

The Redvers COBOL XML Interface gives COBOL applications fast efficient access to the world of XML and web services. This off-the-shelf software is written in pure COBOL and simply requires the coding of a COBOL record layout and CALL statement to generate or parse any well-formed XML document.

Main features:

- Runs on all COBOL platforms
- Distributed in COBOL source code ([cloaked](#))
- Parser includes a SELECT function to extract XML data
- Easy maintenance
- Fast, efficient, professional and fully scalable
- No training required for COBOL programmers
- Supports XML attributes, namespaces, SOAP, entities, CDATA, duplicate tag names and mixed content elements
- Free schema to copybook build tool
- Batch and on-line versions available
- [Free 30 day trial available](#)

The Redvers COBOL XML Interface operates at record level, intelligently building all necessary XML element structures when generating and correctly interpreting XML structures when parsing. This approach replaces complex element level application logic with a single CALL statement that passes the next logical record to/from the application.

We've taken the unusual step of delivering our interface in the form of COBOL source code subroutines because we understand how important it is to have a product that is easily integrated with existing applications, as well as one that provides maximum flexibility and efficiency.

The product is currently used by customers all over the world, running on **iSeries/AS400, UNIX, HP, CA-Realia, Fujitsu Siemens BS2000, Micro Focus** and **IBM mainframe** platforms. It is frequently used in Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) projects and to integrate XML messages on IBM's MQ Series with core COBOL applications. It is also suitable for generating and parsing SWIFTNet messages and Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) applications.

How it Works

Before a COBOL application generates or parses XML, a **COBOL Record Definition (CRD)** must be coded, consisting of a working storage field definition for each field used by the application (the schema to copybook build tool can be used for this). The CRD is then placed in the standard copybook library and a **COPY/INCLUDE** statement for the CRD is added to the application code.

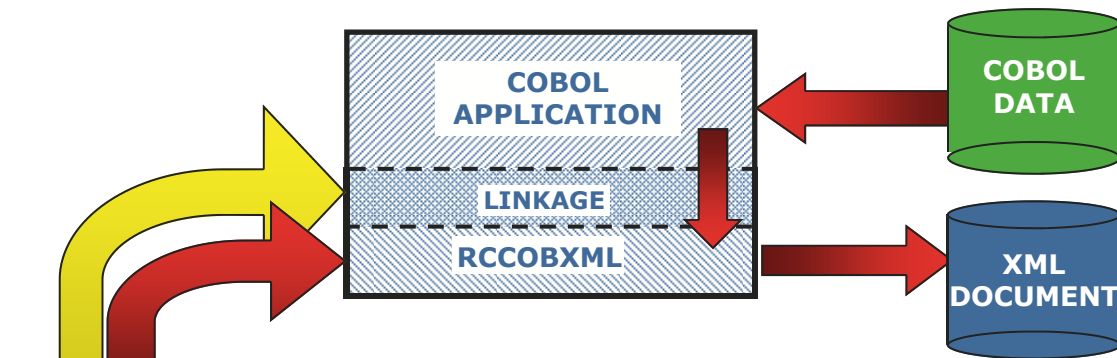
At run time, the interface modules read the CRD source code from the copybook library in order to interpret the passed COBOL layout.

To **generate** XML, the COBOL application populates the CRD and passes it to the generation subroutine (RCCOBXML) which writes the XML document.

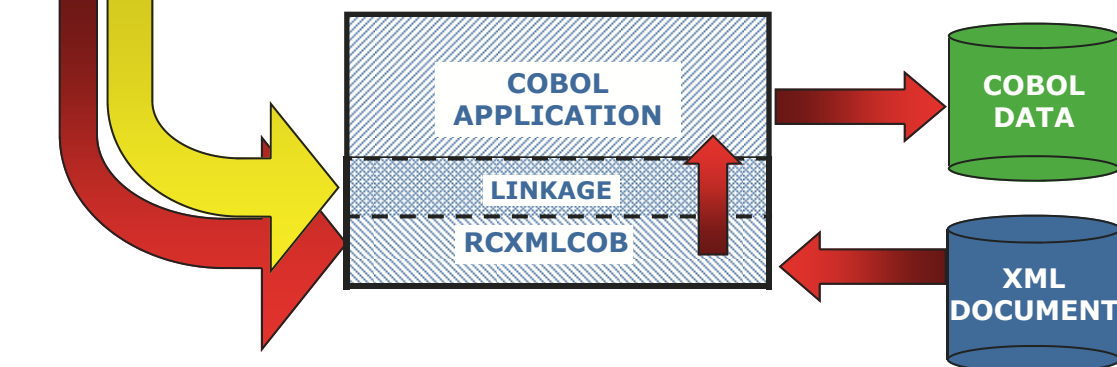
To **parse** XML, the COBOL application calls the parser subroutine (RCXMLCOB) which reads the XML document and returns the data in the CRD fields.


