

AdvantageTM VISION:Inform[®]

Getting Started

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Computer Associates®
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Introduction

This book introduces Advantage™ VISION:Inform® to you in an efficient and visual manner. By the time you have finished reading this guide, you will have an overview of the wide scope of the product and its usability will be familiar to you. It is important to us that you feel comfortable with VISION:Inform before you begin to use it.

Before you begin installing the host server software, please read this chapter for a brief product description, pre-installation activities, a summary of the product activation process, information on how to access the product documentation, and information on Computer Associates services, including how to contact Computer Associates.

Product Description

VISION:Inform is software for data extraction from the enterprise server databases to the PC user (for example, Advantage Intraccess and VISION:Journey® for Windows) or 3270 VISION:Bridge™ user. It selects and extracts data from enterprise server databases controlling security using password validation and user profiles.

Whether you are working from a PC or an IBM 3270 terminal, VISION:Inform provides easy-to-use, productivity enhancing client interfaces.

Retrieving Data from Disparate Data Sources

VISION:Inform recognizes, extracts, joins, summarizes, and formats the requested data from virtually any combination of relational databases, hierarchical databases, and flat files that reside on your IBM enterprise server.

VISION:Inform provides the tools to extract whatever data you request from diverse and dissimilar databases, then presents the data as if it were simply retrieved from a single table.

Regardless of the complexity of your query or database mix, you receive your data from this virtual relational table, while still preserving the correct relationships. VISION:Inform:

- Selects only the information you want, without downloading enormous files.
- Extracts the information you need without interrupting or slowing the daily flow of computer resources.
- Aggregates specific data elements into one relational table from multiple databases.
- Provides automatic data base handling, file processing, matching, data selection, field manipulation, and customized calculations.
- Accesses over 70 different LAN databases through VISION:Journey, plus all of the major IBM host file and data base structures, including VSAM, DB2, IMS/DLI, sequential, and many others.
- Provides security and automatic scheduling of queries for optimization of speed and resources.
- Produces and delivers requested data in a variety of formats..

Defining Logical Data View

You define the rules for handling your databases in the logical data view, simplifying complex environments, and preserving the relationships between data in multiple, heterogeneous databases. You can present the extracted data in a virtual relational table, which you can design to meet the specific requirements by customizing the logical data views.

Reporting for 3270 Users

VISION:Inform includes a reporting tool, VISION:Bridge, for 3270 users. Without any programming experience, you can generate reports using a quick query menu system. You can process the queries to the data interactively or in batch mode.

VISION:Bridge provides the convenience of generating detailed reports using simple, intuitive commands. Its free-form query language includes automatic database handling, file processing, matching, data selection, field manipulation and calculations.

You can sort, group, or move data. Using the VISION:Bridge built-in full-screen text editor, you can create new queries or modify existing ones.

Processing Efficiently

Offering you the capability to process multiple queries in a single pass, to prioritize, to schedule in non-peak hours, and to extract only the data you actually need, VISION:Inform provides you with the means to work quickly with even the largest databases. For efficiency, VISION:Inform provides the ability for multiple users to submit up to 255 individual requests to be processed in a single pass of each database, thus minimizing enterprise server workload.

The VISION:Inform resource control features provide the system administrator the capability to set parameters to avoid enterprise server overload. Limits can be set on the computer resources a query can consume. Safeguards control the number of records read as well as the volume of data that can be extracted, reported, and downloaded.

Migrating to DB2

Using VISION:Inform, you can use your relational and hierarchical databases, such as DB2 and IMS/DB, together to support your need for information from a variety of different systems. Taking advantage of this function, you can maintain access to IMS data while you migrate to DB2.

Securing Data Access

VISION:Inform supports standard security packages including RACF®, CA-ACF2®, and CA-Top Secret®. Additionally, VISION:Inform provides an extra level of security. Each user can have an individual or group profile specifying the databases, records, fields, or values within fields that can be accessed.

