

GnuCOBOL Manual

for GnuCOBOL 2.0

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GnuCOBOL is a free and open-source COBOL compiler, which translates COBOL programs to C code and compiles it using GCC or other native operating system C compiler.

This manual corresponds to GnuCOBOL 2.0.

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GnuCOBOL 2.0

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1 Getting started

1.1 Hello, world!

This is a sample program that displays “Hello, world!”:

```
----- hello.cob -----
      * Sample COBOL program
      IDENTIFICATION DIVISION.
      PROGRAM-ID. hello.
      PROCEDURE DIVISION.
      DISPLAY "Hello, world!".
      STOP RUN.
-----
```

The compiler, `cobc`, is executed as follows:

```
$ cobc -x hello.cob
$ ./hello
Hello, world!
```

The executable file name (`hello` in this case) is determined by removing the extension from the source file name.

You can specify the executable file name by specifying the compiler option `-o` as follows:

```
$ cobc -x -o hello-world hello.cob
$ ./hello-world
Hello, world!
```

The program can be written in a more modern style, with free format code, inline comments, the `GOBACK` verb and an optional `END-DISPLAY` terminator:

```
----- hellonew.cob -----
*> Sample GnuCOBOL program
identification division.
program-id. hellonew.
procedure division.
display
    "Hello, new world!"
end-display
goback.
-----
```

To compile free-format code, you must use the `-free` compiler option.

```
$ cobc -x -free hellonew.cob
$ ./hellonew
Hello, new world!
```

2 Compile

This chapter describes how to compile COBOL programs using GnuCOBOL.

2.1 Compiler options

The compiler `cobc` accepts the options described in this section. The compiler arguments follow the general syntax `cobc [options] file [file ...]`. A complete list of options can be displayed by using the help option.

2.1.1 Help options

The following switches display information about the compiler:

- `--help, -h` Display help screen (see [Appendix A \[cobc -help\]](#), page 21). No further actions will be taken.
- `--version` Display compiler version, author package date and executable build date. `-V` will also display version. No further actions will be taken.
- `--info` Display build information along with the default and current compiler configurations. No further actions will be taken except for further display options.
- `-v` Verbosely display the programs invoked during compilation.
- `--list-reserved` Display reserved words (see [Appendix B \[cobc -list-reserved\]](#), page 25). A Y/N field shows if the word is supported.¹ No further actions will be taken except for further display options.
- `--list-intrinsics` Display intrinsic functions (see [Appendix C \[cobc -list-intrinsics\]](#), page 37). A Y/N field shows if the function is implemented. No further actions will be taken except for further display options.
- `--list-system` Display system routines (see [Appendix D \[cobc -list-system\]](#), page 40). No further actions will be taken except for further display options.
- `--list-mnemonics` Display mnemonic names (see [Appendix E \[cobc -list-mnemonics\]](#), page 42). No further actions will be taken except for further display options.

2.1.2 Build target

The `cobc` compiler treats files like `*.cob`, `*.cbl` as COBOL source code, `*.c` as C source code, `*.o` as object code, `*.i` as preprocessed code and `*.so` as dynamic modules and knows how to handle such files in the generation, compilation, and linking steps.

The special input name `-` takes input from `stdin` which is assumed to be COBOL source, and uses a default output name of `a.out` (or `a.so/c/o/i`, selected as appropriate) for the build type.

By default, the compiler builds a dynamically loadable module.

The following options specify the target type produced by the compiler:

¹ Support may be partial or complete.

- E** Preprocess only: compiler directives are executed, comment lines are removed and `COPY` statements are expanded. The output is saved in file `*.i`.
- C** Translation only. COBOL source files are translated into C files. The output is saved in file `*.c`.
- S** Compile only. Translated C files are compiled by the C compiler to assembler code. The output is saved in file `*.s`.
- c** Compile and assemble. This is equivalent to `cc -c`. The output is saved in file `*.o`.
- m** Compile, assemble, and build a dynamically loadable module (i.e., a shared library). The output is saved in file `*.so`.² This is the default behaviour.
- b** Compile, assemble, and combine all input files into a single dynamically loadable module. Unless `-o` is also used, the output is saved using the first filename as `*.so`.
- x** Include the main function in the output, creating an executable image. The main entry point being the first program in the file.
 This option takes effect at the translation stage. If you give this option with `-C`, you will see the main function at the end of the generated C file.
- j(=<args>), -job(=<args>)**
 Run job after compilation. Either from executable with `-x`, or with `cobcrun` when compiling a module. Optional arguments, if given, are passed to the program or module command line.
- I <directory>**
 Add <directory> to copy/include search path.
- L <directory>**
 Add <directory> to library search path.
- l <lib>** Link the library <lib>.
- D <define>**
 Pass <define> to the COBOL compiler.
- o <file>** Place the output into <file>.

2.1.3 Source format

GnuCOBOL supports both fixed and free source format. The default format is the fixed format. This can be overridden either by the `>>SOURCE [FORMAT] [IS] {FIXED|FREE}` directive, or by one of the following options:

- free, -F** Free format. The program-text area starts in column 1 and continues till the end of line (effectively 255 characters in GnuCOBOL).
- fixed** Fixed format. Source code is divided into: columns 1-6, the sequence number area; column 7, the indicator area; columns 8-72, the program-text area; and columns 72-80 as the reference area.³

2.1.4 Warning options

- W** Enable every possible warning. This includes more information than `-Wall` would normally provide.
- Wall** Enable all common warnings.

² The extension varies depending on your host.

³ Historically, fixed format was based on 80-character punch cards.

- Warchaic**
Warn if archaic features are used, such as continuation lines or the `NEXT SENTENCE` statement.
- Wcall-params**
Warn if non-01/77-level items are used as arguments in a `CALL` statement. This is *not* set with `-Wall`.
- Wcolumn-overflow**
Warn if text after column 72 in `FIXED` format. This is *not* set with `-Wall`.
- Wconstant**
Warn inconsistent constant
- Wimplicit-define**
Warn if implicitly defined data items are used.
- Wlinkage**
Warn dangling `LINKAGE` items. This is *not* set with `-Wall`.
- Wobsolete**
Warn if obsolete features are used.
- Wparentheses**
Warn about any lack of parentheses around `AND` within `OR`.
- Wredefinition**
Warn about incompatible redefinitions of data items.
- Wstrict-typing**
Warn about type mismatch strictly.
- Wterminator**
Warn about the lack of scope terminator `END-XXX`. This is *not* set with `-Wall`.
- Wtruncate**
Warn on possible field truncation. This is *not* set with `-Wall`.
- Wunreachable**
Warn if statements are unreachable. This is *not* set with `-Wall`.

2.1.5 Configuration options

- std=<dialect>**
Compiler uses the given dialect to determine certain compiler features and warnings.
See [Appendix F \[Appendix F\], page 45](#), and `config/*.conf`.
- std=cobol2002**
COBOL 2002
- std=cobol2014**
COBOL 2014
- std=cobol85**
COBOL-85
- std=ibm** IBM compatible
- std=mvs** MVS compatible
- std=bs2000**
BS2000 compatible

- `-std=mf` Micro Focus compatible
- `-std=acu` ACUCOBOL-GT compatible
- `-std=default`
 GnuCOBOL
- `-conf=<file>`
 User-defined dialect configuration. See `-std=` above.
 See [Appendix F \[Appendix F\], page 45](#), and `config/*.conf`.
- `-cb_conf=<tag:value>`
 Override a single configuration entry. See [Appendix F \[Appendix F\], page 45](#).

2.1.6 Debug switches

- `-debug, -d`
 Enable all run-time error checks.
- `-g` Produce debugging information in the output.
- `-O` Enable optimization of code size and execution speed. See `man gcc` for details.
- `-O2` Optimize even more.
- `-Os` Optimize for size. Optimizer will favour code size over execution speed.
- `-ftrace` Generate trace code (log executed procedures).
- `-ftraceall`
 Generate trace code (log executed procedures and statements).
- `-fsyntax-only`
 Check syntax only; don't emit any output.
- `-fdebugging-line`
 Enable debugging lines (D in indicator column).
- `-fsource-location`
 Generate source location code (implied by `-debug` or `-g`).
- `-fimplicit-init`
 Do automatic initialization of the COBOL runtime system.
- `-fstack-check`
 Enable PERFORM stack checking (implied by `-debug` or `-g`).
- `-fnotrunc`
 Do not truncate binary fields according to PICTURE.

2.1.7 Miscellaneous

- `-P(=<dir or file>)`
 Generate and place a program listing into `*.lst`.
- `-ext <extension>`
 Add default file extension.
- `-fmfcomment`
 Treat lines with `*` or `/` in column 1 as comment (fixed-format only).
- `-acucomment`
 Treat `|` as an inline comment marker.

`-fsign=ASCII`
 Numeric display sign ASCII (default on ASCII machines).

`-fsign=EBCDIC`
 Numeric display sign EBCDIC (default on EBCDIC machines).

`-ffunctions=all`
 Allow use of intrinsic functions without `FUNCTION` keyword.

`-ffold-copy=LOWER`
 Fold `COPY` subject to lower case (default no transformation).

`-ffold-copy=UPPER`
 Fold `COPY` subject to upper case (default no transformation).

`-save-temps(=<dir>)`
 Save intermediate files (by default, in current directory).

2.2 Multiple sources

This section describes how to compile a program from multiple source files.

This section also describes how to build a shared library that can be used by any COBOL program and how to use external libraries in COBOL programs.

2.2.1 Static linking

The easiest way of combining multiple files is to compile them into a single executable.

One way is to compile all the files in one command:

```
$ cobc -x -o prog main.cob subr1.cob subr2.cob
```

Another way is to compile each file with the option `-c`, and link them at the end. The top-level program must be compiled with the option `-x`.

```
$ cobc -c subr1.cob
$ cobc -c subr2.cob
$ cobc -c -x main.cob
$ cobc -x -o prog main.o subr1.o subr2.o
```

You can link C routines as well using either method:

```
$ cobc -o prog main.cob subrs.c
```

or

```
$ cobc -c subrs.c
$ cobc -c -x main.cob
$ cobc -x -o prog main.o subrs.o
```

Any number of functions can be contained in a single C file.

