

aws marketplace

BMC AMI DevX

Reviews, tips, and advice from real users



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Product Recap



BMC AMI DevX

BMC AMI DevX Recap

BMC AMI DevX is a comprehensive solution enhancing code management and testing efficiency. It offers debugging capabilities within financial applications and integrates data management seamlessly, serving major banking sectors with reliable performance.

AMI DevX is tailored for banking industries, optimizing application debugging in COBOL and enhancing data handling in robust financial systems. It simplifies mainframe data management with real-time insights, improving efficiency through editing and cloning functionalities. The tool's integration with Compuware File-AID for IMS and DB2 ensures streamlined development processes. Challenges include a steep DB2 learning curve and initial setup complexities, with technical support inconsistencies and steep pricing impacting affordability. Despite this, its valuable features significantly support large banking operations.

What features make BMC AMI DevX valuable?

- **Line-by-Line Code Debugging:** Allows precise identification and rectification of issues.
- **Variable Change & Line Skipping:** Flexibility in testing without recompiling.
- **Database-Independent Testing:** No need for loading databases during testing.
- **Real-Time Data Insights:** Enhances decision-making with immediate information.
- **Data Warehousing & Analytics:** Facilitates comprehensive data analysis.
- **Integration & Formatting:** Streamlines development by simplifying data processes.

What benefits should users look for in reviews?

- **Improved Efficiency:** Streamline data management and editing capabilities.
- **Robust Debugging:** Effective in both online and batch COBOL program debugging.
- **Enhanced Financial Application Support:** Superior handling in grants and loans applications.
- **Comprehensive Testing:** Enables creation of clone test files for thorough testing.

In large banking sectors, BMC AMI DevX is integral for grants and loans-related applications. Its robust nature supports financial systems, offering debugging for COBOL, updating data in Compuware File-AID for IMS, and integrating DB2. Users implement this for exceptional data management and application reliability.

Valuable Features

Excerpts from real customer reviews on PeerSpot:



“Test data management capabilities are good.”



Patricio-Martinez

Developer at Selfemployed



“The product has made our mainframe data management process easier. It has helped us save manhours. The tool's most valuable feature is the ability to edit tape files. Its ability to clone files is beneficial in application development.”



Brian Westerman

Director of R&D at Syzygy Inc.



“BMC Data Management improved our data recovery process by simplifying it.”



RobertSamson

Technical Consultant at Services Robert Samson SCRS

- ✔ “One of the features that the developers like is that they can retrieve what they need with the tool. They don't have to go through some process or request something be done by another team. They can get the programs they need, compile them, retrieve the JCL and alter the JCL if they need to, and put these programs wherever they need to go for their testing.”



Brenda Martin

Sr Consultant Project Manager with 10,001+ employees

- ✔ “I think the most valuable features are code management, code deployment, and code generation. The fact that those three features are included makes BMC Compuware ISPW a robust product. If one of those features was missing, it would be less robust and less interesting. But because it has those three features, it is a very good solution for code development and management.”



Verified user

CTO at a tech services company with 11-50 employees

- ✔ “I like the ability that it has to format copy books in a presentable manner. So, you will be able to see the starting offset in length of each field within the layout.”



Verified user

IT Developer III at a government with 5,001-10,000 employees

- ✔ “I like the ability to flow through the source and see what happens to the data as the statements are executed. If there is a fault, it will track the event, and we can then look back to see why it may have caused the fault. You can also reverse engineer your test. You can set it so that you can go backward as well as forward in your test. This is something that I haven't done here at my company. Compuware Xpediter is one of the best debugging tools for mainframe software development. We have currently licensed only the COBOL language for Xpediter, but I know they have other languages, including Assembler, PL/I.”



Verified user

IT Developer III at a government with 5,001-10,000 employees

What users had to say about valuable features:

“BMC Data Management improved our data recovery process by simplifying it. With IMS, recovery meant reloading the last transaction backup to restore databases quickly during downtime. It has been effective, ensuring minimal disruption and enabling smooth operations even during recovery events..”

