z/VSE[®], z/VM[®], z/TPF[®], z/OS[®], and Linux on Z
 - ✓ Power10[™]
 - AIX[®], IBM i, Linux
- z/Series[®] is the most advanced hardware in world
 - ✓ Designed for *data processing*, rather than just *computing*
 - ✓ The I/O Sub-system is unmatched
 - ✓ Customers committed to the technology can achieve more than on any other platform



Commitment to the Future

- z/VSE® is an amazing platform since 1964
- CSI will continue to support z/VSE® and advance VSEn
- Innovation, Invention, and Cutting-edge Advances
- Dozens of additional enhancements are in development specifically designed to:
 - ✓ Take advantage of the massive power of z/Series
 - ✓ Keep performance at the front of our efforts
 - ✓ Provide greater flexibility
 - ✓ Enhance the I/O subsystem that sets mainframes apart from all other platforms
 - ✓ Better support for z/Linux as a flexible client solution
 - ✓ Meet our significant commitment to the community
 - ✓ Embracing all IBM offerings



CSI INTERNATIONAL

The State of Cobol VSE/ESA

- Hardware Support
 - ✓ ESA instructions, limited in their ability to use current facilities
 - ✓ Heavily designed towards memory to memory operation
- Software Support
 - ✓ Old design for code base
 - Built upon 1968 code structure
 - Limited ability to react to hardware changes
 - Designed for a stable architecture
 - Discarded and rewritten for Enterprise Cobol
 - ✓ Use of runtime and assembler objects
 - Internal routines are used from the 1968 version of Cobol
 - LE used for runtime, limits performance in exchange for support



z/Cobol™ for z Series

- z/Cobol™ for z Series is designed for all modern IBM Mainframes
 - ✓ 100% Compatible for IBM Cobol VSE/ESA 1.1, 21csw 1.2
 - ✓ Meets the National Institute of Standards and Technology
 - 100% Certified against ANSI 1985 Cobol Standard
 - 340,000 Lines of Cobol, Testing Code Suite with 500+ programs tests
 - ✓ Maximum Performance on all IBM z Series mainframe platforms
- Completely New
- Generates High Performance Code
- Built for z/VSE, VSEⁿ , z/VM, z/OS, Linux on z, and zCX



Compiler Operation

- Cobol Source code can be structured to match:
 - ✓ ANSI 1968, ANSI 1974, ANSI 1985, or ISO/IEC 1989:2023(E)
 - ✓ Enhancements specifically designed for z Series
 - TCP/IP for ANSI Communication Description Entries
 - Addition Operating System based file methods, and all IBM extensions
- Generated Object code:
 - ✓ Linked with provided library of non LE routines.
 - ✓ No LE environment required.
 - ✓ Object code can be executed anywhere in 24bit, 31bit, and 64bit space
- Supports fully functional export of assembler code as output
- Object code that runs on z/VSE, VSEn, z/VM zCMS, z/OS, Linux on z, and zCX



Code Generated

- 100% 64 bit.
 - ✓ Dynamically adjusts to the calling environment, and uses IBM z/OS save area structures
- Reentrant, no SIIIS issues
- Optimized for non memory to memory operation
- Takes full advantage of Long Displacements and Relative Branching
 - ✓ Each storage section can be addressed 1 Megabyte at a time
 - ✓ Branching works with full word relative movements
- All supporting routines
 - ✓ Provided in linkable 64bit object decks
 - ✓ Designed to work with 24/31/64 objects where necessary
- Runtime error recovery, including vector displays



Intellectual Property

z/Cobol™ for VSE

- U.S. Patents:
 - ✓ 10,901,739 Issued: January 26th, 2021
 - ✓ 11,429,390 Issued: August 20th, 2022
- COBOL Standards
 - ✓ CODASYL COBOL – Issued: July, 1968
 - ✓ X3.23-1974 ANSI COBOL, Issued: May 10th, 1974
 - ✓ X3.23-1985 ANSI COBOL, Issued: September 10th, 1985
 - ✓ ISO/IEC 1989/Amendment 1, Intrinsic function module



Embracing the Power of the Hardware

- Levels of Support
 - ✓ Basic z/Series support, Architecture level 5
 - 64 instructions, relative branching, and long displacements
 - ✓ Immediate Values, Architecture level 7
 - Reduces the use of literal pools, and moves literals into instructions
 - ✓ Decimal Floating Point, Architecture level 9
 - Moves binary coded decimal away from memory to memory operations
 - ✓ Vector Facility, Architecture 12
 - Uses all 32 Vector Registers
 - Completely eliminates binary coded decimal memory instructions
 - All math operations occur on the chip, storing only when necessary



