

VISUAL message center

VISUAL Message Center (iSeries Modules) 6.0

Support for i 6.1 and i 7.1

6.0

VMC-BAS
VMC-SEC

tango04
Computing Group

Solutions for Advancing People

VISUAL Message Center (iSeries Modules) 6.0 Support for i6.1 and i7.1

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How to Use this Guide

This chapter explains how to use Tango/04 User Guides and understand the typographical conventions used in all Tango/04 documentation.

Typographical Conventions

The following conventional terms, text formats, and symbols are used throughout Tango/04 printed documentation:

Convention	Description
Boldface	Commands, on-screen buttons and menu options.
<i>Blue Italic</i>	References and links to other sections in the manual or further documentation containing relevant information.
<i>Italic</i>	Text displayed on screen, or variables where the user must substitute their own details.
Monospace	Input commands such as System i commands or code, or text that users must type in.
UPPERCASE	Keyboard keys, such as CTRL for the Control key and F5 for the function key that is labeled F5.
	Notes and useful additional information.
	Tips and hints that will improve the users experience of working with this product.
	Important additional information that the user is strongly advised to note.
	Warning information. Failure to take note of this information could potentially lead to serious problems.

Chapter 1

Abstract

This memo contains useful information for users of the IBM midrange platform (also known as AS/400, iSeries, System i, and IBM System i Operating System) who run Tango/04 VISUAL Message Center on i5/OS or OS/400.

The first release of VISUAL Message Center that supports the IBM i 6.1 and i 7.1 is VISUAL Message Center 6.0. Earlier releases will not work properly on the new IBM operating system.



Warning

This memo to users is not a comprehensive guide to all the changes in VISUAL Message Center 6.0, but a quick guide containing the most significant differences between the new 6.0 release and previous ones.

For a complete list of all the changes refer to the Change Log in the BP area of our Web site or the Changes report on the DVD.

Chapter 2

Significant Architectural Changes in IBM i 6.1 and i 7.1

IBM i 6.1 and i 7.1 include significant architectural changes at the Operating System Kernel level and, as an Advanced IBM Business Partner, we worked (and continue to work) with the IBM Laboratories in Rochester (MN, USA) through our official Technical Liaison to try and make sure that most of our unique, advanced functionality was preserved, despite the depth of the IBM changes. Where possible, we even tried to enhance our functionality for the IBM i 6.1 and i 7.1 release. We also tried to make changes as transparent to the users as possible. Nevertheless, it was technically impossible or impractical to avoid some changes that may have an impact on the daily operation of our products. This guide highlights these changes in an attempt to minimize their impact on your installation.

2.1 Running VISUAL Message Center 6.0 on i5/OS V5R1-V5R4

This VISUAL Message Center 6.0 version can run on any system or partition running i5/OS V5R1 or later, including, of course, IBM i 6.1 and i 7.1.



Note

Please note that there are some minor differences between the behavior of VISUAL Message Center 6.0 running on IBM i 6.1 i 7.1 and earlier operating system versions (in particular, the Crash Preventer/Kernel Supervisor behavior) as detailed later in this document. The rest of the functionality does not change.

Chapter 3

New Documentation

The documentation has been updated. The new manuals for this version are:

- *VISUAL Message Center (iSeries Modules) User Guide*
- *VISUAL Message Center iSeries SQL Agent - User Guide*
- *Supported Operating Systems and Applications*
- *Brief installation manual – Server Modules on AS/400 iSeries*

4.1 SQL Interactive (SQI) Monitor Now Uses SQL Monitor Engine

The VISUAL Message Center Interactive SQL Monitor uses VISUAL Message Center SQL Monitor as its engine to process SQL statements. This means that the SQL Monitor job needs to be active in order for SQI to work.

The SQL Monitor is able to monitor all the SQL Statements that are running on the system, whether interactive or not.

In order to reproduce the SQI Monitor behavior and monitor only the interactive SQL statements, refer to [section 5.2 - Monitoring Interactive SQL Only](#) on [page 6](#).

This applies to any operating system version from V5R1 or later.

For more information please refer to the [VISUAL Message Center iSeries SQL Agent – User Guide](#).