RobertSamson

Technical Consultant at Services Robert Samson SCRS

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“I have worked with DB2's great features in the last five years. The IDAA feature transformed the vision of warehousing, business analytics, and big data at my bank. Besides the mainframe, I saw that this solution was evolutionary. It gives real-time information. .”

HEVERSON CAMPELO

Information Technology Analyst at a financial services firm with 10,001+ employees

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“One of the features that I like is that I can open up and move tabs outside the eclipse window to different screens in a multi-screen environment, and I'm able to expand it to see a larger amount of code than I could see on an ISPF screen.

I also like the hyper links for datasets when looking at JCL that can be used to look at contents of files..”

Jill Wilkey

Technical Analyst at a financial services firm with 1,001-5,000 employees

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“Users don't have to pay for on-prem servers. The application is mostly in the cloud. It can be used across many countries. It doesn't matter where you are, you can use the application anywhere, anytime.

The solution does handle large amounts of data. Banking systems always have big data that takes a lot of time to get processed.

Test data management capabilities are good. Sometimes it can be difficult to align with the requirements of the customer as it isn't exactly like transactional data..”

Patricio-Martinez

Developer at Selfemployed

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“I like that Compuware File-AID can actually map out control sections within load modules, or, as they're now known, program objects.

It can run a batch job to produce reports and spreadsheets or CSB to format a spreadsheet.

I like the ability that it has to format copy books in a presentable manner. So, you will be able to see the starting offset in length of each field within the layout.

The use of the product is very straightforward as well.

Integration is very easy..”

Verified user

IT Developer III at a government with 5,001-10,000 employees

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“One of the features that the developers like is that they can retrieve what they need with ISPW. They don't have to go through a process or request something be done by another team. They can get the programs they need, compile them, retrieve the JCL and alter the JCL if they need to, and put these programs wherever they need to go for their testing. They can promote all the way through to the production step. I know that might make a lot of companies nervous when we talk about the fact that developers can promote to production. What that means is the developers promote the code to the point of being ready to be released into production. The release step is still controlled using your current approval process. This gives the development staff a lot more control over what they're doing, and it dovetails nicely into an Agile process. ISPW is really great at giving the developers access to all of the components all the way through the process.

The control of actually putting code into production is more about the "when" and not the "how." In most companies, your change-control coordinators or business analysts, or managers that release code into production environment, will still do that last step. That's all controllable and secure at different levels. But it really gives the development staff a way to get everything where it needs to be, staged-up and ready to be released so that they can go work on something else. And the management of that movement into production is still maintained through whatever level you choose. .”

Brenda Martin

Sr Consultant Project Manager with 10,001+ employees

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Other Solutions Considered

“We've looked at some competitors. The only potential competitor might be IBM, with their IDz product. It has an integrated compiler with it. Topaz does not..”

Jill Wilkey

Technical Analyst at a financial services firm with 1,001-5,000 employees

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“We used Serena/Micro Focus ChangeMan for this functionality and we switched for cost and functionality reasons. There is a lot more functionality with ISPW and there is clearly a lot more effort in the continued development of ISPW. ChangeMan was somewhat languishing. They didn't really update it much..”

Verified user

Mainframe Architect at a financial services firm with 5,001-10,000 employees

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“We've just been using ISPF. The decision to bring Workbench to our organization came about because we had the Compuware products, File-Aid and Xpediter, and they provided a free version of Topaz that includes Host Explorer, Slick-Edit and the interfaces to our Compuware products we currently license. A colleague that is familiar with other products commented that Topaz is one of the best products he has seen..”

Jill Wilkey

Technical Analyst at a financial services firm with 1,001-5,000 employees

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“We didn't evaluate other products before choosing this product. The product was included in an Enterprise Agreement. When it was included in our agreement, we were not shopping for an Eclipse-based product like this. When we did need one, it was the one that we had and I think we got lucky, because I have seen competitors' products and I think Topaz from Compuware is far above and beyond its competitors..”

