

Data collection for small and large businesses



Data Collection Connection



Highlights

Gathering information quickly and accurately is a high priority for today's competitive companies. Information must be current and reliable, captured at its source. IBM's family of data collection products and services helps meet that need with a variety of software services.

IBM Data Collection Connection (DCCConnect) programs are a comprehensive family of integrated, object-oriented, data collection software products which support terminal applications. These programs use an advanced graphical user interface to simplify both application development and the implementation of production applications.

DCCConnect includes both Development Toolkits for Windows 2000 and NT. DCCConnect supports IBM's legacy line of data collection terminals as well as selected 3rd party terminals. A new client terminal services program allows Windows and DOS systems to also be used as data collection terminals.

Additional programs provide support for IBM 7524 terminals and transactions. Host support programs are available for MAPICS XA and JD Edwards ERP software.

The following software products will be described:

- IBM DCCConnect Development Toolkits for Windows 2000 & NT
- IBM DCCConnect Servers for Windows 2000
- IBM Terminal Services for Dos and Windows
- IBM 752X Emulator for DOS
- IBM 7524 Interface Support for Windows 2000
- IBM Transaction Connection for Windows 2000
- IBM ERPBridge for JD Edwards
- IBM ERPBridge for MAPICS

IBM DCCConnect Development Toolkits for Windows 2000 and NT

DCCConnect Development Toolkits employ an object-oriented, graphical user interface to set up data collection terminals and create transaction programs. These transaction programs execute on IBM's 7524, 7525, 7526 and 7527 terminals or a DOS PC or DCT using the 752X Emulator for DOS, providing terminal-specific commands, such as prompts, messages, input fields, and editing or validation routines. They also manage the terminal's interaction with attached devices such as printers and optical isolators. The Toolkit also supports network configuration and terminal communications management, and an application programming interface (API) is included for application development. This API is consistent with the 32-bit API of Data Collection Control for (W2000). Custom applications written using the DCC/32-bit API should run without modification with DCCConnect.

IBM DCCConnect Server for and Windows 2000

DCCConnect Server provides a runtime environment for network configuration, terminal communications management and APIs. Network and terminal configurations are portrayed using graphical icons. To configure the network and attached devices, the user simply selects the appropriate adapters, communication lines and terminal types, dropping them onto appropriate locations on the schematic. The functions of the DCCConnect Server are similar to those of the DCCConnect Development Toolkit, except that the server has no transactions program editor and supports multiple terminals.

Devices Supported by DCCConnect Products

All models of the 7524, 7525, 7526 and 7527 are supported in any combination. The Norand equivalents to all IBM 7524 models are supported. DOS PC's and selected third party DOS-based DCT's from Symbol Technology and Intermec, may also be included in the terminal network with the use of the 752X Emulator for DOS. Use of all 7524 Radio Frequency terminals (and their Norand equivalents) requires IBM 7524 Interface Support for Windows 2000 on the personal computers to which the 7524 is attached. (Batch 7524 terminals can be serially attached to a PC and therefore do not require 7524 Interface Support). PCs programmed for interaction with DCCConnect can use the API supplied with the Terminals Services for DOS and Windows product. A maximum of 256 devices can be connected to a single DCCConnect Server PC. System load and terminal activity may dictate fewer devices in some customer environments.

IBM Terminal Services for DOS and Windows

Terminal Services for DOS and Windows provides development capability for client applications in a networked environment. Terminal Services includes a set of application programming interfaces (APIs) that can be called from a Visual Basic or C language program. These APIs provide communications with a DCCConnect Server system over a TCP/IP network. Programs using the APIs can send transactions or messages, and request validation or data. Full data integrity is provided by storing transaction data received by the server on the server's hard disk prior to acknowledging the receipt of the data to the terminal.