The linked programs will be called dynamically; that is, the symbol will be resolved at run time. For example, the following COBOL statement

```
CALL "subr" USING X.
```

will be converted into equivalent C code like this:

```
int (*func)() = cob_resolve("subr");
if (func != NULL)
    func (X);
```

With the compiler option `-fstatic-call`, more efficient code will be generated:

```
subr(X);
```

Note that this option only takes effect when the called program name is in a literal (like `CALL "subr"`). With a data name (like `CALL SUBR`), the program is still called dynamically.

2.2.2 Dynamic linking

There are two methods to achieve this: a driver program, or compiling the main program and subprograms separately.

2.2.2.1 Driver program

Compile all programs with the option `-m`:

```
$ cobc -m main.cob subr.cob
```

This creates the shared object files `main.so` `subr.so`.⁴

Before running the main program, install the module files in your library directory:

```
$ cp subr.so /your/cobol/lib
```

Set the runtime variable `COB_LIBRARY_PATH` to your library directory, and run the main program:

```
$ export COB_LIBRARY_PATH=/your/cobol/lib
```

(Note: You may set the variable via a runtime configuration file, see [Appendix H \[Appendix H\]](#), page 50. You may also set the variable to directly point to the directory where you compiled the sources.)

Now execute your program:

```
$ cobcrun main
```

2.2.2.2 Compiling programs separately

The main program is compiled as usual:

```
$ cobc -x -o main main.cob
```

Subprograms are compiled with the option `-m`:

```
$ cobc -m subr.cob
```

This creates a module file `subr.so`.⁵

Before running the main program, install the module files in your library directory:

```
$ cp subr.so /your/cobol/lib
```

Now, set the environment variable `COB_LIBRARY_PATH` to your library directory, and run the main program:

```
$ export COB_LIBRARY_PATH=/your/cobol/lib
$ ./main
```

2.2.3 Building library

You can build a shared library by combining multiple COBOL programs and even C routines:

```
$ cobc -c subr1.cob
$ cobc -c subr2.cob
$ cc -c subr3.c
$ cc -shared -o libsubrs.so subr1.o subr2.o subr3.o
```

2.2.4 Using library

You can use a shared library by linking it with your main program.

Before linking the library, install it in your system library directory:

```
$ cp libsubrs.so /usr/lib
```

or install it somewhere else and set `LD_LIBRARY_PATH`:

⁴ The extension used depends on your operating system.

⁵ The extension used depends on your operating system.

```
$ cp libsubrs.so /your/cobol/lib
$ export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=/your/cobol/lib
```

Then, compile the main program, linking the library as follows:

```
$ cobc -x main.cob -L/your/cobol/lib -lsubrs
```

2.3 C interface

This chapter describes how to combine C programs with COBOL programs.

2.3.1 Writing Main Program in C

Include `libcob.h` in your C program and call `cob_init` before using any COBOL module:

```
#include <libcob.h>

int
main (int argc, char **argv)
{
    /* initialize your program */
    ...

    /* initialize the COBOL run-time library */
    cob_init (argc, argv);

    /* rest of your program */
    ...

    /* Clean up and terminate - This does not return */
    cob_stop_run (return_status);
}
```

You can write `cobc_init(0, NULL)`; if you do not want to pass command line arguments to COBOL.

You can compile your C program as follows:

```
cc -c `cob-config --cflags` main.c
```

The compiled object must be linked with `libcob` as follows:

```
cc -o main main.o `cob-config --libs`
```

2.3.2 Static linking with COBOL programs

Let's call the following COBOL module from a C program:

```
----- say.cob -----
IDENTIFICATION DIVISION.
PROGRAM-ID. say.
ENVIRONMENT DIVISION.
DATA DIVISION.
LINKAGE SECTION.
01 hello PIC X(7).
01 world PIC X(6).
PROCEDURE DIVISION USING hello world.
    DISPLAY hello world.
    EXIT PROGRAM.
-----
```

This program accepts two arguments, displays them, and exits.

From the viewpoint of C, this is equivalent to a function having the following prototype:

```
extern int say(char *hello, char *world);
```

So, your main program will look like as follows:

```
---- hello.c -----
#include <libcob.h>

extern int say(char *hello, char *world);

int
main()
{
    int ret;
    char hello[8] = "Hello, ";
    char world[7] = "world!";

    cob_init(0, NULL);

    ret = say(hello, world);

    return ret;
}
-----
```

Compile these programs as follows:

```
$ cc -c 'cob-config --cflags' hello.c
$ cobc -c -static say.cob
$ cobc -x -o hello hello.o say.o
$ ./hello
Hello, world!
```

2.3.3 Dynamic linking with COBOL programs

You can find a COBOL module having a specific name by using the C function `cob_resolve`, which takes the module name as a string and returns a pointer to the module function.

`cob_resolve` returns NULL if there is no module. In this case, the function `cob_resolve_error` returns the error message.

Let's see an example:

```
---- hello-dynamic.c -----
#include <libcob.h>

static int (*say)(char *hello, char *world);

int main()
{
    int ret;
    char hello[8] = "Hello, ";
    char world[7] = "world!";

    cob_init(0, NULL);

    /* Find the module with PROGRAM-ID "say". */
    say = cob_resolve("say");
```

```

/* If there is no such module, show error and exit. */
if(say == NULL) {
    fprintf(stderr, "%s\n", cob_resolve_error());
    exit(1);
}

/* Call the module found and exit with the return code. */
ret = say(hello, world);

return ret;
}
-----

```

Compile these programs as follows:

```

$ cc -c 'cob-config --cflags' hello-dynamic.c
$ cobc -x -o hello hello-dynamic.o
$ cobc -m say.cob
$ export COB_LIBRARY_PATH=.
$ ./hello
Hello, world!

```

2.3.4 Static linking with C programs

Let's call the following C function from COBOL:

```

---- say.c -----
int say(char *hello, char *world)
{
    int i;
    for(i = 0; i < 7; i++)
        putchar(hello[i]);
    for(i = 0; i < 6; i++)
        putchar(world[i]);
    putchar('\n');
    return 0;
}
-----

```

This program is equivalent to the program in `say.cob` above.

Note that, unlike C, the arguments passed from COBOL programs are not terminated by the null character (i.e., `'\0'`).

You can call this function in the same way you call COBOL programs:

```

---- hello.cob -----
IDENTIFICATION DIVISION.
PROGRAM-ID. hello.
ENVIRONMENT DIVISION.
DATA DIVISION.
WORKING-STORAGE SECTION.
01 hello PIC X(7) VALUE "Hello, ".
01 world PIC X(6) VALUE "world!".
PROCEDURE DIVISION.
CALL "say" USING hello world.
STOP RUN.

```

Compile these programs as follows:

```
$ cc -c say.c
$ cobc -c -static -x hello.cob
$ cobc -x -o hello hello.o say.o
$ ./hello
Hello, world!
```

2.3.5 Dynamic linking with C programs

You can create a dynamically-linked module from a C program by passing an option `-shared` to the C compiler:

```
$ cc -shared -o say.so say.c
$ cobc -x hello.cob
$ export COB_LIBRARY_PATH=.
$ ./hello
Hello, world!
```

3 Customize

3.1 Customizing compiler

These settings are effective at compile-time.

Environment variables (default value in brackets):

COB_CC C compiler ("gcc")

COB_CFLAGS
Flags passed to the C compiler ("-I\$(PREFIX)/include")

COB_LDFLAGS
Flags passed to the C compiler ("")

COB_LIBS Standard libraries linked with the program ("-L\$(PREFIX)/lib -lcob")

COB_LDADD
Additional libraries linked with the program ("")

3.2 Customizing library

These settings are effective at run-time. You can set them either via the environment or by a runtime configuration file.

To set the global runtime configuration file export **COB_RUNTIME_CONFIG** to point to your configuration file. To set an explicit runtime configuration file for a single run via **cobcrun** you can use its option **-c <file>**, **-config=<file>**.

For displaying the current runtime settings you can use the option **-r**, **-runtime-env** of **cobcrun**.

For a complete list of runtime variables, aliases, their default values and options to set them see [Appendix H \[Appendix H\], page 50](#).

4 Optimize

4.1 Optimize options

There are three compiler options for optimization: `-O`, `-Os` and `-O2`. These options enable optimization at both translation (from COBOL to C) and compilation (C to assembly) levels.

Currently, there is no difference between these optimization options at the translation level.

The option `-O`, `-Os` or `-O2` is passed to the C compiler as is and used for C level optimization.

4.2 Optimize call

When a `CALL` statement is executed, the called program is linked at run time. By specifying the compiler option `-fstatic-call`, you can statically link the program at compile time and call it efficiently. (see [Section 2.2.1 \[Static linking\]](#), page 6)

4.3 Optimize binary

By default, data items of usage `binary` or `comp` are stored in big-endian form. On those machines whose native byte order is little-endian, this is not quite efficient.

If you prefer, you can store binary items in the native form of your machine. Set the config option `binary-byteorder` to `native` in your config file (see [Chapter 3 \[Customize\]](#), page 12).

In addition, setting the option `binary-size` to `2-4-8` or `1-2-4-8` is more efficient than others.

5 Debug

5.1 Debug options

The compiler option `-debug` can be used during the development of your programs. It enables all run-time error checking, such as subscript boundary checks and numeric data checks, and displays run-time errors with source locations.

6 Non-standard extensions

6.1 SELECT ASSIGN TO

<This section is in progress.>

6.2 Indexed file packages

<This section is in progress.>

6.3 Extended ACCEPT statement

Extended ACCEPT statements allow for full control of items accepted from the screen. Items accept by line and column positioning.

```
ACCEPT variable-1
  LINE <line> COLUMN <column>
  WITH
    AUTO-SKIP | AUTO
    [PROTECTED] SIZE [IS] variable-2 | literal-2
END-ACCEPT.
```

6.3.1 AUTO-SKIP

With this option the ACCEPT statement returns after the last character is typed at the end of the field. This is the same as if the Enter key were pressed.