Vector Code Generated

- As math operations occur when z/Cobol™ elements are loaded into Vectors
- All 32 Vectors are continually used
- Vectors are saved prior to call operations
 - ✓ Allows z/Cobol™ code to use vectors while in CICS
 - ✓ Interfaces with standard callable routines
- Perform Verb operations
 - ✓ Utilizes Vectors for comparisons, and increments
 - ✓ Operates with as much data loaded into Vectors
- High performance operation
- Maintaining maximum instructions and data on chip and not memory



Performance Improvements

- Machine Support

- ✓ z Series - Support for 64bit register usage
- ✓ z10 - Decimal Floating Point
- ✓ EC12 and BC12 - Decimal Floating Point Zone Extension
- ✓ z13 and z13s - 32 Vector Registers and Instructions
- ✓ z14 and z14 ZR1 - Vector Packed Decimal Facility
- ✓ z15 and z15 T02 - Enhanced Vector Facility
- ✓ z16 - Advanced Vector Facility Packed Decimal

- Structural Support

- ✓ Highly optimized code generation
- ✓ Use of registers, and vector registers, for intermediate results
- ✓ Persistent and compressed code generation



Embracing the Modernization of z/VSE[®] and VSEⁿ

- CSI International[®] Modernized VSE in 1995 with TCP/IP for VSE[®]
 - ✓ Original, and designed specifically for VSE
- z/Cobol[™] is built in the model of TCP/IP for VSE[®]
 - ✓ Complete new build, new design, original and specifically for VSE
 - ✓ Customizable, extendable, modifiable
- Generates complete assembler code
 - ✓ Compatible with the High Level Assembler
 - ✓ LIST option displays complete assembler output during compilation
- Cobol Verb “ENTER ASSEMBLER” and “ENTER COBOL”
 - ✓ Allows for the programmer to drop into assembler and make custom code, including system macro calls.



z/Cobol File Elements

- ✓ Built in file support for
 - Console and specialized file systems
 - z/CMS File Systems, including Stack reading and writing
 - Completely integrates into z/CMS Pipes
 - z/OS QSAM, BSAM, VSAM, PDS, PDSe
 - Customer extensions available
- ✓ All forms of Sequential disk and tapes supported by VSE, VM, and MVS
- ✓ All forms of VSAM files supported by VSE, VM, and MVS
- ✓ Advanced printer support for 3800s
- ✓ Complete support for IBM preprocessors



VSE Memory Elements

- Support for three separate Working Storage Sections
 - ✓ Standard, in 31 bit above the line storage
 - ✓ Low, in 24 bit below the line storage
 - ✓ High, in 64 bit above the bar within 64bi virtual memory objects
- Support for Cobol extension LOCAL-STORAGE
 - ✓ 31 bit above the line storage
 - ✓ Reinitialized on multiple calls
 - ✓ Reentrant code produced
- Shared Working Storage Sections
 - ✓ Multiple z/Cobol™ program in the same partition
 - ✓ Cross partition sharing, with 64bit virtual memory objects



Cobol Extensions

- Working Storage
 - ✓ ABOVE THE BAR and BELOW THE LINE
 - ✓ Allows callable routines support for all three storage areas
- Communication Section
 - ✓ Compatible with ANSI 85 Standard, and fully support TCP/IP
- File Section
 - ✓ Support Directory Structured file, not just seq., relative, and indexed.
- Report Section
 - ✓ Compatible with ANSI 85/74/68
- Vector Control Verbs for loading, unloading, storing, and saving
- Printer Control Verbs for advanced functions
- Sub Program execution on second CPU



Compiler Extensions

- Assembler code output
 - ✓ Modifiable with macros, and direct code insertions
- Contains a full Assembler implementation
 - ✓ 64 bit code generation
 - ✓ Complete features and listing support
- File extensions
 - ✓ Customizable file routines
- Intrinsic extensions
 - ✓ 64bit z/Cobol™ Objects
 - ✓ Customer written