IBM 7524X Emulator for DOS

The 7524X Emulator for DOS allows a PC or DCT running DOS to operate as a 7524 Data Collection Terminal, accepting the download of the same transaction program files used for real 7524s, responding to commands and requests from DCCConnect just as a 7524 does, and transmitting transactions to the DCCConnect server. With this product, customers who already have transactions programs written for the 7524 can use them on any DOS-compatible PC and some DOS-based fixed and RF DCT's from third party vendors. This makes products like the ERPBridge for MAPICS and ERPBridge for J.D. Edwards usable from a DOS PC. Other data collection terminals such as the 7593 can also run the 752X Emulator; however they must be configured as 7524 terminals in DCCConnect. The 752X Emulator for DOS includes 3 different versions:

- Attachment to DCCConnect via TCP/IP using the IBM TCP/IP stack
- Attachment via TCP/IP using the FTP software TCP/IP stack
- Attachment via a serial port

IBM 7524 Interface Support for Windows 2000

The 7524 Interface Support programs support multiple 7524 Radio Frequency (RF) Terminals. Device communications with the 7524 RF Terminals allow DCCConnect to perform downloads of files and programs, manage the operating environment, and receive data and transactions.

Using 7524 Interface Support, customers can add portable terminals to their existing data collection applications with little or no modification to the transaction programs, custom function routines, or data export programs.

IBM Transaction Connection for Windows 2000

Transaction Connection for Windows 2000 will integrate DCCConnect data collection solutions into Database 2 (DB2) and/or AS/400® or 3270 applications.

Transaction Connection can process transactions from any type of terminal that is supported by DCCConnect.

The Transaction Connection:

- Sets up and performs database updates
- Responds immediately to terminal requests
- Manipulates transaction and database data
- Provides an interface between IBM's software and a host application screen
- Can be easily customized to customer needs

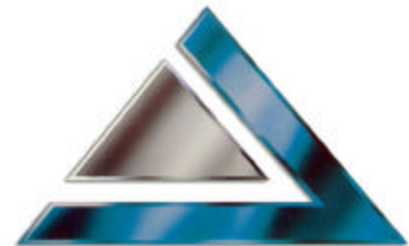
TC can make processing decisions as part of a scripted action for each transaction type it handles, as well as moving data between applications which are otherwise not integrated. A worker at a data collection terminal can press a function key, scan several barcodes in response to input prompts, and thus create a transaction which is routed via DCCConnect and TC to a relational database and/or host application screen. Query results or host application responses can be sent back to the operator at the terminal. All this happens without the operator being required to log-on, navigate menus and windows or be skilled at handling application errors.

TC is a functionally rich scripting language with exits to operating system and SQL. For instance, TC can open a text file on the PC, read and compare its contents, make logical decisions and then open a CMD session and execute a program. It can then check for successful completion of the program and update data in the database or host and send a response to the terminal.

Benefits to your business

If you are facing any of today's challenges, implementing data collection, maximizing the performance of your systems or moving to new technologies, you can depend on IBM's proven track record to deliver the systems strategy and best possible solution today. Choosing IBM to be your data collection solution partner:

- Strengthens the integration of your business process
- Supports your business process re-engineering
- Delivers a functionally rich platform with modern graphical user interfaces
- Provides seamless integration of production data with SAP R/3
- Supports SAP's client/server environment for scalability, portability and flexibility and maximizes the benefits and increases the value of your ERP solution investment.

