



Modern COBOL

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Open Mainframe Project COBOL Resources



In 2020, Open Mainframe Project launched a [COBOL Working Group](#) that aims to address to promote and support the continued use of the COBOL language globally. We believe COBOL remains vibrant and viable, and a sound technology choice for future generations of core business and government applications.

Also:

- [COBOL Training Course](#)
- [Calling all COBOL Programmers Forum](#)
- [COBOL Technical Forum](#)



OPEN **MAINFRAME** PROJECT
COBOL
Working Group



OPEN **MAINFRAME** PROJECT
COBOL
Programming Course

Just how much is there?

2021 Survey:

- Understand Size of the COBOL Market
- Identify the Issues and concerns for the Market
- Identify how Companies are addressing the Issues
- Conduct Phone interviews with the respondents to clarify open and unanswered Issues
- Use the information to create a going forward action plan to resolve the major open issues

Slide source, 2021 Open Mainframe Summit panel "The Facts about COBOL" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAKXmKJoahs>



COBOL Working Group Survey & More



"Our first act as a group was to create a survey that was designed to take the pulse of the global COBOL presence."

Published in July 2021: <https://techchannel.com/Trends/07/2021/survey-says-cobol> & explored in depth here: <https://www.openmainframeproject.org/blog/2021/12/15/the-uncommonly-common-sense-of-cobol>

Highlights:

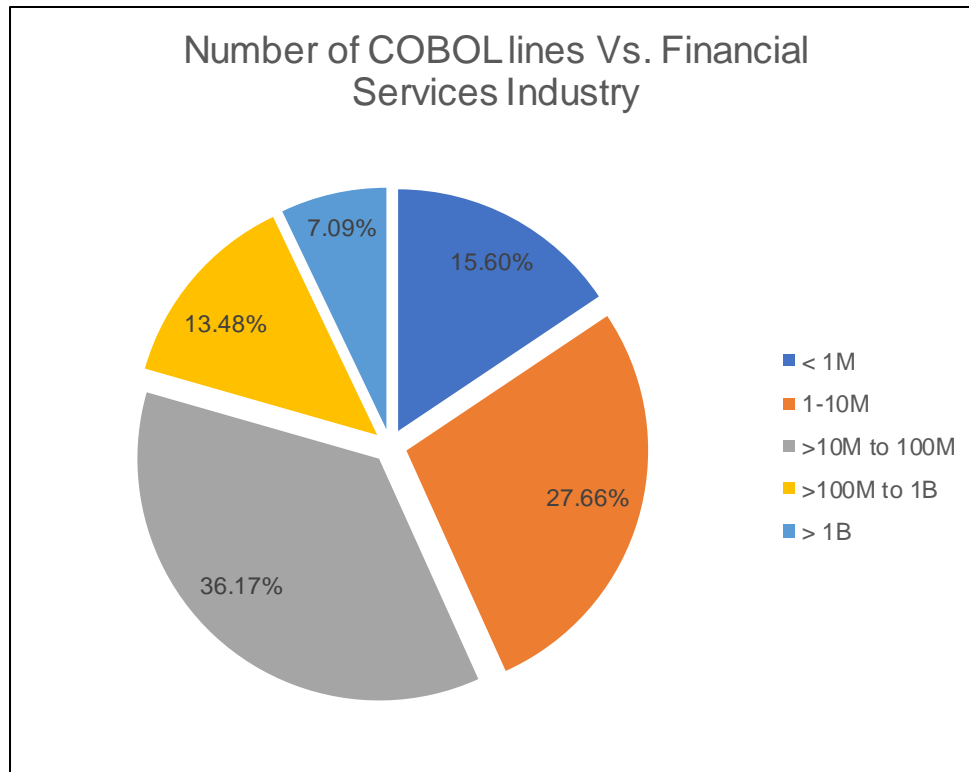
- There is massive continued use of COBOL in key organizations such as government and finance
- **Hundreds of billions of lines of COBOL are still in use**—conservative projections on the data indicate well over **200 billion**, but a more careful review may show this number to be much larger
- COBOL is used for some very important and fundamental applications
- Many survey respondents are foreseeing or already experiencing staffing issues

