

Knowing Your COBOL Flows:

How MANTA Can Support a Cost-Effective COBOL Migration



COBOL is a programming language used by large financial institutions, insurance companies, transportation systems, and government agencies to handle large-scale transaction processing. Having first emerged in 1959, it remains the mainframe underpinning of many large organizations' day-to-day operations.

The Risks of Having Too Many Applications Written in COBOL

- Compared to other programming language options, COBOL is difficult to maintain.
- Most universities have stopped teaching COBOL, resulting in a dwindling number of programmers who are proficient in the language.
- Because of this talent shortage, COBOL programmers are both hard to find and expensive to hire.

What's Holding Back Migration Efforts?

The old adage "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" comes into play here, but it goes deeper than that. Below are the top 3 concerns that prevent organizations from migrating out of COBOL.

Fears About Breaking the System

Organizations using COBOL depend on it as a critical system for daily operations. Oftentimes, COBOL has been in place for decades and has gone untouched for just as long. Not knowing how it interacts with the rest of your data environment can translate to very real fears that touching it will trigger a system outage or broken data flows.

Unclear Data Flows and Interdependencies

Any data migration requires a deep understanding of all data flows and dependencies. Without that understanding, you risk missing interdependencies between applications that would cause downstream impacts and risk regulatory scrutiny.

The Cost of Mapping Out and Moving Your Data

Migration efforts done in-house cost a significant amount of time, money, and resources, which not every company has. Because of this, many organizations opt to outsource their migrations to a third-party vendor. If that vendor has to map out your data environment before they can migrate any data, their job expands – and your cost multiplies.

Why Data Lineage Should Be Part of Your Migration Plan

A successful migration plan can reduce project costs by up to 30%. But given the pitfalls and risks involved, how do you develop an optimal plan?

Enter MANTA. Our powerful automated data lineage solution reaches into every corner of your data environment to create a comprehensive map of all your data flows, sources, transformations, and dependencies. With this map, your COBOL migration plan can finally be complete. No more blind spots, uncertainty, or unwelcome surprises, which are all but guaranteed if you don't know your data environment. Here's how we can help:

Finding Critical Data Issues in the Pre-Migration Phase

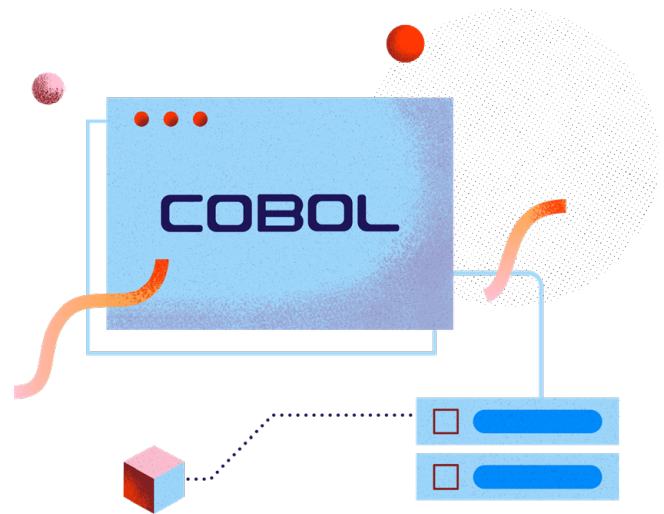
Even if you aren't ready to migrate, data lineage can benefit you. If COBOL is running a business critical system, yet you have few resources who know the language, seeing your data flows mapped out can help you more quickly pinpoint and fix data issues – even if you don't understand the source code behind it.

Planning the Trajectory of Your Migration

A data lineage map helps you conquer the critical planning phase of any migration. While you may be tempted to leave this step to the vendor migrating your data, this is not cost efficient. Instead, you can hand them a data flow map that provides clarity into what they need to replace and when.

Eliminating System Breakage Fears with Impact Analysis

With a data lineage map, you see exactly how COBOL interacts with your data environment and whether any cross-system information exchange could be affected by your migration. The result is that the fear of system breakages – and the regulatory scrutiny that can come with them – no longer holds you back.



Validating Your Migration

After your migration is complete, you need to validate your new models. By conducting ongoing scans of your new data environment, you can verify that data migrated properly and that everything is running smoothly.

See How Much Can You Save Using MANTA

COBOL migrations can be expensive. Our team has developed an ROI calculator, giving you a sense of how much time and money you can expect to save by using MANTA.

Schedule a 1:1 call with a member of our team to see it in action!