Without this option the cursor remains at the end of the field and waits for the user to press Enter.

The word AUTO may be used for AUTO-SKIP.

The Right-Arrow key returns from the end of the field. The Left-Arrow key returns from the beginning. See [Section 6.4 \[ACCEPT special\], page 16](#).

The Alt-Right-Arrow and Alt-Left-Arrow keys never AUTO-SKIP.

6.3.2 PROTECTED

PROTECTED is ignored. It is optional.

6.3.3 SIZE

The size of variable-1 to accept from the screen. It is optional.

SIZE <greater than zero>

If SIZE is less than the length of variable-1 then only the SIZE number of characters accept into the field. Variable-1 pads with spaces after SIZE to the end of the field.

If SIZE is greater than variable-1, then the screen pads with spaces after variable-1 to the SIZE length.

SIZE ZERO

<SIZE option not specified>

The variable-1 field accepts with its length.

6.4 ACCEPT special keys

Special keys are available for extended `ACCEPT` statements.

The `COB-CRT-STATUS` values are in the `screenio.cpy` copy file.

6.4.1 Arrow keys

The Left-Arrow key moves the cursor to the left. Without `AUTO-SKIP` the cursor stops at the beginning of the field. With `AUTO-SKIP` it returns with the `COB-SCR-KEY-LEFT` value of 2009. See [Section 6.3 \[Extended ACCEPT\], page 15](#).

The Alt-Left-Arrow key is the same as Left-Arrow except that it never returns, even for `AUTO-SKIP`.

The Right-Arrow key moves the cursor to the right. Without `AUTO-SKIP` the cursor stops at the end of the field. With `AUTO-SKIP` it returns with the `COB-SCR-KEY-RIGHT` value of 2010. See [Section 6.3 \[Extended ACCEPT\], page 15](#).

The Alt-Right-Arrow key is the same as Right-Arrow except that it never returns, even for `AUTO-SKIP`.

6.4.2 Backspace key

The Backspace key moves the cursor, and the remainder of the text, to the left.

6.4.3 Delete keys

The Delete key deletes the cursor's character and moves the remainder of the text to the left. The cursor does not move.

The Alt-Delete key deletes all text from the cursor to the end of the field.

6.4.4 End keys

The End key moves the cursor after the last non-space character.

The Alt-End key moves the cursor to the end of the field.

6.4.5 Home keys

The Home key moves the cursor to the first non-space character.

The Alt-Home key moves the cursor to the beginning of the field.

6.4.6 Insert key

The Insert key changes the insert mode.

When the insert mode is on, typed characters move the existing characters to the right. When it is off, typed characters type over existing characters.

The default insert mode is set by the `COB_INSERT_MODE` variable, See [Appendix H \[Appendix H\], page 50](#). This must be set before the first extended `ACCEPT`, `DISPLAY`, or any routine that gets information from the screen.

The last press of the Insert key is used in all following `ACCEPT` statements while the program is running.

6.4.7 Tab keys

The Tab key returns from the `ACCEPT` with the `COB-SCR-TAB` value of 2007.

The Shift-Tab key returns with the `COB-SCR-BACK-TAB` value of 2008.

6.5 Extended DISPLAY statement

Extended DISPLAY statements allow for full control of items that display on the screen. Items display by line and column positioning.

```
DISPLAY variable-1 | literal-1 | figurative constant
    LINE <line> COLUMN <column>
    WITH BELL
        BLANK LINE | SCREEN
        ERASE EOL | EOS
        SIZE [IS] variable-2 | literal-2
END-DISPLAY.
```

6.5.1 BELL

Ring the bell. It is optional.

6.5.2 BLANK

Clear the whole line or screen. It is optional.

BLANK LINE

Clear the line from the beginning of the line to the end of the line.

BLANK SCREEN

Clear the whole screen.

6.5.3 ERASE

Clear the line or screen from LINE and COLUMN. It is optional.

ERASE EOL

Clear the line from LINE and COLUMN to the end of the line.

ERASE EOS

Clear the screen from LINE and COLUMN to the end of the screen.

6.5.4 SIZE

The size of variable-1, literal-1, or figurative constant to display onto the screen. It is optional.

SIZE <greater than zero>

If SIZE is less than the length of variable-1 or literal-1 then only the SIZE number of characters display.

If SIZE is greater than the length of variable-1 or literal-1, then the screen pads with spaces after the field to the SIZE length.

Figurative constants display repeatedly the number of times in SIZE. Except that LOW-VALUES always positions the cursor (see SIZE ZERO below).

SIZE ZERO

<SIZE option not specified>

Variable-1 or literal-1 displays with the field length.

Certain figurative constants have special functions.

SPACE: Display spaces from LINE and COLUMN to the end of the screen. This is the same as WITH ERASE EOS.

LOW-VALUE: Position the cursor to LINE and COLUMN. The next DISPLAY statement does not need a LINE or COLUMN to display at that position.

ALL "1" Display spaces from LINE and COLUMN to the end of the line. This is the same as WITH ERASE EOL.

ALL "2" Clear the whole screen. This is the same as WITH BLANK SCREEN.

ALL "7" Ring the bell. This is the same as WITH BELL.

All other figurative constants display as a single character.

7 System routines

For a complete list of supported system routines See [Appendix D \[cobc -list-system\]](#), page 40.

7.1 CBL_OC_GETOPT

CBL_OC_GETOPT realises the quite well-known option parser, getopt, for GnuCOBOL. The usage of this system routine is described by the following example.

```

identification division.
program-id. prog.

data division.
working-storage section.
    78 shortoptions value "jkl".

    01 longoptions.
        05 optionrecord occurs 2 times.
            10 optionname    pic x(25).
            10 has-value     pic 9.
            10 valpoint      pointer value NULL.
            10 return-value  pic x(4).

    01 longind      pic 99.
    01 long-only    pic 9 value 1.

    01 return-char  pic x(4).
    01 opt-val      pic x(10).

    01 counter      pic 9 value 0.
```

We first need to define the necessary fields for getopt's shortoptions (so), longoptions (lo), longoption index (longind), long-only-option (long-only) and also the fields for return values return-char and opt-val (arbitrary size with trimming, see return codes).

The shortoptions are written down as an alphanumeric field (i.e., a string with arbitrary size) as follows:

```
"ab:c::d"
```

This means we want getopt to look for shortoptions named a, b, c or d and we demand an option value for b and we are accepting an optional one for c.

The longoptions are defined as a table of records with oname, has-value, valpoint and val.

- oname defines the name of a longoption.
- has-value defines if an option value is demanded (has-val = 1), optional (has-val = 2) or not required (has-val = 0).
- valpoint is a pointer used to specify an address to save getopt's return value to. The pointer is optional. If it is NULL, getopt returns a value as usual. If you use the pointer it has to point to a PIC X(4) field.
- The field val is a PIC X(4) character which is returned if the longoption was recognized.

The longoption structure is immutable! You can only vary the number of records.

Now we have the tools to run CBL_OC_GETOPT within the procedure division.

```

procedure division.
    move "version" to optionname    (1).
```

```

move 0          to has-value    (1).
move "v"        to return-value (1).

move "verbose"  to optionname   (2).
move 0          to has-value    (2).
move "V"        to return-value (2).

perform with test after until return-code = -1
  call 'CBL_OC_GETOPT' using
    by reference shortoptions longoptions longind
    by value long-only
    by reference return-char opt-val
  end-call

  display return-char end-display
  display opt-val      end-display
end-perform
stop run.

```

The example shows how we initialize all parameters and call the routine until CBL_OC_GETOPT runs out of options and returns -1.

The return-char might contain the following:

- regular character if an option was recognized
- '?' if we have an undefined or ambiguous option
- '1' if we have a non-option (only if first byte of so is '-')
- '0' if valpoint != NULL and we are writing the return value to the specified address
- '-1' if we don't have any more options (or reach the first non-option if first byte of so is '+')

The return-codes of CBL_OC_GETOPT are:

- 1 if we've got a non-option (only if first byte of so is '-')
- 0 if valpoint != NULL and we are writing the return value to the specified address
- -1 if we don't have any more options (or reach the first non-option if first byte of so is '+')
- 2 if we have got an truncated option value in opt-val (because opt-val was too small)
- 3 if we got a regular answer from getopt

Appendix A cobc --help

GnuCOBOL compiler for most COBOL dialects with lots of extensions

Usage: cobc [options]... file...