More at <https://www.openmainframeproject.org/category/cobol> (*actually, let's go there now!*)

COBOL Prevalence

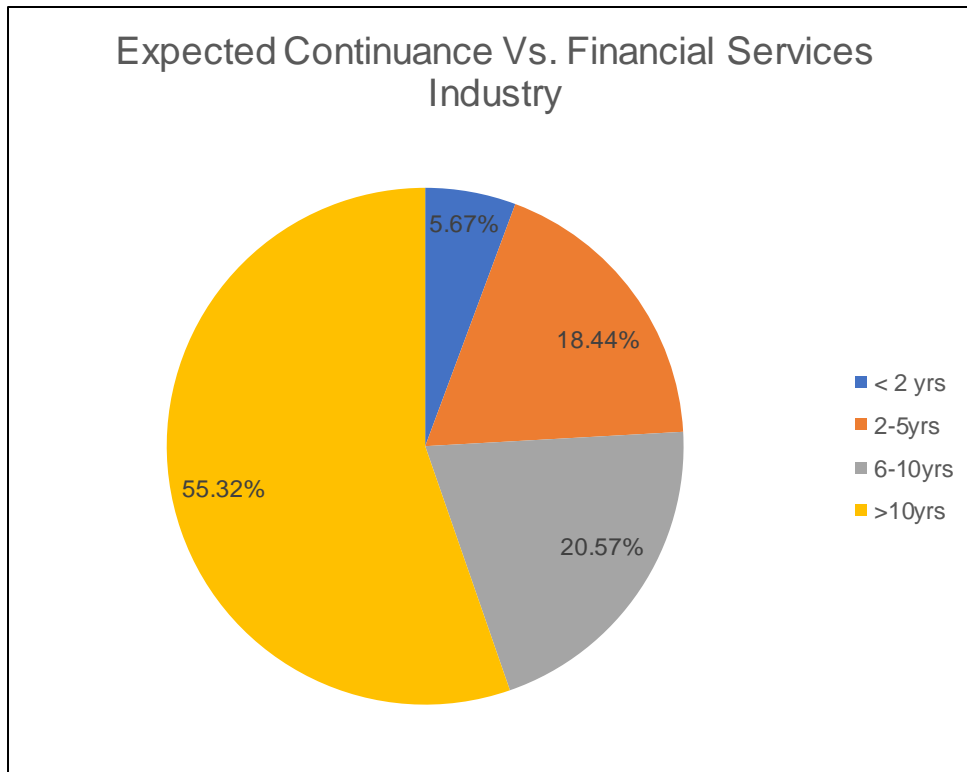
~250Bn LOC projected
COBOL product code
based on the OMP
COBOL
WG's extrapolation

Industries with greatest
reliance on COBOL
include Financial
Services, Government,
Software, Logistics,
Retail, Manufacturing,
Other

