

# IBM Enterprise COBOL for z/OS V6.2 delivers additional features that are released under the continuous delivery model

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## Overview

IBM<sup>(R)</sup> Enterprise COBOL for z/OS<sup>(R)</sup> is a leading-edge, IBM z/OS-based compiler that helps you create and maintain mission-critical, line-of-business COBOL applications to execute on your z/OS systems. Enterprise COBOL for z/OS continues to give you access to IBM CICS<sup>(R)</sup>, IBM Db2<sup>(R)</sup>, IBM IMS<sup>TM</sup>, and other transactional and data systems.

Enterprise COBOL for z/OS supports the continuous delivery (CD) model so that you can receive new features and enhanced capabilities as soon as the code is ready. You can now receive enhancements in a faster and more continuous way without waiting for the next release.

New features for this CD release of Enterprise COBOL for z/OS, V6.2 include:

- Enhancement to NUMCHECK(PAC) for packed decimal (COMP-3) data items
- New ZON suboptions for NUMCHECK
- A new phrase, LOC(24|31) to the ALLOCATE statement
- New ALLOWCOPYLOC and ALLOWDEFINE installation control options
- TO FALSE phrase for the SET statement and corresponding WHEN SET TO FALSE clause for condition name definition
- Support for the HEX-OF, BIT-OF, E, PI, and TRIM intrinsic functions
- Additional support for processing national data items

The CD model for this enterprise-level program reinforces the continuing IBM commitment to the COBOL programming language on the IBM z/OS platform. With the support of the CD model, you gain the benefit of immediate delivery of new compiler technology and new functions while taking advantage of more than 50 years of IBM experience in compiler and compiler related development.

## Key prerequisites

The CD functions are contained in the following PTFs or APARs:

- PI95081
- PI96135
- PI97160
- PI97434
- PI97621

- PI98480
- PI99703

For more information on PTFs and APARs for Enterprise COBOL for z/OS, see the [COBOL for z/OS support](#) page.

For more information on Enterprise COBOL for z/OS, V6.2, see Software Announcement [217-323](#), dated July 17, 2017.

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## Planned availability date

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August 14, 2018

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## Description

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New features for Enterprise COBOL for z/OS, V6.2 in the most recent CD releases include:

- NUMCHECK(PAC) is enhanced for packed decimal (COMP-3) data items that have an even number of digits, the unused bits are checked for zeros. This feature is available with APAR PI96135. For more information see [NUMCHECK](#) at the IBM Knowledge Center.
- New ZON suboptions for NUMCHECK are added to indicate whether checking display numerics against character-hex literals should be included or excluded.
  - ZON [(ALPHNUM | NOALPHNUM)] | NOZON
  - Specifying ZON or ZON(ALPHNUM) causes the compiler to generate code for an implicit numeric class test for zoned decimal (numeric USAGE DISPLAY) data items that are used as sending data items in COBOL statements.
  - Specifying ZON(NOALPHNUM) causes the compiler to avoid generating code for an implicit numeric class test for zoned decimal (numeric USAGE DISPLAY) data items when they are used in a comparison with an alphanumeric data item, alphanumeric literal or alphanumeric figurative constant.

This feature is available with APAR PI98480.

- A new LOC(24|31) phrase is added to the ALLOCATE statement to control the location of dynamic storage that is acquired. This overrides the influence of the DATA compiler option when determining the location of dynamic storage that is acquired. This feature is available with APAR PI95081. For more information, see the [Allocate statement](#) at the IBM Knowledge Center.
- New installation control options, ALLOWCOPYLOC and ALLOWDEFINE allow installation administrators to decide whether their compiler users are permitted to use the COPYLOC and DEFINE compiler options respectively. This feature is available with APAR PI97621. For more information, see the following at the IBM Knowledge Center:
  - [ALLOWCOPYLOC](#)
  - [ALLOWDEFINE](#)
- TO FALSE phrase for the SET statement, and also the corresponding WHEN SET TO FALSE clause, which allows you to use the SET statement to set condition names to values that will test false in conditions. This feature is available with APAR PI97160. For more information, see [Format 4: SET statement for condition-names](#) and [Format 2: condition-name value](#) at the IBM Knowledge Center.
- Support is added for the following intrinsic functions: HEX-OF, BIT-OF, E, PI, and TRIM.
  - The HEX-OF function returns an alphanumeric character string that consists of the bytes of the input argument converted to a hexadecimal representation.
  - The BIT-OF function returns an alphanumeric character string consisting of characters "1" and "0" that correspond to the binary value of each byte in the input argument.