Options:

-h, -help	display this help and exit
-V, -version	display compiler version and exit
-i, -info	display compiler information (build/environment)
-v, -verbose	display the commands invoked by the compiler
-vv	display compiler version and the commands invoked by the compiler
-q, -brief	reduced displays, commands invoked not shown
-x	build an executable program
-m	build a dynamically loadable module (default)
-j [<args>], -job[=<args>]	run program after build, passing <args>
-std=<dialect>	warnings/features for a specific dialect <dialect> can be one of: cobol2014, cobol2002, cobol85, default, ibm, mvs, bs2000, mf, acu; see configuration files in directory config
-F, -free	use free source format
-fixed	use fixed source format (default)
-O, -O2, -Os	enable optimization
-g	enable C compiler debug / stack check / trace
-d, -debug	enable all run-time error checking
-o <file>	place the output into <file>
-b	combine all input files into a single dynamically loadable module
-E	preprocess only; do not compile or link
-C	translation only; convert COBOL to C
-S	compile only; output assembly file
-c	compile and assemble, but do not link
-T <file>	generate and place a wide program listing into <file>
-t <file>	generate and place a program listing into <file>
--tlines=<lines>	specify lines per page in listing, default = 55
-P[=<dir or file>]	generate preprocessed program listing (.lst)
-Xref	generate cross reference through 'cobxref' (V. Coen's 'cobxref' must be in path)
-I <directory>	add <directory> to copy/include search path
-L <directory>	add <directory> to library search path
-l <lib>	link the library <lib>
-A <options>	add <options> to the C compile phase
-Q <options>	add <options> to the C link phase
-D <define>	define <define> for COBOL compilation
-K <entry>	generate CALL to <entry> as static
-conf=<file>	user-defined dialect configuration; see -std
-list-reserved	display reserved words
-list-intrinsics	display intrinsic functions
-list-mnemonics	display mnemonic names
-list-system	display system routines

```

-save-temps[=<dir>]    save intermediate files
                        - default: current directory
-ext <extension>       add file extension for resolving COPY

-W                     enable all warnings
-Wall                  enable most warnings (all except as noted below)
-Wno-<warning>         disable warning enabled by -W or -Wall
-Wobsolete             warn if obsolete features are used
-Warchaic              warn if archaic features are used
-Wredefinition         warn incompatible redefinition of data items
-Wconstant            warn inconsistent constant
-Woverlap             warn overlapping MOVE items
-Wparentheses          warn lack of parentheses around AND within OR
-Wstrict-typing        warn type mismatch strictly
-Wimplicit-define      warn implicitly defined data items
-Wcorresponding        warn CORRESPONDING with no matching items
-Wexternal-value       warn EXTERNAL item with VALUE clause
-Wprototypes          warn missing FUNCTION prototypes/definitions
-Wcall-params          warn non 01/77 items for CALL params
                        - NOT set with -Wall
-Wcolumn-overflow      warn text after program-text area, FIXED format
                        - NOT set with -Wall
-Wterminator          warn lack of scope terminator END-XXX
                        - NOT set with -Wall
-Wtruncate            warn possible field truncation
                        - NOT set with -Wall
-Wlinkage              warn dangling LINKAGE items
                        - NOT set with -Wall
-Wunreachable          warn unreachable statements
                        - NOT set with -Wall

-fsign=[ASCII|EBCDIC] define display sign representation
                        - default: machine native
-ffold-copy=[UPPER|LOWER] fold COPY subject to value
                        - default: no transformation
-ffold-call=[UPPER|LOWER] fold PROGRAM-ID, CALL, CANCEL subject to value
                        - default: no transformation
-fdefaultbyte=0..255  initialize fields without VALUE to decimal value
                        - default: initialize to picture
-fintrinsics=[ALL|intrinsic function name(,name,...)] intrinsics to be used without FUNCT
-ftrace               generate trace code
                        - executed SECTION/PARAGRAPH
-ftraceall            generate trace code
                        - executed SECTION/PARAGRAPH/STATEMENTS
                        - turned on by -debug
-fsyntax-only         syntax error checking only; don't emit any output
-fdebugging-line      enable debugging lines
                        - 'D' in indicator column or floating >>D
-fsource-location      generate source location code
                        - turned on by -debug/-g/-ftraceall
-fimplicit-init        automatic initialization of the COBOL runtime system
-fstack-check         PERFORM stack checking

```

```

- turned on by -debug or -g
-fsyntax-extension    allow syntax extensions
                      - eg. switch name SW1, etc.
-fwriteln-after       use AFTER 1 for WRITE of LINE SEQUENTIAL
                      - default: BEFORE 1
-fmfcomment           '*' or '/' in column 1 treated as comment
                      - FIXED format only
-facucomment          '$' in indicator area treated as '*',
                      '|' treated as floating comment
-fnotrunc             allow numeric field overflow
                      - non-ANSI behaviour
-fodoslide            adjust items following OCCURS DEPENDING
                      - requires implicit/explicit relaxed syntax
-fsingle-quote        use a single quote (apostrophe) for QUOTE
                      - default: double quote
-frecursive-check     check recursive program call
-foptional-file       treat all files as OPTIONAL
                      - unless NOT OPTIONAL specified

-ftab-width=<number>  set number of spaces that are assumed for tabs
-ftext-column=<number> set right margin for source (fixed format only)
-fword-length=<number> maximum word-length for COBOL words / Programmer defined words
-fliteral-length=<number> maximum literal size in general
-fnumeric-literal-length=<number> maximum numeric literal size
-fassign-clause=<value> set way of interpreting ASSIGN
-fbinary-size=<value> binary byte size - defines the allocated bytes according to PIC
-fbinary-byteorder=<value> binary byte order
-fstandard-define=<value>
-ffilename-mapping    resolve file names at run time using environment variables.
-fpretty-display      alternate formatting of numeric fields
-fbinary-truncate     numeric truncation according to ANSI
-fcomplex-odo         allow complex OCCURS DEPENDING ON
-findirect-redefines  allow REDEFINES to other than last equal level number
-flarger-redefines-ok allow larger REDEFINES items
-frelax-syntax-checks allow certain syntax variations (eg. REDEFINES position)
-fperform-osvs        exit point of any currently executing perform is recognized if reached
-fsticky-linkage      linkage-section items remain allocated between invocations
-frelax-level-hierarchy allow non-matching level numbers
-fhostsign            allow hexadecimal value 'F' for NUMERIC test of signed PACKED DECIMAL
-faccept-update       set WITH UPDATE clause as default for ACCEPT dest-item, except if WITH
-faccept-auto         set WITH AUTO clause as default for ACCEPT dest-item, except if WITH
-fconsole-is-crt      assume CONSOLE IS CRT if not set otherwise
-fprogram-name-redefinition program names don't lead to a reserved identifier
-fspecify-all-reserved specify all reserved words
-fcomment-paragraphs=<support> comment paragraphs in IDENTIFICATION DIVISION (AUTHOR, DATE)
-fmemory-size-clause=<support> MEMORY-SIZE clause
-fmultiple-file-tape-clause=<support> MULTIPLE-FILE-TAPE clause
-flabel-records-clause=<support> LABEL-RECORDS clause
-fvalue-of-clause=<support> VALUE-OF clause
-fdata-records-clause=<support> DATA-RECORDS clause
-ftop-level-occurs-clause=<support> OCCURS clause on top-level
-fsynchronized-clause=<support> SYNCHRONIZED clause

```

```

-fgoto-statement-without-name=<support> GOTO statement without name
-fstop-literal-statement=<support> STOP-LITERAL statement
-fdebugging-line=<support> DEBUGGING MODE and indicator 'D'
-fpadding-character-clause=<support> PADDING CHARACTER clause
-fnext-sentence-phrase=<support> NEXT SENTENCE phrase
-feject-statement=<support> EJECT statement
-fentry-statement=<support> ENTRY statement
-fmove-noninteger-to-alphanumeric=<support> move noninteger to alphanumeric
-fodo-without-to=<support> OCCURS DEPENDING ON without to
-fsection-segments=<support> section segments
-falter-statement=<support> ALTER statement
-fcall-overflow=<support> OVERFLOW clause for CALL
-fnumeric-boolean=<support> boolean literals (b'0001')
-facucobol-literals=<support> ACUCOBOL-GT literals (#B #O #H #X)
-fword-continuation=<support> continuation of COBOL words
-fnot-exception-before-exception=<support> NOT ON EXCEPTION before ON EXCEPTION
-faccept-display-extensions=<support> extensions to ACCEPT and DISPLAY
-frenames-uncommon-levels=<support> RENAMEs of 01-, 66- and 77-level items
-fprogram-prototypes=<support> CALL/CANCEL with program-prototype-name
    where <support> is one of the following:
        'ok', 'warning', 'archaic', 'obsolete', 'skip', 'ignore', 'error', 'unconformable'
-fnot-reserved=<word> word to be taken out of the reserved words list
-freserved=<word> word to be added to reserved words list
-freserved=<word>:<alias> word to be added to reserved words list as alias

```

Report bugs to: bug-gnucobol@gnu.org

or (preferably) use the issue tracker via the home page.

GnuCOBOL home page: <http://www.gnu.org/software/gnucobol/>

General help using GNU software: <http://www.gnu.org/gethelp/>

Appendix B `cobc --list-reserved`

Reserved Words	Implemented
ACCEPT	Yes
ACCESS	Yes
ACTIVE-CLASS	No
ADD	Yes
ADDRESS	Yes
ADVANCING	Yes
AFTER	Yes
ALIGNED	No
ALL	Yes
ALLOCATE	Yes
ALPHABET	Yes
ALPHABETIC	Yes
ALPHABETIC-LOWER	Yes
ALPHABETIC-UPPER	Yes
ALPHANUMERIC	Yes
ALPHANUMERIC-EDITED	Yes
ALSO	Yes
ALTER	Yes
ALTERNATE	Yes
AND	Yes
ANY	Yes
ANYCASE	No
ARE	Yes
AREA	Yes
AREAS	Yes
ARGUMENT-NUMBER	Yes
ARGUMENT-VALUE	Yes
ARITHMETIC	No (Context sensitive)
AS	Yes
ASCENDING	Yes
ASCII	Yes (Context sensitive)
ASSIGN	Yes
AT	Yes
ATTRIBUTE	Yes (Context sensitive)
AUTO	Yes
AUTO-SKIP	Yes
AUTOMATIC	Yes
AUTOTERMINATE	Yes
AWAY-FROM-ZERO	Yes (Context sensitive)
B-AND	No
B-NOT	No
B-OR	No
B-XOR	No
BACKGROUND-COLOR	Yes
BACKGROUND-COLOUR	Yes
BASED	Yes
BEEP	Yes
BEFORE	Yes

