

June 9, 2017

Dear IBM i clients and partners,

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. Recently, the team responsible for developing the compilers and tools for IBM i have moved into the IBM i Development organization. This will allow more synergy between the development of the languages and the development of the operating system.

IBM Power Systems is committed to the success and ongoing development of IBM i. This includes the ILE RPG and ILE COBOL compilers and associated development tools. This ongoing commitment has been illustrated with such enhancements as RPG Open Access, and Free Format RPG. Both the ability to interface traditional RPG programs to other devices and technologies and the natural evolution of RPG to free format are significant enhancements supporting client requirements for modernization of their applications. In parallel with our most recent IBM i 7.3 release, new extensions to the RPG and COBOL languages were also announced.

We gather requirements for these Application Development environments for IBM i from a number of customer advisory councils 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 over the next several quarters you will see further evidence of our eagerness to listen, to collaborate, and to deliver the improvements you consider most valuable.

IBM Power 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