

February 2, 2021

Dear IBM i community,

I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm the commitment that IBM has made with regard to RPG, COBOL and the IBM i Development suite of tools. They are strong languages for IBM i application development.

IBM Cognitive Systems is committed to the success and ongoing development of IBM i, including both the traditional and more modern development environments. This includes the ILE RPG and ILE COBOL compilers and associated development tools. This ongoing commitment has been illustrated with the many enhancements delivered recently, including responses to clients' requests, such as completely Free Format RPG. This includes the ability of the modern RPG environments to interface with technologies such as the many Open Source options available on IBM i, modern tools such as RedHat Ansible or to make RPG logic available as a service or to call services, on the same system or in a hybrid cloud environment. Our IBM i clients, today, are using these RPG enhancements not only for creating modern business applications, but they have extended the use of RPG to drive integration with technologies such as Robotics, AI, and the Internet of Things.

We gather requirements for these Application Development environments for IBM i from a number of customer advisory councils, from the RFE process and we balance those requirements with our study of industry trends. As the delivery of updates to the compilers and Rational Developer for i unfolds, you will see further evidence of our eagerness to listen, to collaborate, and to deliver the improvements you consider most valuable.

IBM Cognitive Systems is committed to your success - to helping you realize business value from your applications and to extend that value with new business opportunities. We thank you for your business and your confidence in the future of one of the world's most durable and productive platforms for business.

Sincerely,



Steve Sibley
Vice President, Business Line Executive
IBM Cognitive Systems