BELL	Yes
BINARY	Yes
BINARY-C-LONG	Yes
BINARY-CHAR	Yes
BINARY-DOUBLE	Yes
BINARY-INT	Yes
BINARY-LONG	Yes
BINARY-LONG-LONG	Yes
BINARY-SHORT	Yes
BIT	No
BLANK	Yes
BLINK	Yes
BLOCK	Yes
BOOLEAN	No
BOTTOM	Yes
BY	Yes
BYTE-LENGTH	Yes (Context sensitive)
CALL	Yes
CANCEL	Yes
CAPACITY	Yes (Context sensitive)
CENTER	No (Context sensitive)
CF	Yes
CH	Yes
CHAIN	No
CHAINING	Yes
CHARACTER	Yes
CHARACTERS	Yes
CLASS	Yes
CLASS-ID	No
CLASSIFICATION	Yes (Context sensitive)
CLOSE	Yes
CODE	Yes
CODE-SET	Yes
COL	Yes
COLLATING	Yes
COLS	Yes
COLUMN	Yes
COLUMNS	Yes
COMMA	Yes
COMMAND-LINE	Yes
COMMIT	Yes
COMMON	Yes
COMP	Yes
COMP-1	Yes
COMP-2	Yes
COMP-3	Yes
COMP-4	Yes
COMP-5	Yes
COMP-6	Yes
COMP-X	Yes
COMPUTATIONAL	Yes
COMPUTATIONAL-1	Yes

COMPUTATIONAL-2	Yes
COMPUTATIONAL-3	Yes
COMPUTATIONAL-4	Yes
COMPUTATIONAL-5	Yes
COMPUTATIONAL-X	Yes
COMPUTE	Yes
CONDITION	Yes
CONFIGURATION	Yes
CONSTANT	Yes
CONTAINS	Yes
CONTENT	Yes
CONTINUE	Yes
CONTROL	Yes
CONTROLS	Yes
CONVERSION	Yes (Context sensitive)
CONVERTING	Yes
COPY	Yes
CORR	Yes
CORRESPONDING	Yes
COUNT	Yes
CRT	Yes
CRT-UNDER	Yes
CURRENCY	Yes
CURSOR	Yes
CYCLE	Yes (Context sensitive)
DATA	Yes
DATA-POINTER	No
DATE	Yes
DAY	Yes
DAY-OF-WEEK	Yes
DE	Yes
DEBUGGING	Yes
DECIMAL-POINT	Yes
DECLARATIVES	Yes
DEFAULT	Yes
DELETE	Yes
DELIMITED	Yes
DELIMITER	Yes
DEPENDING	Yes
DESCENDING	Yes
DESTINATION	No
DETAIL	Yes
DISABLE	No
DISC	Yes (Context sensitive)
DISK	Yes (Context sensitive)
DISPLAY	Yes
DIVIDE	Yes
DIVISION	Yes
DOWN	Yes
DUPLICATES	Yes
DYNAMIC	Yes
EBCDIC	Yes (Context sensitive)

EC	Yes
ELSE	Yes
EMPTY-CHECK	Yes
END	Yes
END-ACCEPT	Yes
END-ADD	Yes
END-CALL	Yes
END-CHAIN	No
END-COMPUTE	Yes
END-DELETE	Yes
END-DISPLAY	Yes
END-DIVIDE	Yes
END-EVALUATE	Yes
END-IF	Yes
END-MULTIPLY	Yes
END-OF-PAGE	Yes
END-PERFORM	Yes
END-READ	Yes
END-RETURN	Yes
END-REWRITE	Yes
END-SEARCH	Yes
END-START	Yes
END-STRING	Yes
END-SUBTRACT	Yes
END-UNSTRING	Yes
END-WRITE	Yes
ENTRY	Yes
ENTRY-CONVENTION	No (Context sensitive)
ENVIRONMENT	Yes
ENVIRONMENT-NAME	Yes
ENVIRONMENT-VALUE	Yes
EO	No
EOL	Yes (Context sensitive)
EOP	Yes
EOS	Yes (Context sensitive)
EQUAL	Yes
EQUALS	Yes
ERASE	Yes
ERROR	Yes
ESCAPE	Yes
EVALUATE	Yes
EXCEPTION	Yes
EXCEPTION-OBJECT	No
EXCLUSIVE	Yes
EXIT	Yes
EXPANDS	No (Context sensitive)
EXTEND	Yes
EXTERNAL	Yes
F	Yes
FACTORY	No
FALSE	Yes
FD	Yes

FILE	Yes
FILE-CONTROL	Yes
FILE-ID	Yes
FILLER	Yes
FINAL	Yes
FIRST	Yes
FIXED	Yes
FLOAT-BINARY-128	No
FLOAT-BINARY-32	No
FLOAT-BINARY-64	No
FLOAT-DECIMAL-16	Yes
FLOAT-DECIMAL-34	Yes
FLOAT-EXTENDED	No
FLOAT-INFINITY	No
FLOAT-LONG	Yes
FLOAT-NOT-A-NUMBER	No (Context sensitive)
FLOAT-SHORT	Yes
FOOTING	Yes
FOR	Yes
FOREGROUND-COLOR	Yes
FOREGROUND-COLOUR	Yes
FOREVER	Yes
FORMAT	No
FREE	Yes
FROM	Yes
FULL	Yes
FUNCTION	Yes
FUNCTION-ID	Yes
FUNCTION-POINTER	No
GENERATE	Yes
GET	No
GIVING	Yes
GLOBAL	Yes
GO	Yes
GOBACK	Yes
GREATER	Yes
GRID	Yes
GROUP	Yes
GROUP-USAGE	No
HEADING	Yes
HIGH-VALUE	Yes
HIGH-VALUES	Yes
HIGHLIGHT	Yes
I-O	Yes
I-O-CONTROL	Yes
ID	Yes
IDENTIFICATION	Yes
IF	Yes
IGNORE	Yes
IGNORING	Yes
IMPLEMENTS	No (Context sensitive)
IN	Yes

INDEX	Yes
INDEXED	Yes
INDICATE	Yes
INDIRECT	No (Context sensitive)
INHERITS	No
INITIAL	Yes
INITIALISE	Yes
INITIALISED	Yes
INITIALIZE	Yes
INITIALIZED	Yes
INITIATE	Yes
INPUT	Yes
INPUT-OUTPUT	Yes
INSPECT	Yes
INTERFACE	No
INTERFACE-ID	No
INTERMEDIATE	No (Context sensitive)
INTO	Yes
INTRINSIC	Yes (Context sensitive)
INVALID	Yes
INVOKE	No
IS	Yes
JUST	Yes
JUSTIFIED	Yes
KEPT	Yes
KEY	Yes
KEYBOARD	Yes (Context sensitive)
LABEL	Yes
LAST	Yes
LC_ALL	No (Context sensitive)
LC_COLLATE	No (Context sensitive)
LC_CTYPE	No (Context sensitive)
LC_MESSAGES	No (Context sensitive)
LC_MONETARY	No (Context sensitive)
LC_NUMERIC	No (Context sensitive)
LC_TIME	No (Context sensitive)
LEADING	Yes
LEFT	Yes
LEFT-JUSTIFY	No
LEFTLINE	Yes
LENGTH	Yes
LENGTH-CHECK	Yes
LESS	Yes
LIMIT	Yes
LIMITS	Yes
LINAGE	Yes
LINAGE-COUNTER	Yes
LINE	Yes
LINE-COUNTER	Yes
LINES	Yes
LINKAGE	Yes
LOCAL-STORAGE	Yes

LOCALE	Yes
LOCK	Yes
LOW-VALUE	Yes
LOW-VALUES	Yes
LOWER	Yes (Context sensitive)
LOWLIGHT	Yes
MANUAL	Yes
MEMORY	Yes
MERGE	Yes
METHOD	No
METHOD-ID	No
MINUS	Yes
MODE	Yes
MOVE	Yes
MULTIPLE	Yes
MULTIPLY	Yes
NAME	Yes (Context sensitive)
NATIONAL	Yes
NATIONAL-EDITED	Yes
NATIVE	Yes
NEAREST-AWAY-FROM-ZERO	Yes (Context sensitive)
NEAREST-EVEN	Yes (Context sensitive)
NEAREST-TOWARD-ZERO	Yes (Context sensitive)
NEGATIVE	Yes
NESTED	No
NEXT	Yes
NO	Yes
NO-ECHO	Yes
NONE	No (Context sensitive)
NORMAL	Yes (Context sensitive)
NOT	Yes
NOTHING	Yes
NULL	Yes
NULLS	Yes
NUMBER	Yes
NUMBERS	Yes
NUMERIC	Yes
NUMERIC-EDITED	Yes
OBJECT	No
OBJECT-COMPUTER	Yes
OBJECT-REFERENCE	No
OCCURS	Yes
OF	Yes
OFF	Yes
OMITTED	Yes
ON	Yes
ONLY	Yes
OPEN	Yes
OPTIONAL	Yes
OPTIONS	No
OR	Yes
ORDER	Yes

ORGANISATION	Yes
ORGANIZATION	Yes
OTHER	Yes
OUTPUT	Yes
OVERFLOW	Yes
OVERLINE	Yes
OVERRIDE	No
PACKED-DECIMAL	Yes
PADDING	Yes
PAGE	Yes
PAGE-COUNTER	Yes
PARAGRAPH	Yes (Context sensitive)
PERFORM	Yes
PF	Yes
PH	Yes
PIC	Yes
PICTURE	Yes
PLUS	Yes
POINTER	Yes
POSITION	Yes
POSITIVE	Yes
PREFIXED	No (Context sensitive)
PRESENT	Yes
PREVIOUS	Yes
PRINT	Yes (Context sensitive)
PRINTER	Yes (Context sensitive)
PRINTER-1	Yes (Context sensitive)
PRINTING	Yes
PROCEDURE	Yes
PROCEDURE-POINTER	Yes
PROCEDURES	Yes
PROCEED	Yes
PROGRAM	Yes
PROGRAM-ID	Yes
PROGRAM-POINTER	Yes
PROHIBITED	Yes (Context sensitive)
PROMPT	Yes
PROPERTY	No
PROTECTED	Yes
PROTOTYPE	No
QUOTE	Yes
QUOTES	Yes
RAISE	No
RAISING	No
RANDOM	Yes
RD	Yes
READ	Yes
RECORD	Yes
RECORDING	Yes
RECORDS	Yes
RECURSIVE	Yes (Context sensitive)
REDEFINES	Yes