Jason Shewbert

Lead Mainframe Systems Programming Analyst at a logistics company with 10,001+ employees

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“We had plans to implement Endeavor but in evaluating Compuware ISPW vs CA Endeavor, there was never any traction from the change group. The people who admin-ed ChangeMan before we inherited it were not very technically savvy. We just didn't have any good resources. And to bring Serena in to help us upgrade ChangeMan or to bring CA in to convert ChangeMan to Endeavor was very cost-prohibitive..”

Verified user

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Mainframe Architect at a financial services firm with 5,001-10,000 employees

“Standardization was a key reason for switching. It was critical to standardize all of the development processes under a common Source Statement Management system. Before we converted to ISPW we were running 3 different systems at 3 different affiliates to manage source code. We converted those 3 affiliates to ISPW so that we could interchange our development resources without having to retrain personnel. Also, the old systems that we were using were very expensive and ISPW's price point was extremely attractive. It gave us more flexibility in being able to more development resources from one affiliate to another and the ability to standardize processes which allowed us to cut down on the number of people needed to maintain the different systems. .”

Brenda Martin

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Sr Consultant Project Manager with 10,001+ employees


ROI

Real user quotes about their ROI:

“It depends on what the programmer is doing. It might save them one to two hours in a week, and as much as one day per week. It depends on how much programming they're doing, and what they are doing in their day..”

Jill Wilkey

Technical Analyst at a financial services firm with 1,001-5,000 employees

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“I would say I can definitely see the return on investment. Any product that provides efficiency has a return on investment. It secures one of the most important assets any organization has, which its development in which billions of dollars are invested. That is a return in itself. It also makes the development cycle much more efficient; by as much as 20% or 30%..”

Verified user

CTO at a tech services company with 11-50 employees

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“I don’t have any solid numbers on this, but I can tell you that three people were able to write a financial accounting, posting, interest and service charging system in three months and it had VERY few technical errors from the mainframe perspective. My guess is this would have taken twice as long, or we would have had many more issues without using Xpediter..”

Verified user

IT Mainframe Lead Developer at a consumer goods company with 5,001-10,000 employees

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Use Case

“We are using the Topaz Workbench to replace file access, browsing, and editing activities currently done in ISPF. Also using XPEDITER in Topaz to debug programs..”

Jill Wilkey

Technical Analyst at a financial services firm with 1,001-5,000 employees

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“We do development for our customers and we use Topaz to do backend systems for some Latin American banks. It's for enterprise data. It runs on AWS. I'm working on performance testing to do batch performance tests doing step functions with AWS for processes running through the database. .”

Patricio-Martinez

Developer at Selfemployed

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“I work for a huge bank, we use this solution for applications for grants, loans, and other stuff for our bank. DB2 is great. It is very robust with a great capacity to deliver the applications.

For bank applications, it's the best on the market. A lot of the major banks in my country use it. .”

HEVERSON CAMPELO

Information Technology Analyst at a financial services firm with 10,001+ employees

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“Today, the mainframe is our foundation where our customer data lives. Interfacing with the mainframe is how our distributed systems provide services to our customers, regardless of the channel used (Mobile, User Interface, etc). Until an alternative cost-efficient technology is identified that has the processing power of the mainframe, our focus will remain on modernization. Our focus is to utilize tools and technology that allow for more automation, real-time services, and communication with our distributed products in a way that reduces cost and increases efficiency. .”

Verified user

Works at a insurance company with 1,001-5,000 employees

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“Our primary goal wasn't using Topaz Workbench. Our primary goal was to satisfy people in cyber security roles. We just included it because people were using the product a little bit here. What we did was rolled everything up, taking all the plugins from other third-party vendors into the Eclipse state, then put those in as plugins.

With our environment, we have taken the core clutch open source software and added a third-party vendor plugin into Eclipse. We use the Topaz Workbench, but not for any insights in the programs. The software that we have today is still a basic level mainframe software integration in the total Eclipse environment. We haven't taken advantage of any new features or tools which are out there for any Eclipse-based tools..”