The batch generation/parsing process is illustrated below:


GENERATION:



PARSING:



 Compile copy/include

 Run time input/output

Technical Information

The product operates at any of five levels:

- **Batch** level directly reads and writes XML documents of unlimited size to and from external files.
- **Message** level runs in batch mode but accepts and returns XML documents to/from linkage.
- **CICS** level runs under a CICS transaction, holding the XML document in storage.
- **Standalone** level can run in batch or on-line modes, as a logic only routine that requires no external data access (suitable for SOA projects).
- **Superfast** level is designed for high transaction throughput in large installations. This level can also run in batch or on-line modes.

Each level consists of a pair of COBOL subroutines that generate or parse XML. Very large document sizes and element repetitions are handled using multiple calls to these subroutines. This enables the interface to process complex XML documents without consuming large amounts of storage.

The programs are sold in source code form which permits changes to certain values that would normally be fixed. These values are known as **User Maintained Variables (UMV)**. Examples of UMV's are the `PROGRAM-ID` and external file names, which can be changed to comply with site standards or application requirements. Full details on UMV's can be found in the user guides.

The **COBOL Record Definition (CRD)** can be coded to generate/parse any XML tag names, attributes, namespaces, SOAP and mixed content elements. The appearance of data within XML elements is controlled using standard COBOL picture editing symbols.

The generated well-formed XML standalone document conforms to the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) [Extensible Mark-up Language \(XML\) 1.0 definition](#).

XML generation rate is **7.8 megabytes per second**; parsing rate is **4.3 megabytes per second** (timings were performed on an IBM zSeries mainframe running z/OS 1.10). Maximum document size is **99 megabytes** (except **Batch** level which has no limit).

The Product Package

A perpetual license for a generator-parser pair of modules costs **18,000 US dollars** or equivalent currency. Alternatively, the interface can be leased on an annual basis for just **3,600 US dollars** per year.

Your purchase includes:

- Program source code ([cloaked](#))
- Sample COBOL calling programs
- User Guides
- Corporate level software license
- Two year warranty
- Product upgrades and support via email*

Additional options:

- 24 x 7 telephone hotline support
- Software escrow agreement with the NCC Group

Software and documents are shipped in the form of email attachments unless otherwise requested. Installation is performed by copying the source code text into your COBOL source code library and running your standard site compiler.

We also provide a consultancy service for the building of client application programs that call the Redvers COBOL XML Interface. Charges for this service are based on our standard hourly consultancy rate.

Further details can be found at:
www.redversconsulting.com/cobol_xml_interface.php

* Free for the first two years followed by an annual fee of 2,400 US dollars.

About Redvers Consulting

Redvers Consulting have been providing top quality products and services for COBOL applications since 1988. Our clients are primarily large financial institutions in Europe and North America, although we also have customers in many other business and geographical areas.

Our ability to deliver software in COBOL source code form, gives customers reliable, efficient and perfectly integrated solutions to business needs. Source code distribution also means our software will run on all hardware platforms and operating systems: *EBCDIC, ASCII, big endian or little endian*.

We are business partners with **IBM, HP, WRQ** and **Fujitsu Siemens**, and our development team are members of the **Professional Contractors Group**. In 2009 we won the Thames Gateway **Best use of Technology Award**.

Our client list includes:

Affiliated Computer Services (USA)
Bank One / JP Morgan (USA)
Barclays Life Assurance (UK)
Canada Life Assurance (UK)
Citibank NA (USA & UK)
CUNA Mutual Life Insurance (USA)
Deutsche Bank (USA)
Deutsche Rentenversicherung Bund (DE)
Dun & Bradstreet (UK)
FirstBank (USA)
Fegro Selgros (DE)
GMAC Insurance (USA)
John Deere (USA)
Lehman Brothers (USA & UK)
Oppenheimer (USA)
Railtrack / Network Rail (UK)
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