REEL	Yes
REFERENCE	Yes
REFERENCES	Yes
RELATION	No (Context sensitive)
RELATIVE	Yes
RELEASE	Yes
REMAINDER	Yes
REMOVAL	Yes
RENAMES	Yes
REPLACE	Yes
REPLACING	Yes
REPORT	Yes
REPORTING	Yes
REPORTS	Yes
REPOSITORY	Yes
REQUIRED	Yes
RESERVE	Yes
RESET	Yes
RESUME	No
RETRY	No
RETURN	Yes
RETURNING	Yes
REVERSE-VIDEO	Yes
REVERSED	Yes
REWIND	Yes
REWRITE	Yes
RF	Yes
RH	Yes
RIGHT	Yes
RIGHT-JUSTIFY	No
ROLLBACK	Yes
ROUNDED	Yes
ROUNDING	No (Context sensitive)
RUN	Yes
S	Yes
SAME	Yes
SCREEN	Yes
SCROLL	Yes (Context sensitive)
SD	Yes
SEARCH	Yes
SECONDS	No (Context sensitive)
SECTION	Yes
SECURE	Yes
SEGMENT-LIMIT	Yes
SELECT	Yes
SELF	No
SENTENCE	Yes
SEPARATE	Yes
SEQUENCE	Yes
SEQUENTIAL	Yes
SET	Yes
SHARING	Yes

SIGN	Yes
SIGNED	Yes
SIGNED-INT	Yes
SIGNED-LONG	Yes
SIGNED-SHORT	Yes
SIZE	Yes
SORT	Yes
SORT-MERGE	Yes
SOURCE	Yes
SOURCE-COMPUTER	Yes
SOURCES	No
SPACE	Yes
SPACE-FILL	No
SPACES	Yes
SPECIAL-NAMES	Yes
STANDARD	Yes
STANDARD-1	Yes
STANDARD-2	Yes
STANDARD-BINARY	No (Context sensitive)
STANDARD-DECIMAL	No (Context sensitive)
START	Yes
STATEMENT	No (Context sensitive)
STATIC	Yes (Context sensitive)
STATUS	Yes
STDCALL	Yes (Context sensitive)
STEP	Yes
STOP	Yes
STRING	Yes
STRONG	No (Context sensitive)
SUBTRACT	Yes
SUM	Yes
SUPER	No
SUPPRESS	Yes
SYMBOL	No (Context sensitive)
SYMBOLIC	Yes
SYNC	Yes
SYNCHRONISED	Yes
SYNCHRONIZED	Yes
SYSTEM-DEFAULT	Yes
SYSTEM-OFFSET	Yes
TAB	Yes (Context sensitive)
TABLE	No
TALLYING	Yes
TAPE	Yes (Context sensitive)
TERMINATE	Yes
TEST	Yes
THAN	Yes
THEN	Yes
THROUGH	Yes
THRU	Yes
TIME	Yes
TIME-OUT	Yes (Context sensitive)

TIMEOUT	Yes
TIMES	Yes
TO	Yes
TOP	Yes
TOWARD-GREATER	Yes (Context sensitive)
TOWARD-LESSER	Yes (Context sensitive)
TRAILING	Yes
TRAILING-SIGN	No
TRANSFORM	Yes
TRUE	Yes
TRUNCATION	Yes (Context sensitive)
TYPE	Yes
TYPDEF	No
U	Yes
UCS-4	No (Context sensitive)
UNDERLINE	Yes
UNIT	Yes
UNIVERSAL	No
UNLOCK	Yes
UNSIGNED	Yes
UNSIGNED-INT	Yes
UNSIGNED-LONG	Yes
UNSIGNED-SHORT	Yes
UNSTRING	Yes
UNTIL	Yes
UP	Yes
UPDATE	Yes
UPON	Yes
UPPER	Yes (Context sensitive)
USAGE	Yes
USE	Yes
USER	Yes (Context sensitive)
USER-DEFAULT	Yes
USING	Yes
UTF-16	No (Context sensitive)
UTF-8	No (Context sensitive)
V	Yes
VAL-STATUS	No
VALID	No
VALIDATE	No
VALIDATE-STATUS	No
VALUE	Yes
VALUES	Yes
VARIABLE	Yes
VARYING	Yes
WAIT	Yes
WHEN	Yes
WITH	Yes
WORDS	Yes
WORKING-STORAGE	Yes
WRITE	Yes
YYYYDDD	Yes (Context sensitive)

YYYYMMDD	Yes (Context sensitive)
ZERO	Yes
ZERO-FILL	No
ZEROES	Yes
ZEROS	Yes

Extra (obsolete) context sensitive words

AUTHOR
 DATE-COMPILED
 DATE-MODIFIED
 DATE-WRITTEN
 INSTALLATION
 REMARKS
 SECURITY

Extra internal registers	Definition
RETURN-CODE	USAGE BINARY-LONG
SORT-RETURN	USAGE BINARY-LONG
NUMBER-OF-CALL-PARAMETERS	USAGE BINARY-LONG
COB-CRT-STATUS	PIC 9(4)
TALLY	GLOBAL PIC 9(5) USAGE BINARY VALUE ZERO
'LENGTH OF' phrase	USAGE BINARY-LONG

Appendix C `cobc --list-intrinsics`

Intrinsic Function	Implemented	Parameters
ABS	Yes	1
ACOS	Yes	1
ANNUITY	Yes	2
ASIN	Yes	1
ATAN	Yes	1
BOOLEAN-OF-INTEGER	No	2
BYTE-LENGTH	Yes	1
CHAR	Yes	1
CHAR-NATIONAL	No	1
COMBINED-DATETIME	Yes	2
CONCATENATE	Yes	Unlimited
COS	Yes	1
CURRENCY-SYMBOL	Yes	0
CURRENT-DATE	Yes	0
DATE-OF-INTEGER	Yes	1
DATE-TO-YYYYMMDD	Yes	1 - 3
DAY-OF-INTEGER	Yes	1
DAY-TO-YYYYDDD	Yes	1 - 3
DISPLAY-OF	No	1 - 2
E	Yes	0
EXCEPTION-FILE	Yes	0
EXCEPTION-FILE-N	No	0
EXCEPTION-LOCATION	Yes	0
EXCEPTION-LOCATION-N	No	0
EXCEPTION-STATEMENT	Yes	0
EXCEPTION-STATUS	Yes	0
EXP	Yes	1
EXP10	Yes	1
FACTORIAL	Yes	1
FORMATTED-CURRENT-DATE	Yes	1
FORMATTED-DATE	Yes	2
FORMATTED-DATETIME	Yes	4 - 5
FORMATTED-TIME	Yes	3 - 4
FRACTION-PART	Yes	1
HIGHEST-ALGEBRAIC	Yes	1
INTEGER	Yes	1
INTEGER-OF-BOOLEAN	No	1
INTEGER-OF-DATE	Yes	1
INTEGER-OF-DAY	Yes	1
INTEGER-OF-FORMATTED-DATE	Yes	2
INTEGER-PART	Yes	1
LENGTH	Yes	1
LENGTH-AN	Yes	1
LOCALE-COMPARE	Yes	2 - 3
LOCALE-DATE	Yes	1 - 2
LOCALE-TIME	Yes	1 - 2
LOCALE-TIME-FROM-SECONDS	Yes	1 - 2
LOG	Yes	1

LOG10	Yes	1
LOWER-CASE	Yes	1
LOWEST-ALGEBRAIC	Yes	1
MAX	Yes	Unlimited
MEAN	Yes	Unlimited
MEDIAN	Yes	Unlimited
MIDRANGE	Yes	Unlimited
MIN	Yes	Unlimited
MOD	Yes	2
MODULE-CALLER-ID	Yes	0
MODULE-DATE	Yes	0
MODULE-FORMATTED-DATE	Yes	0
MODULE-ID	Yes	0
MODULE-PATH	Yes	0
MODULE-SOURCE	Yes	0
MODULE-TIME	Yes	0
MONETARY-DECIMAL-POINT	Yes	0
MONETARY-THOUSANDS-SEPARATOR	Yes	0
NATIONAL-OF	No	1 - 2
NUMERIC-DECIMAL-POINT	Yes	0
NUMERIC-THOUSANDS-SEPARATOR	Yes	0
NUMVAL	Yes	1
NUMVAL-C	Yes	2
NUMVAL-F	Yes	1
ORD	Yes	1
ORD-MAX	Yes	Unlimited
ORD-MIN	Yes	Unlimited
PI	Yes	0
PRESENT-VALUE	Yes	Unlimited
RANDOM	Yes	Unlimited
RANGE	Yes	Unlimited
REM	Yes	2
REVERSE	Yes	1
SECONDS-FROM-FORMATTED-TIME	Yes	2
SECONDS-PAST-MIDNIGHT	Yes	0
SIGN	Yes	1
SIN	Yes	1
SQRT	Yes	1
STANDARD-COMPARE	No	2 - 4
STANDARD-DEVIATION	Yes	Unlimited
STORED-CHAR-LENGTH	Yes	1
SUBSTITUTE	Yes	Unlimited
SUBSTITUTE-CASE	Yes	Unlimited
SUM	Yes	Unlimited
TAN	Yes	1
TEST-DATE-YYYYMMDD	Yes	1
TEST-DAY-YYYYDDD	Yes	1
TEST-FORMATTED-DATETIME	Yes	2
TEST-NUMVAL	Yes	1
TEST-NUMVAL-C	Yes	2
TEST-NUMVAL-F	Yes	1
TRIM	Yes	1 - 2

UPPER-CASE	Yes	1
VARIANCE	Yes	Unlimited
WHEN-COMPILED	Yes	0
YEAR-TO-YYYY	Yes	1 - 3