Jerry Edgington

Senior Assistant Analyst at a financial services firm with 1,001-5,000 employees

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“We have five affiliates and we have installed ISPW in three of those affiliates. One of the things that we had as a goal was to standardize. Until we made the decision to go to ISPW, all of our affiliates had different source statement management processes. They all functioned differently. Our support teams were outsourced, and we couldn't really move a resource from one affiliate to the other without completely retraining them, because their processes were so different. They used different tools. We had CA-Panvalet, we had Endeavor, and we had some in-house tools. There was no standardization. Not being able to move resources was very limiting.

When we installed ISPW one of our goals was to standardize processes as much as possible so that if we needed to move resources from one affiliate to another affiliate, they could transition across with no training based on standardized ISPW processes. Retrieving the code, developing changes, setting up testing, reviewing results and staging for deployment to Production, would all be done the same way. That was the first one of our major goals.

A second goal was to install a system that would track the change process and provide real time information to the developers as to the status of their programs. This information was not readily available in our current process. This step was key to moving to a more Agile model of development. .”

Brenda Martin

Sr Consultant Project Manager with 10,001+ employees

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Setup

The setup process involves configuring and preparing the product or service for use, which may include tasks such as installation, account creation, initial configuration, and troubleshooting any issues that may arise. Below you can find real user quotes about the setup process.

“Setting up IMS with BMC's data management solutions is straightforward, but it requires collaboration across different parts of the business to understand critical data and recovery needs. It involves imagining scenarios and planning for disaster recovery, ensuring that essential data and operations can be restored efficiently in case of a disaster. The number of people maintaining the solution varies depending on the enterprise size, but typically it ranges from five to ten individuals..”

RobertSamson

Technical Consultant at Services Robert Samson SCRS

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“A lot of pipelines are executed during the installation process. The setup can be complex, depending on the parameters and requirements. Each pipeline could take an hour or more to implement. The compiling and testing processes take time. The security requirements and availability of the system are things that need to be considered at the outset.

Maintenance is a big deal in the company I work with. The processes sometimes change from time to time and we need to adjust. .”

Patricio-Martinez

Developer at Selfemployed

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“The initial setup is very simple. Again, since we are combining multiple products from different vendors, we have to be careful about the version of Eclipse and the order we install the product into eclipse. Sometimes this takes a few tries to get it right.

For deployment, zip up the eclipse program files and a default workspace. These files are sent to our desktop management group who deploy the software using Big Fix.

We also recommend that the developers back up their workspace to a network drive on a regular basis so that they can recover if there workspace gets or they make a change and want to back it out.

.”

Jill Wilkey

Technical Analyst at a financial services firm with 1,001-5,000 employees

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“I would rate the initial setup of this solution an eight, on a scale from one to 10, with one being the worst and 10 being the best. The deployment took a couple of months. The solution requires an intensive planning process to deployment. Also, deployment is not immediate. We're not talking about the deployment of an app like Windows, which can be done in five minutes. We're talking about months. In some cases, it can even take a year. With this solution, deployment is an ongoing process; it is not something that you do once and you are done with it.

To deploy this solution correctly, you first need to carry out an analysis of the current situation. After that, you need to decide what to do with it. This product is, generally speaking, for organizations that have problems in the development cycle. This tool automates the development cycle and makes it more efficient.

After the solution is deployed, it can be maintained by a single person..”

Verified user

CTO at a tech services company with 11-50 employees

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“The setup was pretty complex. Compuware came in and did it as part of the purchase, and then they did some training.

A lot of it was conversion from ChangeMan. That was something that we could not have done, just to state it simply. We don't often come across a product that we can't convert to and implement. We've done a large number of them. This one, in particular, after seeing what they had to do - we couldn't have done it.

It was a rushed deployment because we had a licensing misunderstanding with Serena/Micro Focus. We pretty much had to convert in a month. There were actually a couple weeks where we went without a change-control product, and we were doing manual compiles. It took a month to convert it and implement it, and then we were making changes and still implementing, to be honest. That propagation issue is one of them; the planned binds is another. There are still a couple things that are not implemented. But it's net new functionality that we never had before.