Accessing Data from the PC

VISION:Journey for Windows is a Microsoft Windows-based dynamic query builder for accessing data on your enterprise server. It delivers the data directly to the desktop or laptop. Because it doesn't require lengthy training, users can begin working almost immediately. Sitting at their desks, users can extract specific data, group it, and download it directly into a variety of popular PC products, including Microsoft Excel and Lotus 1-2-3.

VISION:Journey enhances an organization's investment in enterprise server systems by moving computer resources and data closer to department-based users, where they can independently access files, gather and sort sales data, analyze market research or get up-to-date numbers from databases across the hall and around the world.

Advantage Intraccess is another PC client for the CICS® version of VISION:Inform. Advantage Intraccess enables business users to quickly and easily access corporate data using the power and convenience of intranet technology.

Preparing to Install the Product

For system requirements, see “[Environmental, Packaging, and Other Considerations](#).”

For an installation overview, see “[Installation Overview](#).”

You can find all the documentation for the product on the CD. For the convenience of the person who installs the product, a hard copy of the *Installation Guide* is provided.

License Management

VISION:Inform uses the Computer Associates License Management Program (CA-LMP), which provides a standardized and automated approach to the tracking of licensed software. VISION:Inform interfaces with CA-LMP using the CA TNG Framework for OS/390 Common Services CAIRIM and its CA-LMP facility.

For more information regarding the CA TNG Framework for OS/390 Common Service CAIRIM and its CA-LMP facility, refer to the *Unicenter TNG Framework for OS/390 Reference Guide* and the *Unicenter TNG Framework for OS/390 Installation and Maintenance Guide*.

CA-LMP (License Management Program) is a standardized and automated approach for tracking licensed software. CA-LMP is provided as an integral part of CAIRIM, and is required for VISION:Inform to initialize properly. If CAIRIM has not already been installed on your system, you must install it before you install and use VISION:Inform. Refer to the Unicenter TNG Framework for OS/390 documentation, included with your installation package, for information about installing CAIRIM.

Note: Once CAIRIM has been installed or maintained at Genlevel 9212 or above, CA-LMP support will be available for all Computer Associates products that support CA-LMP.

Product Documentation

The CD you receive from Computer Associates contains all of the VISION:Inform documentation. The documents are in Portable Document Format (PDF) and are designed for you to read online using the Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Each online document contains a table of contents, index, and underlined hyperlinks. Click on the hyperlinks to go directly to the topic.

The *Installation Guide* is specific to IMS or CICS, as is the *Utilities Guide*. All other guides apply to both environments.

Document	Description
<i>Advantage VISION:Inform Getting Started</i>	This document contains a brief overview of the VISION:Inform product, and discusses environmental and packaging considerations. It also contains a brief installation overview, and lists items to be addressed when upgrading from previous releases of the product.
<i>Advantage VISION:Inform Installation Guide for CICS</i> <i>Advantage VISION:Inform Installation Guide for IMS</i>	These two documents contain instructions for installing and maintaining the product for the particular environment (CICS or IMS). There is also an Installation Verification Procedure (IVP) to assist the installer in verifying that the installation is complete and that the product is working properly. Appendices to the manual describe the start-up options for the Definition Processor component and list the JCL procedures that are delivered with the product.
<i>Advantage VISION:Inform Utilities Guide for CICS</i> <i>Advantage VISION:Inform Utilities Guide for IMS</i>	These two environment-specific documents describe the various utilities that are provided with the VISION:Inform system. This includes backup and restore utilities for the system files, the query migration utility, quick-start utilities for importing file definitions, and many other useful utilities.