Appendix D `cobc --list-system`

System routine	Parameters
SYSTEM	1
CBL_AND	3
CBL_CHANGE_DIR	1
CBL_CHECK_FILE_EXIST	2
CBL_CLOSE_FILE	1
CBL_COPY_FILE	2
CBL_CREATE_DIR	1
CBL_CREATE_FILE	5
CBL_DELETE_DIR	1
CBL_DELETE_FILE	1
CBL_EQ	3
CBL_ERROR_PROC	2
CBL_EXIT_PROC	2
CBL_FLUSH_FILE	1
CBL_GET_CSR_POS	1
CBL_GET_CURRENT_DIR	3
CBL_GET_SCR_SIZE	2
CBL_IMP	3
CBL_NIMP	3
CBL_NOR	3
CBL_NOT	2
CBL_OC_GETOPT	6
CBL_OC_HOSTED	2
CBL_OC_NANOSLEEP	1
CBL_OPEN_FILE	5
CBL_OR	3
CBL_READ_FILE	5
CBL_RENAME_FILE	2
CBL_TOLOWER	2
CBL_TOUPPER	2
CBL_WRITE_FILE	5
CBL_XOR	3
C\$CALLED BY	1
C\$CHDIR	2
C\$COPY	3
C\$DELETE	2
C\$FILEINFO	2
C\$GETPID	0
C\$JUSTIFY	1
C\$MAKEDIR	1
C\$NARG	1
C\$PARAMSIZE	1
C\$PRINTABLE	1
C\$SLEEP	1
C\$TOLOWER	2
C\$TOUPPER	2
X"91"	2

<code>X"E4"</code>	0
<code>X"E5"</code>	0
<code>X"F4"</code>	2
<code>X"F5"</code>	2

Appendix E cobb --list-mnemonics

Mnemonic names

SYSIN	device name
SYSIPT	device name
STDIN	device name
SYSOUT	device name
SYSLIST	device name
SYSLST	device name
STDOUT	device name
PRINT	device name
PRINTER	device name
PRINTER-1	device name
SYSERR	device name
STDERR	device name
CONSOLE	device name
C01	feature name
C02	feature name
C03	feature name
C04	feature name
C05	feature name
C06	feature name
C07	feature name
C08	feature name
C09	feature name
C10	feature name
C11	feature name
C12	feature name
CSP	feature name
FORMFEED	feature name
CALL-CONVENTION	feature name
SWITCH-0	switch name
SWITCH-1	switch name
SWITCH-2	switch name
SWITCH-3	switch name
SWITCH-4	switch name
SWITCH-5	switch name
SWITCH-6	switch name
SWITCH-7	switch name
SWITCH-8	switch name
SWITCH-9	switch name
SWITCH-10	switch name
SWITCH-11	switch name
SWITCH-12	switch name
SWITCH-13	switch name
SWITCH-14	switch name
SWITCH-15	switch name
SWITCH-16	switch name
SWITCH-17	switch name
SWITCH-18	switch name
SWITCH-19	switch name

SWITCH-20	switch name
SWITCH-21	switch name
SWITCH-22	switch name
SWITCH-23	switch name
SWITCH-24	switch name
SWITCH-25	switch name
SWITCH-26	switch name
SWITCH-27	switch name
SWITCH-28	switch name
SWITCH-29	switch name
SWITCH-30	switch name
SWITCH-31	switch name
SWITCH-32	switch name
SWITCH-33	switch name
SWITCH-34	switch name
SWITCH-35	switch name
SWITCH-36	switch name

Extended mnemonic names (with -fsyntax-extension)

SW0	switch name
SW1	switch name
SW2	switch name
SW3	switch name
SW4	switch name
SW5	switch name
SW6	switch name
SW7	switch name
SW8	switch name
SW9	switch name
SW10	switch name
SW11	switch name
SW12	switch name
SW13	switch name
SW14	switch name
SW15	switch name
SWITCH 0	switch name
SWITCH 1	switch name
SWITCH 2	switch name
SWITCH 3	switch name
SWITCH 4	switch name
SWITCH 5	switch name
SWITCH 6	switch name
SWITCH 7	switch name
SWITCH 8	switch name
SWITCH 9	switch name
SWITCH 10	switch name
SWITCH 11	switch name
SWITCH 12	switch name
SWITCH 13	switch name
SWITCH 14	switch name
SWITCH 15	switch name
SWITCH 16	switch name

SWITCH 17	switch name
SWITCH 18	switch name
SWITCH 19	switch name
SWITCH 20	switch name
SWITCH 21	switch name
SWITCH 22	switch name
SWITCH 23	switch name
SWITCH 24	switch name
SWITCH 25	switch name
SWITCH 26	switch name
SWITCH A	switch name
SWITCH B	switch name
SWITCH C	switch name
SWITCH D	switch name
SWITCH E	switch name
SWITCH F	switch name
SWITCH G	switch name
SWITCH H	switch name
SWITCH I	switch name
SWITCH J	switch name
SWITCH K	switch name
SWITCH L	switch name
SWITCH M	switch name
SWITCH N	switch name
SWITCH O	switch name
SWITCH P	switch name
SWITCH Q	switch name
SWITCH R	switch name
SWITCH S	switch name
SWITCH T	switch name
SWITCH U	switch name
SWITCH V	switch name
SWITCH W	switch name
SWITCH X	switch name
SWITCH Y	switch name
SWITCH Z	switch name

Appendix F Compiler Configuration

The following list was extracted from `config/default.conf`.

```
# Value: any string
name: "GnuCOBOL"

# Value: enum
standard-define                                0
#      CB_STD_OC = 0,
#      CB_STD_MF,
#      CB_STD_IBM,
#      CB_STD_MVS,
#      CB_STD_BS2000,
#      CB_STD_ACU,
#      CB_STD_85,
#      CB_STD_2002,
#      CB_STD_2014

# Value: int
tab-width:                                     8
text-column:                                  72
# Maximum word-length for COBOL words / Programmer defined words
# Be aware that GC checks the word length against COB_MAX_WORDLEN
# first (currently 61)
word-length:                                   31

# Maximum literal size in general
literal-length:                                8191

# Maximum numeric literal size
numeric-literal-length: 61

# Value: 'mf', 'ibm'
#
assign-clause:                                 mf

# If yes, file names are resolved at run time using
# environment variables.
# For example, given ASSIGN TO "DATAFILE", the file name will be
# 1. the value of environment variable 'DD_DATAFILE' or
# 2. the value of environment variable 'dd_DATAFILE' or
# 3. the value of environment variable 'DATAFILE' or
# 4. the literal "DATAFILE"
# If no, the value of the assign clause is the file name.
#
filename-mapping:                              yes

# Alternate formatting of numeric fields
pretty-display:                                yes
```

```

# Allow complex OCCURS DEPENDING ON
complex-odo:                                no

# Allow REDEFINES to other than last equal level number
indirect-redefines:                        no

# Binary byte size - defines the allocated bytes according to PIC
# Value:          signed   unsigned   bytes
#               -----   -
# '2-4-8'         1 - 4     same       2
#               5 - 9     same       4
#               10 - 18    same       8
#
# '1-2-4-8'       1 - 2     same       1
#               3 - 4     same       2
#               5 - 9     same       4
#               10 - 18    same       8
#
# '1--8'          1 - 2     1 - 2      1
#               3 - 4     3 - 4      2
#               5 - 6     5 - 7      3
#               7 - 9     8 - 9      4
#               10 - 11    10 - 12     5
#               12 - 14    13 - 14     6
#               15 - 16    15 - 16     7
#               17 - 18    17 - 18     8
#
binary-size:                                1-2-4-8

# Numeric truncation according to ANSI
binary-truncate:                            yes

# Binary byte order
# Value: 'native', 'big-endian'
binary-byteorder:                           big-endian

# Allow larger REDEFINES items
larger-redefines-ok:                        no

# Allow certain syntax variations (eg. REDEFINES position)
relax-syntax-checks:                        no

# Perform type OSVS - If yes, the exit point of any currently
# executing perform is recognized if reached.
perform-osvs:                               no

# If yes, linkage-section items remain allocated
# between invocations.
sticky-linkage:                             no

# If yes, allow non-matching level numbers
relax-level-hierarchy:                      no

```

```

# Allow Hex 'F' for NUMERIC test of signed PACKED DECIMAL field
hostsign:                                no

# If yes, set WITH UPDATE clause as default for ACCEPT dest-item,
# except if WITH NO UPDATE clause is used
accept-update:                            no

# If yes, set WITH AUTO clause as default for ACCEPT dest-item,
# except if WITH TAB clause is used
accept-auto:                              no

# If yes, DISPLAYs and ACCEPTs are, by default, done on the CRT (i.e., using
# curses).
console-is-crt:                           no

# If yes, allow redefinition of the current program's name. This prevents its
# use in a prototype-format CALL/CANCEL statement.
program-name-redefinition:                 yes

# Dialect features
# Value: 'ok', 'warning', 'archaic', 'obsolete', 'skip', 'ignore', 'error',
#        'unconformable'

alter-statement:                           obsolete
comment-paragraphs:                       obsolete
call-overflow:                             archaic
data-records-clause:                      obsolete
debugging-line:                           ok
eject-statement:                           skip
entry-statement:                           obsolete
goto-statement-without-name:               obsolete
label-records-clause:                     obsolete
memory-size-clause:                       obsolete
move-noninteger-to-alphanumeric:           error
multiple-file-tape-clause:                 obsolete
next-sentence-phrase:                     archaic
odo-without-to:                           warning
padding-character-clause:                  obsolete
section-segments:                          ignore
stop-literal-statement:                   obsolete
synchronized-clause:                      ok
top-level-occurs-clause:                   ok
value-of-clause:                           obsolete
numeric-boolean:                          unconformable
acucobol-literals:                        unconformable
word-continuation:                        warning
not-exception-before-exception:            ok
accept-display-extensions:                 ok
renames-uncommon-levels:                  ok
program-prototypes:                       ok