Because it was so rushed, our implementation strategy was "cross our fingers and hope for the best." We actually had a longer-duration plan, but when we found out from our purchasing department that our licensing was about to expire, we had to rush things. We're not a good example to use for the right implementation approach, because it was so hurried..”

Verified user

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Mainframe Architect at a financial services firm with 5,001-10,000 employees

“Deploying it is a complex process, but BMC did a great job of supporting that process and working with us. They answered our questions and tried to understand our environment so that all process were support in the ISPW installation. You should definitely engage the professional services group to help you with the installation. While it was very complex, it was also very thoroughly understood by the teams that we worked with. They did a great job, evidenced by the fact that we were able to convert to ISPW from two different Endeavor sites and one CA-Panvalet sites, with between 30,000 and 50,000 programs a-piece, and be up and running at those sites in nine months.

I would certainly encourage everyone to engage their professional services and have a company team available to work with the professional services team. You need both sides. You need somebody within your company who understands what your company does, how all the processes work, and how each process will work using ISPW. It's your responsibility, as a company, to own that process, and it's BMC Compuware's responsibility to help you. It is not a case where you do nothing and they come and install it. You have to be engaged. And how you're going to train people should be talked about early in the process as well.

It is a complex process, but as long as both sides, your company and BMC Compuware work together, the result will be a very positive experience. Our project was very successful and was completed on time and within budget.

When it comes to the actual installation, when you're setting up the parameters for how ISPW will work in your shop, there are a lot of questions that have to be answered. That's pretty normal with any software that you have to install, but because ISPW is a new animal and not very many people have a lot of experience with it, BMC Compuware should have more in-depth explanations about what the installation parameters mean and how each choice will impact your set-up. I shared this feedback with BMC Compuware.

For example, one of the questions was, "Do you want to have a brand new load library that ISPW promotes the programs into for Production?" Depending on the answer to that question you could cause a lot of additional work to be done. The

installation steps should contain some pros and cons about the options you can pick.

In terms of a deployment strategy, we picked some programs from several applications when we began the installation at each of our affiliates and we put up a test version of ISPW. Because we had a test area set aside for this work, we didn't interfere with anything else the development and production support teams were doing. We pulled real programs into the test version of ISPW and had our test team compile the programs, link-edit the programs, and test the programs using ISPW. We also used this test ISPW environment with real application code in it for training, so that when we had the developers sit down for those training sessions, they saw their real programs.

In terms of maintaining the solution, there doesn't seem to be a lot involved, although you will need an administrator. The first few months there are certainly bumps that have to be worked out, but they were always there to answer our questions. After that, on a day-to-day basis, once you get the primary functions covered ISPW is very stable. There isn't a lot of breakage. The care and feeding have been very minimal since we went live with ISPW. .”

Brenda Martin

Sr Consultant Project Manager with 10,001+ employees

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Customer Service and Support

“We haven't had to call support for this solution more than once. We do have lots of experience with Compuware. They're great. Compuware has good support..”

Verified user

Mainframe Architect at a financial services firm with 5,001-10,000 employees

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“Tech support is fairly responsive. Some of the replies are, "Wait until the next release." And some of the replies are, "This feature, it will not be supported until further notice.".”

Verified user

Lead Specialist at a financial services firm with 1,001-5,000 employees

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“Technical support is provided by a mainframe management company and is decent. Their response time seems pretty decent. It's gotten better over the years. There have been features or bugs that we've reported that didn't get resolved for several weeks, if not months, but that has improved. So, I would give them a nine out of ten..”

Verified user

IT Developer III at a government with 5,001-10,000 employees

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“Compuware tech support seems to be okay. For the most part, if I have any issues I turn it over to someone here and then they get in touch with the vendor and then they have had me get on and do a shared session where they can watch what I'm doing. So they have been fairly reactive..”

Verified user

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Advanced Specialist at a financial services firm with 1,001-5,000 employees

“We have had a few problems with support so I would rate them a nine out of ten.

They didn't give us the answers we needed for our problems. We would try to explain the problem and they would give us a simple answer that didn't help. They didn't understand that our question was deeper than what they thought. I would have to schedule more meetings with them in order to actually get the problems resolved. Their techs need to be more experienced. .”