4.2 No More Special Considerations for APYPTF in IBM i 6.1 or i 7.1

The Kernel Supervisor, a never-ending monitor that supervises interactive jobs for SQL Interactive (SQI) Monitor (and previously for Crash Preventer as well) has been redesigned in VISUAL Message Center 6.0 to use the latest IBM technology.

Before, if the Kernel Supervisor was active in an interactive job you were not able to apply IBM Program Temporary Fixes (PTFs) from that interactive job, as this could cause unpredictable results. The redesigned Kernel Supervisor of VISUAL Message Center 6.0 uses new IBM functionality that solves past issues. In other words, with this version of VISUAL Message Center running on IBM i 6.1 or i 7.1, you can apply PTFs from any session, no matter whether it is being monitored or not.



Warning

If you are installing VISUAL Message Center 6.0 on a system or partition running V5R4 or earlier operating system versions, you still need to take special care not to apply IBM PTFs from an interactive session where Kernel Supervisor is running. Please refer to the [VISUAL Message Center \(iSeries Modules\) User Guide](#) and [VISUAL Message Center iSeries SQL Agent –User Guide](#) documents for more information.

4.3 Crash Preventer no Longer Needs Kernel Supervisor on IBM i 6.1 or i 7.1

The Kernel Supervisor is no longer required for the Crash Preventer agent if you install VISUAL Message Center 6.0 on a system or partition running IBM i 6.1 or i 7.1. Nevertheless, the full functionality of Crash Preventer (ability to monitor interactive errors in real time, ability to remotely control the interactive messages by answering them from the SmartConsole, ability to audit all the interactive messages activity, ability to freeze the end-user screen in the event of an interactive message to prevent erroneous responses, etc.) has been preserved.



Note

Please note that if you are installing VISUAL Message Center 6.0 on a system or partition running V5R4 or earlier operating system versions, Crash Preventer still needs Kernel Supervisor.

4.4 Other Minor Changes in this Version

The remaining changes, known issues, and bug fixes are available in the corresponding Change Logs. For a detailed, low-level explanation of all the changes in this version, please refer to the Changes Log in the BP area of our Website or the Changes report on the DVD.

Performance of VISUAL Message Center 6.0 should be on par with or better than the previous versions, with the exceptions mentioned here. All the information in this chapter applies to any operating system version, from i5/OS V5R1 to IBM i 6.1 or i 7.1.

5.1 Monitoring the QHST (Historical System Queue)

In this version, increased checks have been included to prevent duplications or omissions of QHST messages. These changes make this version more reliable in certain rare cases where, due to the way in which the operating system stores QHST events, problems may have occurred. However, the new checks add considerable overhead to the QHST monitor in systems with a number of relatively large QHST files.

If the QHST monitor on VISUAL Message Center 6.0 is consuming significantly more CPU than previous versions, consider doing the following in order to alleviate or eliminate this situation:

- Change system value QHSTLOGSIZ to the greatest number available or *DAILY if you are on V5R4 or later operating system version.
- Back up and clean up your history log periodically.

5.2 Monitoring Interactive SQL Only

In VISUAL Message Center 6.0, the Interactive SQL Monitor (SQI) uses the SQL Monitor engine to process SQL statements (see also [section 4.1 - SQL Interactive \(SQI\) Monitor Now Uses SQL Monitor Engine](#) on [page 4](#)). The SQL Monitor engine is able to monitor all SQL activity on the system at SQL statement level. Some considerations must be made in order to preserve similar resource consumption if only interactive SQL statements are to be monitored.

The procedure is as follows

- Step 1.** Remove any existing entry in option 1. SQL Monitor maintenance of SQL Monitor menu (B_DETECTOR/SQL_MENU)
- Step 2.** Set parameter "Execute STRDBMON for all jobs" to value *NO in option 3. Configure Monitor of SQL Monitor menu (B_DETECTOR/SQL_MENU).
- Step 3.** Restart SQL Monitor in order that all previous changes take effect.
- Step 4.** Configure and start interactive SQL Monitor from menu B_DETECTOR/IS_MENU, as follows:

Performance Considerations

- Set “Start logging interactive SQL”
- Set “Smart Console Real Time alert settings”
- Add valid license Key for interactive SQL Monitor
- Start Kernel Supervisor if it is not active

For more details, see the [VISUAL Message Center iSeries SQL Agent – User Guide](#).