```

```
# If yes, all the reserved words must be specified in a list of reserved:
# entries; the default reserved word list will not be used.
specify-all-reserved: no

# not-reserved:
# Value: Word to be taken out of the reserved words list
# (case independent)
# Words that are in the (proposed) standard but may conflict

# reserved:
# Value: Word to make up reserved words list (case independent)
# All reserved entries listed will replace entire default reserved words list.
# Words ending with * will be treated as context-sensitive words. This will be
# ignored if GnuCOBOL uses that word as a reserved word.
# Entries of the form word-1=word-2 define word-1 as an alias for default
# reserved word word-2. No spaces are allowed around the equal sign.
reserved:      AUTO-SKIP=AUTO
reserved:      AUTOTERMINATE=AUTO
reserved:      BACKGROUND-COLOUR=BACKGROUND-COLOR
reserved:      BEEP=BELL
reserved:      BINARY-INT=BINARY-LONG
reserved:      BINARY-LONG-LONG=BINARY-DOUBLE
reserved:      EMPTY-CHECK=REQUIRED
reserved:      EQUALS=EQUAL
reserved:      FOREGROUND-COLOUR=FOREGROUND-COLOR
reserved:      INITIALISE=INITIALIZE
reserved:      INITIALISED=INITIALIZED
reserved:      LENGTH-CHECK=FULL
reserved:      ORGANISATION=ORGANIZATION
reserved:      SYNCHRONISED=SYNCHRONIZED
reserved:      TIMEOUT=TIME-OUT
```

Appendix G cobcrun --help

COBOL driver program for GnuCOBOL modules

Usage: cobcrun [options] PROGRAM [parameter ...]
or: cobcrun options

Options:

-h, -help	display this help and exit
-V, -version	display cobcrun and runtime version and exit
-i, -info	display runtime information (build/environment)
-c <file>, -config=<file>	set runtime configuration from <file>
-r, -runtime-conf	display current runtime configuration (value and origin for all settings)
-M <module>, -module=<module>	set entry point module name and/or load path where -M module prepends any directory to the dynamic link loader library search path and any basename to the module preload list (COB_LIBRARY_PATH and/or COB_PRELOAD)

Report bugs to: bug-gnucobol@gnu.org

or (preferably) use the issue tracker via the home page.

GnuCOBOL home page: <http://www.gnu.org/software/gnucobol/>

General help using GNU software: <http://www.gnu.org/gethelp/>

Appendix H Runtime configuration

The following list was extracted from `config/runtime.cfg`.

H.1 General instructions

The initial `runtime.cfg` file is found in the `$COB_CONFIG_DIR/config` (`COB_CONFIG_DIR` defaults to `installdir/gnu-cobol`). The environment variable `COB_RUNTIME_CONFIG` may define a different runtime configuration file to read.

If settings are included in the runtime environment file multiple times then the last setting value is used, no warning occurs.

Settings via environment variables always take precedence over settings that are given in runtime configuration files. And the environment is checked after completing processing of the runtime configuration file(s)

All values set to string variables or environment variables are checked for `${envvar}` and replacement is done at the time of the setting.

Any environment variable may be set with the directive `setenv` . Example: `setenv COB_LIBRARY_PATH ${LD_LIBRARY_PATH}`

Any environment variable may be unset with the directive `unsetenv` (one var per line). Example: `unsetenv COB_LIBRARY_PATH`

Runtime configuration files can include other files with the directive `include`. Example: `include my-runtime-configuration-file`

To include another configuration file only if it is present use the directive `includeif`. You can also use `${envvar}` inside this. Example: `includeif ${HOME}/mygc.cfg`

If you want to reset a parameter to its default value use: `reset parametername`

Most runtime variables have boolean values, some are switches, some have string values, integer values and some are size values. The boolean values will be evaluated as following: to true: 1, Y, ON, YES, TRUE (no matter of case) to false: 0, N, OFF A 'size' value is an integer optionally followed by K, M, or G for kilo, mega or giga.

For convenience a parameter in the `runtime.cfg` file may be defined by using either the environment variable name or the parameter name. In most cases the environment variable name is the parameter name (in upper case) with the prefix `COB_` .

H.2 General environment

```
Environment name: COB_DISABLE_WARNINGS
Parameter name:  disable_warnings
Purpose:         turn off runtime warning messages
Type:            boolean
Default:         false
Example:         DISABLE_WARNINGS TRUE
```

```
Environment name: COB_ENV_MANGLE
Parameter name:   env_mangle
Purpose:          names checked in the environment would get non alphanumeric
                  change to '_'
```

```

        Type: boolean
        Default: false
        Example: ENV_MANGLE TRUE

Environment name: COB_SET_TRACE
  Parameter name: set_trace
    Purpose: to enable to COBOL trace feature
    Type: boolean
    Default: false
    Example: SET_TRACE TRUE

Environment name: COB_TRACE_FILE
  Parameter name: trace_file
    Purpose: to define where COBOL trace output should go
    Type: string
    Default: stderr
    Example: TRACE_FILE ${HOME}/mytrace.log

```

H.3 Call environment

```

Environment name: COB_LIBRARY_PATH
  Parameter name: library_path
    Purpose: paths for dynamically-loadable modules
    Type: string
    Note: the default paths ./installpath/extras are always
          added to the given paths
    Example: LIBRARY_PATH /opt/myapp/test:/opt/myapp/production

Environment name: COB_PRE_LOAD
  Parameter name: pre_load
    Purpose: modules that are loaded during startup, can be used
            to CALL COBOL programs or C functions that are part
            of a module library
    Type: string
    Note: the modules listed should NOT include extensions, the
          runtime will use the right ones on the various platforms,
          COB_LIBRARY_PATH is used to locate the modules
    Example: PRE_LOAD COBOL_function_library:external_c_library

Environment name: COB_LOAD_CASE
  Parameter name: load_case
    Purpose: resolve ALL called program names to UPPER or LOWER case
    Type: Only use UPPER or LOWER
    Default: if not set program names in CALL are case sensitive
    Example: LOAD_CASE UPPER

Environment name: COB_PHYSICAL_CANCEL
  Parameter name: physical_cancel

```

Purpose: physically unload a dynamically-loadable module on CANCEL, this frees some RAM and allows the change of modules during run-time but needs more time to resolve CALLs (both to active and not-active programs)

Alias: default_cancel_mode, LOGICAL_CANCEL (0 = yes)

Type: boolean (evaluated for true only)

Default: false

Example: PHYSICAL_CANCEL TRUE

H.4 File I/O

Environment name: COB_VARSEQ_FORMAT

Parameter name: varseq_format

Purpose: declare format to be used for variable length sequential files (different types and lengths preceding each record)

Type: 0 means 2 byte record length (big-endian)
 1 means 4 byte record length (big-endian)
 2 means 4 byte record length (local machine int)
 3 means 2 byte record length (local machine short)

Default: 0

Example: VARSEQ_FORMAT 1

Environment name: COB_FILE_PATH

Parameter name: file_path

Purpose: define default location where data files are stored

Type: file path directory

Default: . (current directory)

Example: FILE_PATH \${HOME}/mydata

Environment name: COB_LS_FIXED

Parameter name: ls_fixed

Purpose: Defines if LINE SEQUENTIAL files should be fixed length (or variable, by removing trailing spaces)

Alias: STRIP_TRAILING_SPACES (0 = yes)

Type: boolean

Default: false

Example: LS_FIXED TRUE

Environment name: COB_LS_NULLS

Parameter name: ls_nulls

Purpose: Defines for LINE SEQUENTIAL files what to do with data which is not DISPLAY type. This could happen if a LINE SEQUENTIAL record has COMP data fields in it.

Type: boolean

Default: false

Note: The TRUE setting will handle files that contain COMP data in a similar manner to the method used by Micro Focus COBOL

Example: LS_NULL = TRUE

Environment name: COB_SYNC
Parameter name: sync
Purpose: Should the file be synced to disk after each write/update
Type: boolean
Default: false
Example: SYNC: TRUE

Environment name: COB_SORT_MEMORY
Parameter name: sort_memory
Purpose: Defines how much RAM to assign for sorting data
Type: size but must be more than 1M
Default: 128M
Example: SORT_MEMORY 64M

Environment name: COB_SORT_CHUNK
Parameter name: sort_chunk
Purpose: Defines how much RAM to assign for sorting data in chunks
Type: size but must be within 128K and 16M
Default: 256K
Example: SORT_CHUNK 1M

H.5 Screen I/O

Environment name: COB_BELL
Parameter name: bell
Purpose: Defines how a request for the screen to beep is handled
Type: FLASH, SPEAKER, FALSE, BEEP
Default: BEEP
Example: BELL SPEAKER

Environment name: COB_REDIRECT_DISPLAY
Parameter name: redirect_display
Purpose: Defines if DISPLAY output should be sent to 'stderr'
Type: boolean
Default: false
Example: redirect_display Yes

Environment name: COB_SCREEN_ESC
Parameter name: screen_esc
Purpose: Enable handling of ESC key during ACCEPT
Type: boolean
Default: false
Note: is only evaluated if COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS is active
Example: screen_esc Yes

Environment name: COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS
Parameter name: screen_exceptions

Purpose: enable exceptions for function keys during ACCEPT
Type: boolean
Default: false
Example: screen_exceptions Yes

Environment name: COB_TIMEOUT_SCALE
Parameter name: timeout_scale
Purpose: specify translation in milliseconds for ACCEPT clauses
BEFORE TIME value / AFTER TIMEOUT
Type: integer
0 means 1000 (Micro Focus COBOL compatible), 1 means 100
(ACUCOBOL compatible), 2 means 10, 3 means 1
Default: 0
Example: timeout_scale 3

Environment name: COB_INSERT_MODE
Parameter name: insert_mode
Purpose: specify default insert mode for ACCEPT; 0=off, 1=on
Default: false
Example: insert_mode Y

Environment name: COB_LEGACY
Parameter name: legacy
Purpose: keep behaviour of former runtime versions, currently only
for setting screen attributes for non input fields
Type: boolean
Default: not set
Example: legacy true

Note: If you want to slightly speed up a program's startup time, remove all
of the comments from the actual real file that is processed

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Version 1.3, 3 November 2008

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