HEVERSON CAMPELO

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Information Technology Analyst at a financial services firm with 10,001+ employees

“Their day-to-day tech support is great. We haven't had any problems with it at all. We had some issues that we reported back to them and we got support right away. They have always been there to help us. I would rate them very highly and responsive to any issues we've had. They were very quick, answering our calls right away.

We put some pretty heavy demands on BMC Compuware's professional services when we installed the solution. I required them to be on site with us every time we installed. They were on site at all three sites. We also had an implementation hotline set up for the first night of production support and they were there on the phone with us. They were physically in the building with us when we went live and were there at night on the phone with us when we went live. They stepped up and met our heavy demands.

Having them on site when we went live was something we arranged after the fact, after the contracts had been signed by our company. When we started laying out the project plan they came on site for a week to look at everything we had and how we did things. After we went through all of that and start building the detail project timeline we requested that BMC Compuware be on site at "GO-Live" and they were very accommodating. .”

Brenda Martin

Sr Consultant Project Manager with 10,001+ employees

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Other Advice

“I would rate Compuware Xpediter an eight out of ten. I am very satisfied with it. It is one of the best software testing and debugging tools in the industry..”

Verified user

IT Developer III at a government with 5,001-10,000 employees

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“I'm a consultant who helps users determine which product they want. I am not a user. I help users evaluate solutions for the implementation of a configuration management tool..”

Verified user

CTO at a tech services company with 11-50 employees

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“From my perspective as an infrastructure guy, the most valuable aspect of BMC's data management solutions was their ability to optimize CPU cycles, improving IMS performance without directly impacting the database. This helped ensure smoother operations and faster transaction processing without significant changes to the underlying data structures.

I wouldn't recommend this product over others without considering individual business needs. For a small company, an SQL solution might be more suitable. The choice between BMC and other solutions depends on factors like support and budget availability. Overall, I would rate BMC Data Management as an eight out of ten..”

RobertSamson

Technical Consultant at Services Robert Samson SCRS

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“Take a longer implementation path than we did. Don't rush it. We were forced to rush it and we would incur a large cost from Serena. My advice is to plan longer and take more time to implement, which we had planned on doing. We were going to do a phased implementation. We just didn't have that luxury.

To anyone who is considering moving from an alternative solution to this one, I would say, "Don't hesitate." I've told everyone I've talked to that this is a much better product. They'll be much happier with it.

There was a lot of resistance early on but, the more people have used it, the more positive they have become. I think they have really started to like the product. We have about 50 users and all of them are in application development.

For deployment and maintenance, it was just me and one of my staff. We maintain the skeletons and CLISTs and troubleshoot if we have a promote/deploy failure. They do happen but probably less frequently than with ChangeMan.

It's used every day. It's constantly being used by the application developers. We don't have any explicit plans to increase its use, other than as we add developers. We do plan to make use of Topaz. We've been struggling with coming up with a training date but once that occurs, we hope that people that would use Topaz.

We don't have it integrated with anything. There's been some talk of looking into that but I can't say which direction it will go.

I would rate this solution a nine out of ten. The two things I mentioned earlier, the ways it could be improved, would make it a ten. If we could get a little better documentation and a little better error reporting from the promote/deploy processes, that would sure make my life easier..”

Verified user

Mainframe Architect at a financial services firm with 5,001-10,000 employees

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“I would advise two things. First, you must have a technical group of people who understand what you're doing now, where your programs are, how you change them, how you test them, how you promote them. You need to be able to clearly communicate all of that so that the ISPW team can create the steps in ISPW to do the same.

Second, I would encourage any company to look at the whole process early on and develop realistic timelines for the whole project. Even the night you go live is a long process. This is not a 45-minute process and you're up and running. It takes time to build all the metadata that ISPW will use for tracking.

