ACAS Open Source Update -- 31st March 2023

Small note really - All DAL and the Cobol FH (File Handler)code has been completed and with some testing using MySQL and MariaDB. Documentation - there has been updates to :
Building The ACAS System
IRS
Stock Control

Mostly typo's, grammar, errors against the software or omission etc.

I still have to look at Purchase Ledger but most of that will occur during system testing.

ACAS Open Source Update – March 2022 – Release v3.02

All reported bugs have been fixed.
Work on building a template module for a Cobol file handler which is needed for each of the files used, is moving on. Rdb's supported is Mysql. For other such as DB2*, Postgres, Oracle* and MS SQL Server 20nn, will totally depend on user request and assistance.

The rdb DAL (Data Access Layer) table handlers are complete as OO Cobol thanks to Prima.nz however they have been converted to standard Cobol so that they work with GC (Gnu Cobol) using Mysql Rdb.

Many of you have expressed a wish that the system also works with other Cobol compilers namely Microfocus VC (Visual Cobol) & NE (Net Express) and Fujitsu NetCobol as well as both suppliers versions for Linux.

Thanks to MicroFocus who have supplied a NFR version of Net Express v5.1 and Visual Cobol R4 and later as a Personal Edition but this one has its problems as there is a restriction of 2,200 lines of procedure division allowed and guess what,,most of the programs are larger even removing all comment lines so that is another one out of the running.
I have tested the code through MF NE. It would 'appear' that if the code goes through that, it should also work with VC (yep, I know assuming again!). Still a lot more to do here as well as putting the WIP code (file handlers etc) through. WIP = Work in Progress.

As for Fujitsu Cobol - Alchemy have now refused, so no testing for this compiler series will occur.

Now for GC and the MF compiler, on paper they accept compiler inclusion directives that is based around the commands $IF, $ELSE, $END that will allow code substitution based on a tested constant depending on the compiler used. In the event that this system does not work for all, I will build a pre-compiler processor to deal with these commands to change the Cobol code going through each compilers prior to compiling ACAS. Alchemy products will not be used as they will not supply their compiler without a large payment and for just testing their compiler that, will not happen.

All this will take some time, so please bear with me during all this work. I know I'm retired but health and spare time is always an issue and you are getting ACAS now, at no cost!

One point I should mention, if anything else to save on getting requests, as my terms of license for Micro Focus specify, you will still **only** get the source code and perhaps the project files, e.g., no object or binary code. Sorry you will need to process the code yourselves!

Generally testing on the system is slow going - I am just one man also the manuals have to be updated or re-written so it all takes up a lot of time assuming there is noting else I have to do that takes priority !

Till the next time,

Vincent