Modernization

- z/Cobol is a completely compatible base with IBM COBOL
- Structure:
 - ✓ Object code is 100% 64-bit operation
 - ✓ Working Storage section can be: 24, 31, or 64 bit in the same program.
 - ✓ Each working storage section can be 2G in size
- Modern Outreach:
 - ✓ Complete JSON control:
 - Building JSON and parsing Json string is built into the language.
 - Utilized for web interfacing and communication with applications
 - ✓ Entire Network Section and Control structure
 - Clean, simple, build in Network Communication
 - RESTful API, JSON-RPC, MCP, TCP/IP, Secure Communication
- Completely extendable language base



z/Cobol embraces the Modern High-tech World

- z/Cobol Extends beyond standard Cobol
- JSON Implementation
 - ✓ Places the definition of JSON objects in the data area
 - ✓ Adds extremely flexible verbs to the PROCEDURE DIVISION
 - GENERATE JSON, and PARSE JSON Verbs
- New NETWORK SECTION and NETWORK-CONTROL
 - ✓ Within the design form of COBOL
 - ✓ Defines Modern Networking connections
 - ✓ Identifies Methods for managing Protocols
 - ✓ Within the PROCEDURE DIVISION adds
 - SEND and RECEIVE Verbs
- Clean, Usable, Simple, and fits within COBOL



Compiler Development and Support

- Official Cobol Compiler Validation System
 - ✓ National Institute of Standards and Technology
- 459 Cobol Programs
- Legler Systems
 - ✓ Complete Accounting System
 - ✓ Standard Cobol 85
 - ✓ Eleven Modules
 - ✓ Over a million lines of Cobol code



The Future

- Complete interactive Debugging Facility
- Advanced Programming Guides
- Example software library
- Self guided course materials
- Onsite and Regional Cobol Classes



CSI INTERNATIONAL

z/Cobol Debugging Facility

- Operates completely off platform
- Trades real-time encapsulated JSON strings from data
- Stop points
- Abend interception
- Complete displays of all real-time data
- Comparison to off platform library of source code to match with



New Updated Utilities

- BIM-Build Index
- BIM-Console
- BIM-Echo
- BIM-EDFman
- BIM-Fmap
- BIM-Fleet
- BIM-ICCF
- BIM-LMON
- BIM-P3270
- BIM-Pads



New Updated Utilities (cont)

- BIM-Scan
- BIM-Serv
- BIM-Spool
- BIM-Spool Laser
- BIM-Spoon
- BIM-Submit
- BIM-Window



z/Talent[®] Apprentice and Education Program

- Complete Training for z/Series Knowledge
 - ✓ z/VSE[®], VSEⁿ Operating System Internals
 - ✓ Systems Programming Training
 - ✓ Assembler Beginning and Advanced
 - ✓ Cobol Programming and Advanced Methods
 - ✓ VSAM Development
 - ✓ CICS Operations and Development
 - ✓ TCP/IP Operations, Networking, and Development
- Specialized Educational Series
 - ✓ z/Cobol[™] Beginning. Forty Hours. How to program in Cobol.
 - ✓ z/Cobol[™] Intermediate. Forty Hours. How to use complex facilities.
 - ✓ z/Cobol[™] Advanced. Forty Hours. Extensions and report writing.



CSI International Major Touchpoints

- Professional Software development provides:
 - ✓ Stability, professional management and control over software
 - ✓ Reliability, high quality technical support and correction distribution
 - ✓ Functionality, achieved by utilizing all available hardware options, and innovating through invention
- Open Source stagnates innovation and advancement.
 - ✓ IBM has achieved the world's most advanced hardware through being the largest producers of U.S. Patents in the world.
- Utilize IBM hardware to achieve maximum value for customers
 - ✓ IBM is a Hardware Company, making the finest computer equipment



Commitment to the Future

- z/VSE[®] is an amazing platform since 1964
- CSI will continue to enhance and advance z/VSE[®] and VSEⁿ
- Innovation, Invention, and Cutting-edge Advances
- Dozens of additional enhancements are in development specifically designed to:
 - ✓ Take advantage of the massive power of z/Series
 - ✓ Provide greater flexibility
 - ✓ Enhance the I/O subsystem that sets mainframes apart from all other platforms
 - ✓ Better support for z/Linux as a flexible client solution
 - ✓ Meet our significant commitment to the community
- Embracing all IBM and 21st Century Software offerings



Once and Future Cobol

- Current support and limitations
 - ✓ Hardware z15 and above
 - ✓ No floating point support implemented yet
 - ✓ No double byte character set support yet
 - ✓ Report writer not yet completed, full support for IBM preprocessor
 - ✓ Building a new runtime debugging facility
- Statement of Direction
 - ✓ z/Cobol™ Linux for z, and zCX
 - ✓ Cobol will continue to be the fastest, and most dependable language in the world



Thank You



CSI INTERNATIONAL