You also need to think ahead about training. The training is a three-day class and you need all of your developers to sit through these classes. That's a logistics nightmare if you have five different sites and 200 people in different countries. You need to think about how you are going to train people, what you are going to

show them, and about when you are going to do it. Are you going to do it with a test system or something else? If you don't look at all of that early on, you can be racing towards the installation deadline and realize, "Oh, I have to get 150 people in a room and get them trained. How am I going to do that?"

Look at the whole process, start to finish. Plan for the "Go-live" date, and how you are going to communicate where you are in the process to everyone that needs to know. Your team needs to have a really good understanding of all of those steps and then start to execute. We stumbled a little bit with our first installation but the last 2 were much more organized based on understanding how all of the key events had to happen and how to communicate to the development teams.

ISPW is an excellent product. It does everything the developers need it to do. We were able to build it and customize it, very simply, as we became more familiar with how the system works during installation. It doesn't need a lot of care and feeding once it's up and running. Our development teams think it is a great product as well. Installation-wise, I think more detail on the installation decisions you make up front would be very beneficial. But as a product, it's a solid nine out of 10..”

Brenda Martin

Sr Consultant Project Manager with 10,001+ employees

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“Look at it very closely. If you don't have anything, Topaz is great to start with, especially if you're a Compuware shop, since it is free for Compuware clients.

I've been using it more often because we added an Eclipse plug-in for our source management system. Now, we can start really taking advantage of the Eclipse environment for our mainframe development.

We don't have an automated testing solution, at least for unit testing. Any

automated testing that's done is done more at the user-acceptance or QA-testing stages. That's been done mostly with [Rational Functional Tester](#). We are probably going to be looking at an automated process within the next year or two. We will consider looking at the Total Test product from Compuware, since it plugs right in.

We have built a single Eclipse environment for all products. We use the P2 installs for the products, including Topaz, and put them into a single Eclipse instance that has a combination of IBM products, our source management product, and other products. We try to have a single Eclipse instance to handle all the application development needs for mainframe developers.

As for providing intelligent insights into programs and data, we haven't used the Topaz piece for that very much. We've got an IBM product, Application Discovery, to give people a little more insight into their programs and their systems. And that's another Eclipse product, so it is included in the Eclipse environment. We've basically chosen to go a hybrid route with products that we already have.

We have 30 or 40 people using it on and off. A lot of them are application programmers. It requires less than one FTE for deployment and maintenance. It's pretty simple to maintain.

I expect our usage to increase. There are going to be some people who won't use because they don't want the learning curve and are very adept at maneuvering around ISPF. The eclipse environment is going to be very beneficial as we replace retiring developers with younger developers that are familiar with Eclipse.

I would rate it an eight out of ten. It is a great tool. There are just a few things that you have to get used to. .”

Jill Wilkey

Technical Analyst at a financial services firm with 1,001-5,000 employees

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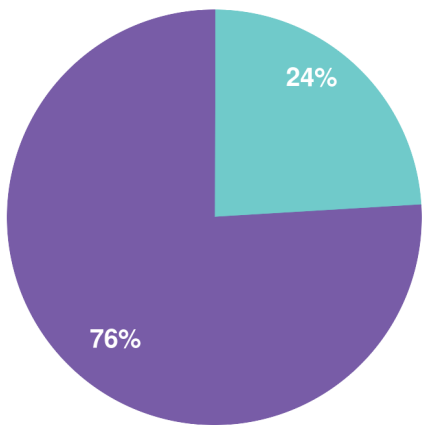
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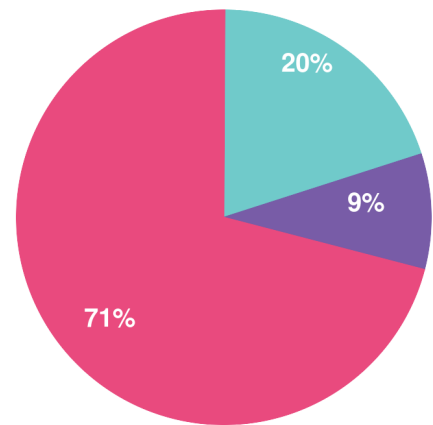


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+1 646.328.1944