Document	Description
<i>Advantage VISION:Inform User Guide</i>	This document describes the VISION:Inform Query Language, as well as the VISION:Bridge, Immediate Response, and Quick Query components of VISION:Inform. Data selection and field processing are explained, as well as advanced concepts such as complex relational and conditional expressions, optimization and access strategies, and viewing and handling of reports. The VISION:Inform Reference Summary, a separate document in previous releases, is now contained in an Appendix of this document.
<i>Advantage VISION:Inform Definition Processor Reference Guide</i>	This document describes how to use the Definition Processor component of VISION:Inform to create and maintain file definitions, logical data views, tables and procedures. Also discussed are the interactive versions of the Quick Start Utilities.
<i>Advantage VISION:Inform System Administrator Guide</i>	This document contains an overview of the VISION:Inform system, as well as a description of the functions and commands used by the System Administrator. The design, creation, and maintenance of the profiles (User Ids) for end users are also covered. Techniques and tools for resource control, use and setup of Background Processors, and the Batch Simulator are discussed in this document as well.
<i>Advantage VISION:Inform Messages and Codes</i>	This manual documents all diagnostic and informational messages issued by all the components of VISION:Inform, as well as explaining all return codes and completion codes used by the various components.
<i>Advantage VISION:Inform Concepts Guide</i>	This document gives the reader an understanding of the conceptual view of VISION:Inform as it relates to architecture, files, logical data views, tables, procedures, and data structures. It also explains GDBI (Generalized Data Base Interface) concepts and use.
<i>Advantage VISION:Inform ASL Reference Guide</i>	This document describes the functionality and use of the Advanced Syntax Language used in writing VISION:Inform procedures used by the Background Processor.
<i>Advantage VISION:Inform Release Summary</i>	This document describes the new functionality and enhancements to Release 4.0 of VISION:Inform.

Installing the Online Documentation and the Acrobat Reader

You can install the online documentation under Windows on your local hard drive or on a network server. Alternately, you can access the documentation directly from the CD-ROM.

If you do not have Acrobat Reader installed, you can install it from the CD-ROM that comes with the product.

To install the online documentation, the Acrobat Reader, or both:

1. Close all application programs.
2. Insert the CD-ROM into your CD-ROM drive.
3. Click the Start menu and select Run.
4. In the Run dialog box, type: D:\Books\Seup.exe (where D:\ is the CD-ROM drive) and click OK.
5. You can select the option to install the online documentation or the Acrobat Reader.
6. Follow the instructions. Computer Associates recommends that you install the online documentation in the default directory (C:\ProgramFiles\CA\Advantage VISION_Inform 4.0\Books\) or a directory of your choice (for example, C:\Advantage VISION_Inform 4.0\Books\).

Viewing the Online Documentation

Regardless of the location of the online documentation (on a hard drive, a network drive, or CD-ROM), you can view the online documentation using the following methods:

- In Windows, click the Start menu, point to Programs, point to Advantage VISION_Inform 4.0, and click on the document.
- In Windows Explorer, point to the directory on the hard drive where you installed the documentation. Double-click the PDF file name.
- In Windows Explorer, point to the directory on the CD-ROM and double-click the PDF file name.

Using Adobe Acrobat Reader

Use the Acrobat Reader to view the online documentation, adjust the size of the page, perform searches, and print a range of pages. For more information, see the Acrobat Help menu.

Computer Associates: The Software That Manages eBusiness

The next generation of eBusiness promises unlimited opportunities by leveraging existing business infrastructures and adopting new technologies. At the same time, extremely complicated management presents challenges—from managing the computing devices to integrating and managing the applications, data, and business processes within and across organizational boundaries. Look to CA for the answers.

CA has the solutions available to help eBusinesses address these important issues. Through industry-leading eBusiness Process Management, eBusiness Information Management, and eBusiness Infrastructure Management offerings, CA delivers the only comprehensive, state-of-the-art solutions, serving all stakeholders in this extended global economy.

CA Services: Enabling Solutions Through Experience

When it comes to getting on the information fast track, CA Services can recommend and install a full suite of portal and knowledge management solutions to keep your business moving. And our associates offer the proprietary know-how on custom-fitting your enterprise for solutions ranging from life cycle management, data warehousing, and next-level business intelligence. Our experts will leave you with the technology and knowledge tools to fully collect, exploit, and leverage your data resources and applications.

CA Education Services

Computer Associates Global Education Services (CA Education) offerings include instructor-led and computer-based training, product certification programs, third-party education programs, distance learning, and software simulation. These services help to expand the knowledge base so you are better able to use our products more efficiently, contributing to your greater success. CA Education has been developed to assist today's technologists in everything from understanding product capabilities to implementation and quality performance.