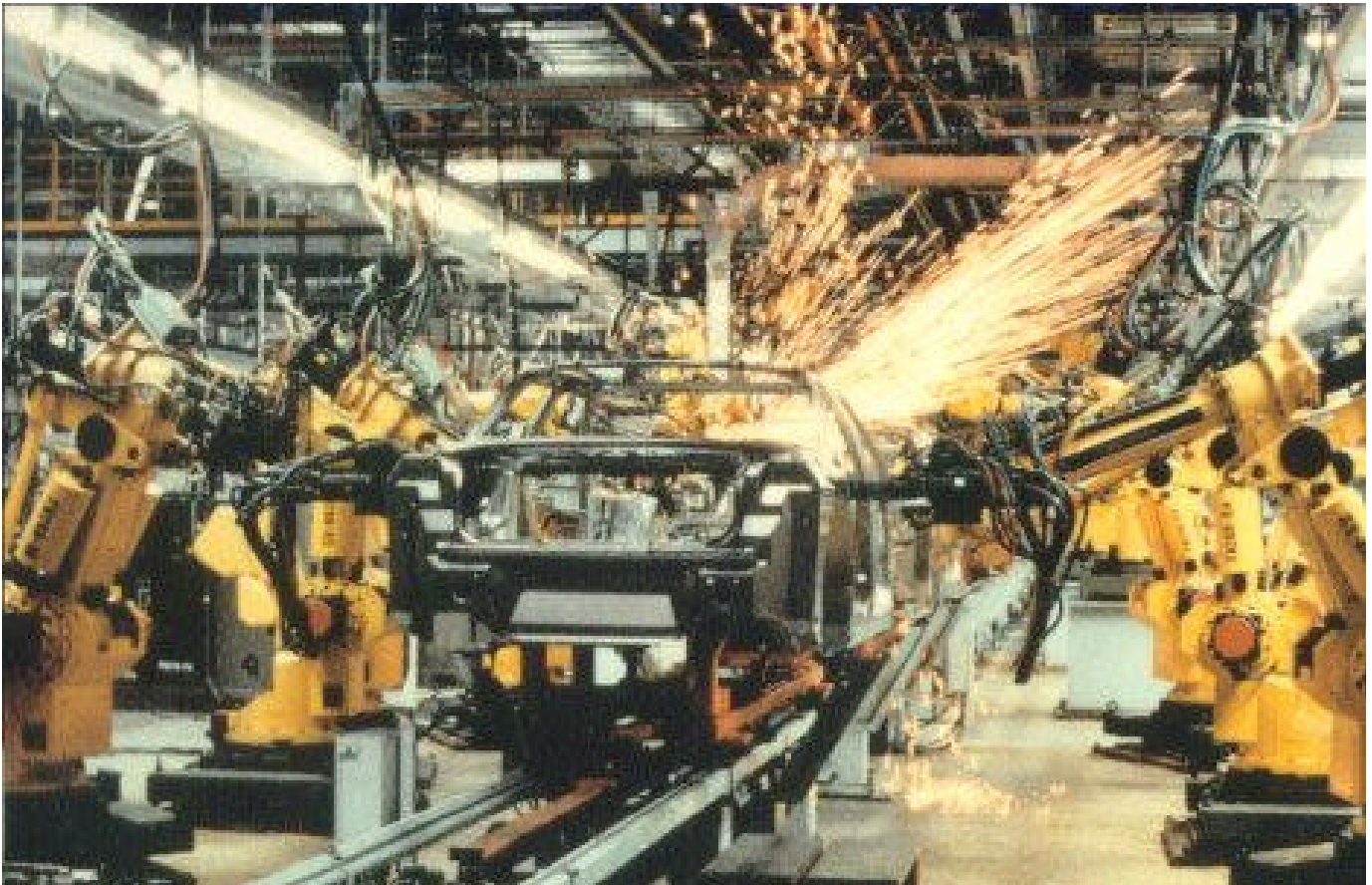


DCConnect

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IBM Transaction Connection



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IBM Transaction Connection for Windows 2000

Transaction Connection for Windows 2000 will integrate DCCConnect data collection solutions into Microsoft SQL server or IBM Database 2 (DB2) and/or AS/400®, Risc-6000 or 3270 applications.

Transaction Connection can process transactions from any type of terminal that is supported by DCCConnect.

1. The Transaction Connection:
2. Sets up and performs database updates
3. Responds immediately to terminal requests
4. Manipulates transaction and database data
5. Provides an interface between IBM's software and a host application screen
6. Can be easily customized to customer needs

TC can make processing decisions as part of a scripted action for each transaction type it handles, as well as moving data between applications which are otherwise not integrated. A worker at a data collection terminal can press a function key, scan several barcodes in response to input prompts, and thus create a transaction which is routed via DCCConnect and TC to a relational database and/or host application screen. Query results or host application responses can be sent back to the operator at the terminal. All this happens without the operator being required to log-on, navigate menus and windows or be skilled at handling application errors.

TC is a functionally rich scripting language with API hooks into the operating system and SQL. For instance, TC can open a text file on the PC, read and compare its contents, make logical decisions and then open a CMD session and execute a program. It can then check for successful completion of the program and update data in the database or host and send a response to the terminal.

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DC Connect

IBM DC Connect Application Suite Architecture