- The E function returns an approximation of e, the base of natural logarithms.
- The PI function returns a value that is an approximation of PI, the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter.
- The TRIM function returns a character string that contains the characters in the argument with leading spaces, trailing spaces, or both, deleted.

This feature is available with APAR PI99703.

- Additional support is added for processing national data items with the following intrinsic functions: REVERSE, ULENGTH, UPOS, USUBSTR, UWIDTH. This feature is available with compiler APAR PI97434. Note that this PTF pre-reqs the PTF(s) for Language Environment<sup>(R)</sup> (LE) APAR PI97224 (z/OS V2R1/V2R2) and APAR PI97712 (z/OS V2R3). Make sure that the PTF(s) for APAR PI97224 or APAR PI97712 are installed on Language Environment (LE) on all systems where COBOL programs are running before using the compiler with the PTF for PI97434 installed. For more information see the following at the IBM Knowledge Center:
  - [REVERSE](#)
  - [ULENGTH](#)
  - [UPOS](#)
  - [USUBSTR](#)
  - [UWIDTH](#)

CD features apply primarily to the service stream of the latest active release of the product. Once a new version or release is available, it becomes the latest service stream that receives CD features. The previous release reverts back to corrective or preventative service only.

## Section 508 of the US Rehabilitation Act

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### US Section 508 Status

IBM Enterprise COBOL for z/OS, V6.2 is capable, when used in accordance with associated IBM documentation, of satisfying the applicable requirements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, provided that any assistive technology used with the product properly interoperates with it. A US Section 508 Voluntary [Product Accessibility Template \(VPAT\)](#) can be requested.

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## Hardware and software support services

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### SmoothStart/installation services

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IBM SmoothStart Services and Installation Services are not provided.

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## Program number

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Program number	VRM	Program name
5655-EC6	6.2	Enterprise COBOL for z/OS V6

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## Business Partner information

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If you are a Direct Reseller - System Reseller acquiring products from IBM, you may link directly to [BP Attachment for Announcement Letter 218-335](#) for this announcement. A PartnerWorld ID and password are required (use IBMid).

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## Ordering information

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## Ordering z/OS through the Internet

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Shopz provides an easy way to plan and order your z/OS ServerPac or CBPDO. It will analyze your current installation, determine the correct product migration, and present your new configuration based on z/OS. Additional products can also be added to your order (including determination of whether all product requisites are satisfied). Shopz is available in the US, Canada, and several countries in Europe. In countries where Shopz is not available yet, contact your IBM representative (or IBM Business Partner) to handle your order through the traditional IBM ordering process. For more details and availability, go to the [Shopz](#) website.

## Publications

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For IBM Enterprise COBOL for z/OS V6.2 entries on [Knowledge Center](#) (with PDFs) are updated to document the features delivered under the CD model.

No other publications are updated or shipped with continuous delivery features.

Subsequent updates (technical newsletters or revisions between releases) to the publications shipped with the product will be distributed to the user of record for as long as a license for this software remains in effect. A separate publication order or subscription is not needed.

## Customized Offerings

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Product deliverables are shipped only through CBPDO and ServerPac. These customized offerings are offered for internet delivery from Shopz. For more details on internet delivery, go to the Help section on the [Shopz](#) website.

You choose the delivery method when you order the software. IBM recommends internet delivery. However, if you still require physical media, you can choose DVD.

Many products can be ordered in ServerPac the month following their availability in CBPDO. z/OS can be ordered through CBPDO and ServerPac at general availability. Many products will also be orderable in a Product ServerPac without also having to order the z/OS operating system or subsystem.

Shopz and CFSW will determine the eligibility based on product requisite checking. For more details on the Product ServerPac, go to the Help section on the [Shopz](#) website.

Production of software product orders will begin on the planned general availability date.

- CBPDO shipments will begin one week after general availability.
- ServerPac shipments will begin two weeks after general availability.

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## Terms and conditions

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The terms are unaffected by this announcement.

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## Statement of good security practices

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