Because the vast community of education seekers is varied, so too are our methods of instruction. CA Education is committed to provide a variety of alternatives to traditional instructor-led training, including synchronous and asynchronous distance learning, as well as Unicenter simulation.

For training that must be extended to a wider audience—for a fraction of the cost and logistical hassle of sending everybody away to a class—CA Education offers excellent distance learning options.

Contacting Computer Associates

For technical assistance with this product, please contact Computer Associates Technical Support on the Internet at esupport.ca.com. Technical support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

For More Information

After walking through this *Getting Started*, you can refer to the numerous resources available to you for additional information. Your product CD contains useful instructional documents that showcase your software and provide detailed explanations about the product's comprehensive, feature-rich components. In addition, the online help system at esupport.ca.com offers procedural information and answers to any questions you may encounter.

Environmental, Packaging, and Other Considerations

This chapter contains operating system and environment requirements, a brief description of the installation tape, and information on field upgrades.

Operating Systems and Environments

VISION:Inform operates on IBM or compatible hosts, under MVS/ESA Release 4.3 or later, or any OS/390 or z/OS operating system.

- The IMS version runs under IMS Release 3 and later.
- The CICS version requires that CICS has full function BMS, dynamic backout support, and auxiliary temporary storage. The CICS release must be CICS/ESA® 4.1 or higher, or any release of CICS Transaction Server.
- The Definition Processor component runs under ISPF/PDF Version 2, Release 2.3 or later in the TSO environment.
- The IBM Language Environment® (LE) runtime library must be available to the Definition Processor.

The Installation Tape

The installation tape contains 13 files. VISION:Inform is delivered with all of its components in a single load library. For the exact contents of the installation tape, see the *Installation Guide* for your environment.

Installation Overview

Browse the documentation to become familiar with the VISION:Inform components. You will use the following books during the installation process:

- *VISION:Inform Installation Guide* for CICS or IMS
- *VISION:Inform Utilities Guide* for CICS or IMS
- *VISION:Inform Messages and Codes*

CICS Installation Overview

The installation process for the CICS version of VISION:Inform is summarized below. The details and explanations for these steps are discussed in the *Installation Guide for CICS*.

CICS Step 1 — Copying the Installation Tape Files

The first step requires you to create an IEBCOPY job to unload file 1 of the installation tape. File 1 on the tape, the SMPCNTL PDS, contains a job you then run to unload the remaining files on the tape.

CICS Step 2 — Performing SMP/E Installation Steps

The second step performs the SMP/E portion of the installation. This involves tailoring and running eight jobs from the SMPCNTL PDS that was unloaded from file 1 of the installation tape.

CICS Step 3 — Setting Up VISION:Inform

The third step begins with creating working copies of the SMP/E target libraries. You then proceed to customize your VISION:Inform installation by tailoring parameter modules (PARMBLK and M4PARAMS), assembling and linking any exit routines you will use, setting up DB2 access, creating the system files, and other optional steps.

CICS Step 4 — Defining VISION:Inform Entries to CICS

The fourth step involves defining VISION:Inform to CICS. This is done by tailoring an executing a single job to place all the necessary VISION:Inform CICS definition statements in the CICS CSD file, and then updating the CICS start-up JCL.

CICS Step 5 — Setting Up the Definition Processor

The Definition Processor runs under ISPF, and this fifth step involves modifying the ISPF start-up procedures to include the Definition Processor, along with other optional installation steps.

CICS Step 6 — Setting Up File Definition Conversion Utilities

This is an optional step, performed only if you will be using the DB2, COBOL, or VISION:Results Quick Start utilities.

IMS Installation Overview

The installation process for the IMS version of VISION:Inform is summarized below. The details and explanations for these steps are discussed in the *Installation Guide for IMS*.

IMS Step 1 — Copying the Installation Tape Files

The first step requires you to create an IEBCOPY job to unload file 1 of the installation tape. File 1 on the tape, the SMPCNTL PDS, contains a job you then run to unload the remaining files on the tape.