Appendix A

Upgrading i5/OS (OS/400) to i 6.1 or i 7.1

If you are going to upgrade your i5/OS (OS/400) to i 6.1 or i 7.1, you will also need to update Tango/04 products. Sometimes, following an incorrect update order, you will get unconverted objects by running the ANZOBJCVN tool.



Note

Migrating from IBM i 6.1 to IBM i 7.1 does not require an upgrade to Tango/04 VISUAL Message Center products.

To better explain the reason why you have these objects, we will now explain the three possible scenarios when updating our products:

- **New installation on i 6.1 or i 7.1:** In this case, our installation programs will upload only i 6.1 or i 7.1 compatible objects to the server. This scenario will not leave unconverted programs. (See [Note 1](#) below)
- **Installation of i 6.1 or i 7.1 compatible products on V5RX:** In this case, the installation programs will upload the i 6.1 or i 7.1 compatible objects to the server as well as a few objects that are only compatible with V5RX and are needed by the application to work on this OS. After upgrading to i 6.1 or i 7.1, these objects won't be converted and they will not be erased automatically. As they are not used anymore, you can delete them afterwards. (See [Note 1](#) and [Note 2](#) below)
- **Updating old versions of Tango/04 products on i 6.1 or i 7.1:** In this case, having already updated to i 6.1 or i 7.1, you will notice that our products are not compatible with i 6.1 or i 7.1 and you need to update them to the latest version. By running the installation programs of our tools on i 6.1 or i 7.1, a migration will be done and if it is successful, no unconverted object will be left on the system. (See [Note 1](#) below)



Note 1

Both VSP and VDW have post installation steps that you have to run once you have installed or updated the product and upgraded the OS. The guides with these steps are included with our installation programs and, after completing the installation process, you will get an alert that indicates where to find these guides. It is mandatory to run the post installation steps in order to make both of these applications work on i 6.1 or i 7.1.



Note 2

Crash Preventer has some functionality changes in i 6.1 and i 7.1. If the server is upgraded to i 6.1 or i 7.1, the CP_MENU menu will show the steps to follow in order to make these changes effective.

Additional Info

The following table lists unconvertible objects from the B_DETECTOR library:

```
CPCPS01I *PGM
CPIMR01M *PGM
CPIMR02M *PGM
CPLEX01M *PGM
CPRAI01M *PGM
CPRJD01M *PGM
CPRPM01M *PGM
CPSBE01R *PGM
CPURM01M *PGM
KRIMR02I *PGM
BDJCS02M *PGM
CPWUS01M *PGM
```

The following table lists unconvertible objects from the T4NICELINK library:

```
T4RLY02M *PGM
T4RQT02M *PGM
VSRP001M *PGM
VSXEP01M *PGM
VSXEP02M *PGM
```

The following table lists unconvertible objects from the JOBCTL library:

```
CLEANDB *PGM
PERFRETRI *PGM
PRCCC01C *PGM
PRCCC02C *PGM
PREND01C *PGM
PRETRIEVE *PGM
PRINS01C *PGM
PRINS02C *PGM
PSEND *PGM
VWPFR01C *PGM
PERFRINT *SRVPGM
PERFRTOOLS *SRVPGM
```

Appendix B

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About Tango/04 Computing Group

Tango/04 Computing Group is one of the leading developers of systems management and automation software. Tango/04 software helps companies maintain the operating health of all their business processes, improve service levels, increase productivity, and reduce costs through intelligent management of their IT infrastructure.

Founded in 1991 in Barcelona, Spain, Tango/04 is an IBM Business Partner and a key member of IBM's Autonomic Computing initiative. Tango/04 has more than a thousand customers who are served by over 35 authorized Business Partners around the world.

Alliances



Partnerships

- IBM Business Partner
- IBM Autonomic Computing Business Partner
- IBM PartnerWorld for Developers Advanced Membership
- IBM ISV Advantage Agreement
- IBM Early code release
- IBM Direct Technical Liaison
- Microsoft Developer Network
- Microsoft Early Code Release

Awards



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