MACRO|4
A Division of UNICOM® Global

z/Explorer and
M4SlickEdit modern
interfaces for the
next generation
of mainframe IT
professionals

Eclipse for the mainframe
Modernizing access to your enterprise applications

z/Explorer and M4SlickEdit provide a modern, user-friendly interface to your IBM mainframe via an Eclipse-based environment, allowing easy access, editing and job submission for your development, testing, support and system administration teams. M4Workbench provides a ready-to-go Eclipse environment with all of the Macro 4 plug-ins pre-installed. z/Explorer, M4SlickEdit and M4Workbench provide the following benefits:

- User-friendly Eclipse interfaces

- Access to mainframe datasets and members

- Intelligent multi-language source code editing

- Job submission, output retrieval and viewing facilities

- Viewing of the JES system logs

- Access to mainframe applications via a 3270 terminal emulator

Bringing the mainframe to modern IT professionals

Mainframe systems remain an important part of many corporate application portfolios and it is vital to retain the right skills for development, testing, support and administration. As established mainframe specialists head towards retirement, enterprises must look to a new generation to support the mainframe, but 3270 interfaces and direct mainframe access are often unfamiliar, less readily available, and even intimidating to modern multi-skilled staff.

For many whose role is primarily development and testing orientated, the Eclipse Integrated Development Environment (IDE) has become the workplace of choice. z/Explorer and M4SlickEdit can be used with Macro 4's Eclipse framework, M4Workbench, and suite of plug-ins to manage the mainframe within a modern development environment.

The z/Explorer and M4SlickEdit Eclipse plug-ins allow IT professionals to perform day-to-day activities without leaving the comfort of their familiar Eclipse environment.

Technicians at all experience and skill levels can benefit from using intuitive interfaces to edit source code, submit compilations, create test data, submit test jobs, and view output and job logs.

Eclipse environments

For organizations seeking a comprehensive Eclipse solution, M4Workbench comes with all of the plug-ins pre-installed for Macro 4's mainframe solutions.

Macro 4's Eclipse plug-ins are also easy to install and use within any other Eclipse framework.

Intuitive interfaces to manage, develop and test mainframe applications

Secure mainframe access

Reduced costs associated with accessing 3270 applications

Access to mainframe datasets and members

z/Explorer allows the Eclipse user to directly access mainframe datasets and members. Browsing and editing can then be performed using M4SlickEdit or a text editor.

Intelligent source code and JCL editing

M4SlickEdit is a powerful, intelligent multi-language code editor supporting over 40 different languages, including COBOL, PL/I, JCL, REXX and other mainframe-centric languages. z/Explorer will automatically recognize the language type and invoke M4SlickEdit.

Job submission and viewing

z/Explorer allows JCL jobs to be submitted to the mainframe from the Eclipse environment. Job output can then be viewed and, if necessary, the JCL can be modified and resubmitted. z/Explorer can view the JES2 and JES3 system logs.

3270 terminal emulation at zero cost

Eclipse users may also require access to their mainframe 3270 applications, including TSO/ISPF. z/Explorer provides a 3270 terminal emulation view allowing direct access to these applications. The 3270 access view provides the convenience of accessing 3270 mainframe applications without leaving the Eclipse environment and without the requirement for additional 3270 emulation software. This can also deliver savings against the purchase and maintenance costs of 3270 terminal emulators.

3270 terminal emulation features

The z/Explorer 3270 terminal emulator is fully configurable, allowing the user to define keyboard mapping, code page, font, color, and screen size.

Access to 3270 mainframe applications can be further enhanced by the use of Tubes, Macro 4's session management software. Using the 3270 terminal access view to sign on to Tubes allows the user to utilize this market leading session management product and all of its powerful features including the ability to access multiple 3270 applications from a single sign-on.

Secure mainframe access

z/Explorer utilizes IBM's SDSF, if installed, and the SAPI APIs. These standard interfaces can be fully secured using their security settings within standard mainframe security software products, such as RACF, ACF2 and Top Secret.

Eclipse for the next generation of IT professionals

Macro 4's solutions for mainframe fault analysis and testing (DumpMaster, TraceMaster, InSync®), application performance (FreezeFrame) and session management (Tubes) are available as Eclipse applications. These solutions, together with z/Explorer, M4SlickEdit and M4Workbench, provide IT professionals with an intuitive suite of interfaces that enhance the user experience, increase productivity and reduce the need for specialist mainframe skills.

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