IMS Step 2 — Performing SMP/E Installation Steps

The second step performs the SMP/E portion of the installation. This involves tailoring and running eight jobs from the SMPCNTL PDS that was unloaded from file 1 of the installation tape.

IMS Step 3 — Defining VISION:Inform to IMS

This third step involves setting up for an IMSGEN by coding the APPLCTN, TRANSACT, and DATABASE macros for the VISION:Inform components. This is followed by instructions for setting up the PSBs, DBDs, and ACBs for VISION:Inform.

IMS Step 4 — Setting Up VISION:Inform

The fourth step begins with creating working copies of the SMP/E target libraries. You then proceed to customize your VISION:Inform installation by tailoring parameter modules (PARMBLK and M4PARAMS), assembling and linking any exit routines you will use, setting up DB2 access, creating the system files, creating the MFS modules, running the TRANSFER utility, and other optional steps.

IMS Step 5 — Setting Up the Definition Processor

The Definition Processor runs under ISPF, and this fifth step involves modifying the ISPF start-up procedures to include the Definition Processor, along with other optional installation steps.

IMS Step 6 — Setting Up File Definition Conversion Utilities

This is an optional step, performed only if you will be using the DB2, COBOL, or VISION:Results Quick Start utilities.

Conversion Considerations

This chapter describes considerations and tasks for upgrading to VISION:Inform Release 4.0 from an earlier release of the product, or from ANSWER:Inform, Sterling *Answer/Server*, *Answer/Server*[™], and *Answer/DB*. Topics include:

- Upgrade from the prior release, VISION:Inform 3.0 or 3.1
- Upgrade from *Answer/DB* 4.5, *Answer/DB* 4.7, Sterling *Answer/Server* or ANSWER:Inform 2.0 or 2.1, ANSWER:Inform 2.2, VISION:Inform 2.5, or VISION:Inform 2.6
- Upgrade from *Answer/DB* 3.3 or *Answer/DB* 4.0
- Changes to internal format of BGLIB, the background library, introduced in VISION:Inform 3.0/3.1
- Background library access methods (VSAM and BDAM)
- Job control information

Upgrading

From VISION:Inform 3.0 or 3.1

If you are currently on VISION:Inform Release 3.0 or 3.1 for CICS, or Release 3.1 for IMS, you have no file or library conversion considerations for the upgrade. We recommend that you back up your current (3.0 or 3.1) foreground library, background library, and communication file with the backup utilities (LBBACKUP and CMBACKUP) in the 3.0 or 3.1 load library, and then restore them into the VISION:Inform 4.0 files with the restore utilities (LBRESTOR and CMRESTOR) in the 4.0 load library.

If you are currently on VISION:Inform Release 3.0 for CICS, and have RSM 3.0-101C (Disable Session Reconnect Capability) installed, you can now obtain the same functionality by specifying RECONN=NO in the VISION:Inform parameter module, PARMBLK. See the *Installation Guide* for CICS for further information on this new PARMBLK option.

If you are currently on VISION:Inform Release 3.1 for CICS, and have RSM 3.1-101C (Add Password Validation to Logon Exit) installed, you can now obtain the same functionality by specifying PASSWDX=YES in the VISION:Inform parameter module, PARMBLK. See the *Installation Guide* for CICS for further information on this new PARMBLK option.

From Answer/DB 4.5/4.7, Sterling Answer/Server 2.0, ANSWER:Inform 2.1/2.2, or VISION:Inform 2.5/2.6

You must convert the VISION:Inform background library if you are upgrading to VISION:Inform 4.0 from a release that is prior to VISION:Inform 3.0. The background library from the earlier release must use the VISION:Inform 4.0 load library for both backup and restore. See the Background Library (BGLIB) Internal Format Changes section later in this chapter.

There is no change in the structure of the foreground library or communication file between VISION:Inform Release 4.0 and the following prior releases:

- Answer/DB Release 4.5 or 4.7
- Sterling Answer/Server 2.0 or ANSWER:Inform Release 2.1 or 2.2
- VISION:Inform Release 2.5 or 2.6

We recommend that you back up your current release foreground library and communication file with the backup utilities from the old release, and then restore them with the VISION:Inform Release 4.0 restore utilities.

