

Introduction to COBOL Programming

This course provides an introduction to the most commonly used components of the COBOL programming language, and covers the latest release of COBOL (up to ANSI-89) where Intrinsic Functions were added.

Overall Objective

The student will gain a solid foundation in the fundamentals of the language including program structure and design, execution and debugging.

Audience

The course is intended for students who have little or no programming experience, and who require formal training in the basic language and programming techniques.

Prerequisites

Basic computer knowledge as well as the ability to use a text editor or word processor.

Duration

10 days consisting of lectures, quizzes and practical exercises.

Course objectives

On completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Make effective use of the main fundamental COBOL verbs and keywords.
- Define and use internal and external data, correctly.
- Use COBOL statements to process sequential and non-sequential files.
- Perform Arithmetic operations.
- Use Intrinsic Functions.
- Understand, create and process subscripted tables.
- Use external subprograms.
- Sort files.
- Write programs in a maintainable and efficient manner using structured code.

- Test programs and, where necessary, debug them.

Course contents overview

- History and development of COBOL
- Compiling a program
- Verbs/Keywords syntax and construct
- Standards and Efficiency
- Program structure
- The four DIVISIONS
- Input and Output Statements
- Low-level input and output
- Control Statements
- Conditional Statements
- Arithmetic Statements
- Date and Arithmetic Intrinsic Functions
- Hierarchical levels and USAGE
- Editing
- Alternative Data Descriptions
- String handling
- Data Representation
- Non-sequential files
- Tables
- CALL Statement
- COPY Statement
- Manipulation data
- Sorting files