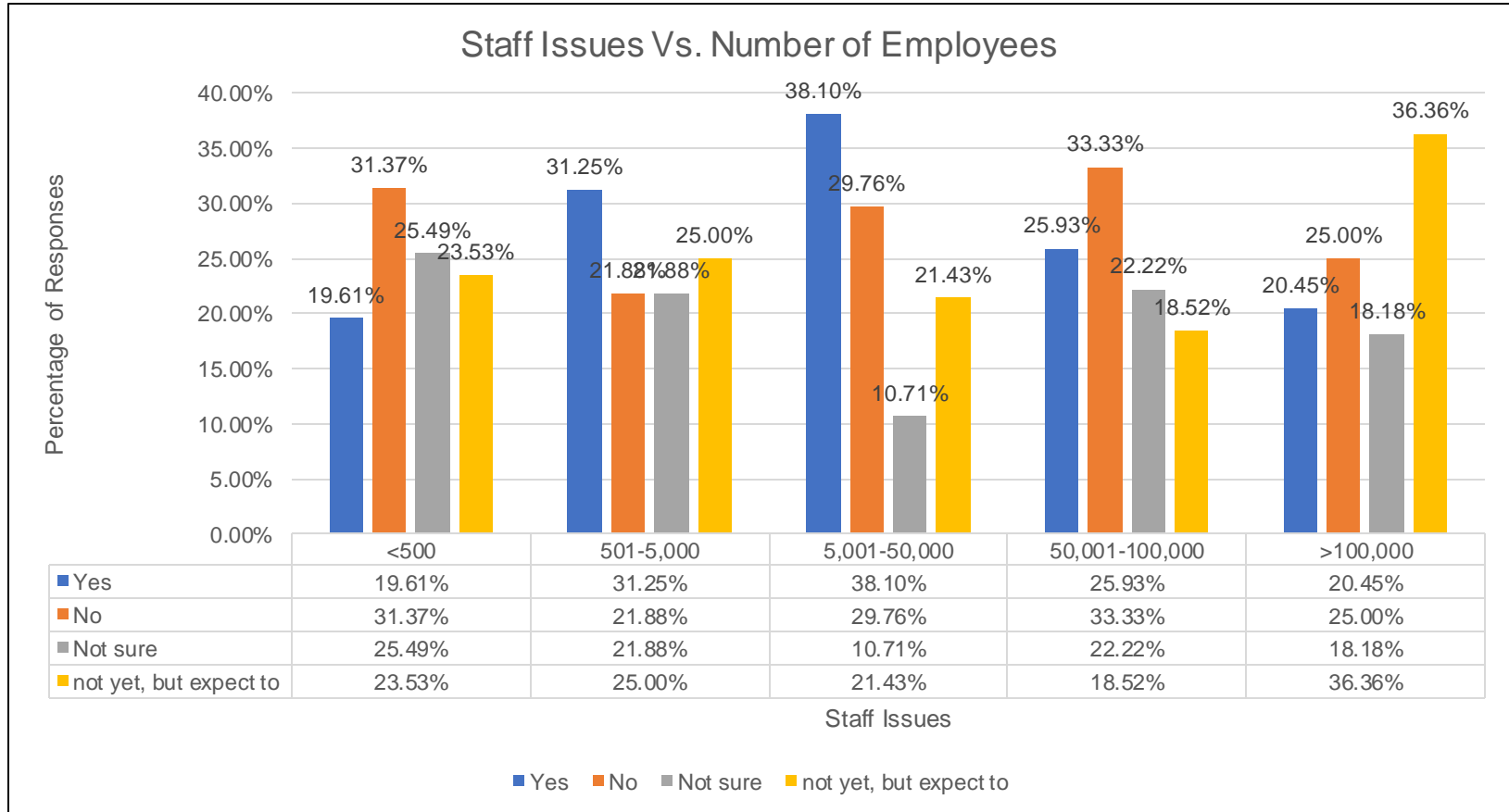


COBOL Continuance

58% say they expect COBOL applications to remain in place for at least >5 years



COBOL Continuance: a skills concern



Micro Focus COBOL Survey, released in 2022

- "More than **800 Billion** lines of code running on production systems and in daily use, far exceeding any previous estimates"
- "nearly half of the survey's respondents expect the amount of COBOL in use at their organization to **increase in the next 12 months**"
- "COBOL remains strategic for organizations: 92 percent of respondents stated that their organizations' **COBOL applications are strategic** with future IT strategy and application portfolio alignment with new technology being listed as the key drivers for COBOL modernization."
- "**Modernization of COBOL applications is the preferred path forward**: As opposed to a rip and replace approach, 64 percent of respondents intend to modernize their COBOL applications and 72 percent of respondents see modernization as an overall business strategy."

Source: <https://www.microfocus.com/en-us/press-room/press-releases/2022/cobol-market-shown-to-be-three-times-larger-than-previously-estimated-in-new-independent-survey>

Open Mainframe Summit is coming to Philly!



September 21-22, 2022

[Call for Proposals](#) open through
June 10th.

I'm on the program committee this year and I'd be happy to answer questions.



<https://events.linuxfoundation.org/open-mainframe-summit/>



On to Walt!