You can now use the new VISION:Inform Release 4.0 RECONN option in the PARMBLK parameter module, if you currently have any of the following RSMs applied to an older system:

- RSM 4.5-111
- RSM 4.7-104
- RSM 2.0-105
- RSM 2.1-105
- RSM 2.2-112
- RSM 2.6-112

These RSMs all disabled the automatic session reconnect feature of VISION:Inform, which can now be accomplished with the PARMBLK RECONN option. See the *Installation Guide* for your environment for further information on this new PARMBLK option.

You can also now use the new VISION:Inform Release 4.0 PASSWDX option in the PARMBLK parameter module if you currently have any of the following RSMs applied to an older system:

- RSM 4.5-104
- RSM 4.5-105
- RSM 4.7-118
- RSM 4.7-120
- RSM 2.0-112
- RSM 2.1-112

These RSMs all added a password validation entry to the standard VISION:Inform Logon Profile Exit, which can now be accomplished with the PARMBLK PASSWDX option. See the *Installation Guide* for your environment for further information on this new PARMBLK option.

From Answer/DB Release 3.3 or 4.0

If you are upgrading to VISION:Inform Release 4.0 from Answer/DB Release 3.3 or 4.0, please contact Computer Associates Technical Support for assistance in the upgrade and conversion process.

Background Library (BGLIB) Internal Format Changes

The internal format of definitions stored in the background library (BGLIB) was changed in VISION:Inform Release 3.1. This means that if you are upgrading to Release 4.0 of VISION:Inform from a release of the product that is older than VISION:Inform Release 3.0 or 3.1, you must convert the background library (BGLIB) format from the older release in order to use VISION:Inform Release 4.0. The conversion is accomplished very simply by backing up and restoring the background library, using the backup and restore utilities from the VISION:Inform Release 4.0 load library. Use the LBBACKUP and LBRESTOR jobs from the INFORM.JCL library to accomplish this task. Note that these JCL samples, as delivered, back up and restore both the foreground and background libraries. Use only the BACKBG step of the LBBACKUP procedure, and the DEFBG and RESTBG steps of the LBRESTOR procedure.

Because of this change, definitions created or updated by releases of VISION:Inform 3.0 and later are not compatible with those of earlier releases of VISION:Inform. You do not need a special conversion process to upgrade to the new format because existing definitions are converted as they are updated using VISION:Inform Release 4.0.

Because of the downward incompatibility with previous releases, you might need a fallback strategy if you find it necessary to revert to an older release of the product once a definition is updated using VISION:Inform Release 4.0. To accommodate a fallback, make complete backups of all the background library data sets using your previous VISION:Inform release (Release 2.6 and earlier). Retain these backups until you fully implement VISION:Inform Release 4.0 and are satisfied that you will not have to revert to an earlier release.

If you need to convert definitions cataloged using VISION:Inform Release 4.0 back to a prior release, do a source statement retrieval (see job BUILDREQS in INFORM.JCL) of the definition using VISION:Inform Release 4.0 and then recatalog the definition using an earlier release (Release 3.6 or earlier) of VISION:Inform.

Background Library Access Methods

If your background library still uses BDAM (Basic Direct Access Method), you no longer need to install the special version of the background library access modules from the installation tape. In fact, these files no longer exist on VISION:Inform Release 3.0, 3.1, and 4.0 installation tapes. The new release of background library access modules supports BDAM and VSAM access through a single version of this component.

Job Control Information

Do not attempt to use job control members from prior releases of the product with VISION:Inform Release 4.0. Customize and use the JCL members provided in the JCL PDS delivered with VISION:Inform Release 4.0 (INFORM.JCL).

Make sure that you do not add any M4PRINT DD statements to your Background Processor JCL. The INFREPT DD statement has replaced the old M4PRINT DD statement. If you include an M4PRINT DD statement, it will cause the Background Processor to terminate abnormally.

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