

Automated migration of Visual FoxPro to X#

**Presentation of the Catalyst (Programmatic Converter)
by COMSYS**

What will I show in this session

Who is COMSYS

Our motivation for the development of a converter

Strategic and detailed implementation

Live example of a migration

Possible applications



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Possible applications

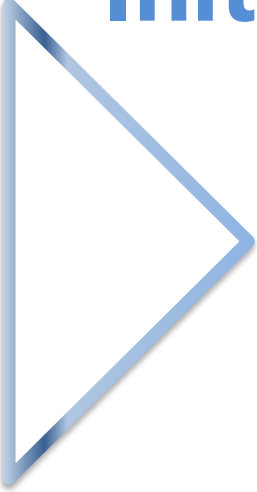


What will I show in this session

- 1 Who is COMSYS
- 2 our motivation for the development of a converter
- 3 Strategic and detailed implementation
- 4 Live example of a migration
- 5 Possible applications



Initial situation

A large, hollow blue arrow pointing to the right, indicating the flow of information from the title to the text box.

**COMSYS is a software system house with 12 million lines of source code in FoxPro
14 industry packages around the food and meat industry
Very happy with Visual FoxPro**

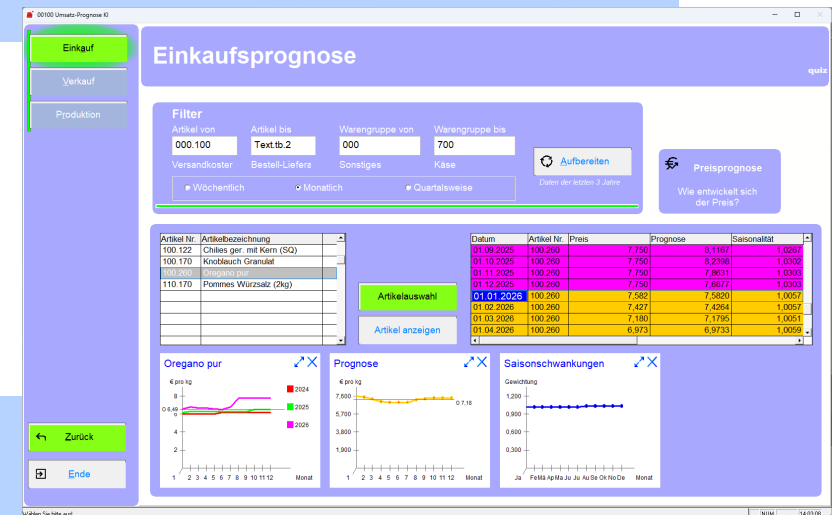


Initial situation

- COMSYS is a software system house with 12 million lines of source code in FoxPro
- 14 industry packages around the food and meat industry.
- Very happy with Visual FoxPro

however

- Visual FoxPro is discontinued
- Growing technical debt
- Optical and interface problems are getting bigger and bigger
- Lack of platform support
- Security risks



Initial situation

Einkaufsprognose quiz

Filter

Artikel von: 000.100 Artikel bis: Text.tb.2 Warengruppe von: 000 Warengruppe bis: 700

Versandkoster: Bestell-Lieferra: Sonstiges: Käse: [Aufbereiten](#) [Preisprognose](#)

Wöchentlich Monatlich Quartalsweise Daten der letzten 3 Jahre

Wie entwickelt sich der Preis?

Artikel Nr.	Artikelbezeichnung	Datum	Artikel Nr.	Preis	Prognose	Saisonalität
100.122	Chilles ger. mit Kern (SQ)	01.09.2025	100.260	7,750	8,1167	1,0267
100.170	Knoblauch Granulat	01.10.2025	100.260	7,750	8,2398	1,0302
100.260	Oregano pur	01.11.2025	100.260	7,750	7,8631	1,0303
110.170	Pommes Würzsatz (2kg)	01.12.2025	100.260	7,750	7,6877	1,0303
		01.01.2026	100.260	7,582	7,5820	1,0057
		01.02.2026	100.260	7,427	7,4264	1,0057
		01.03.2026	100.260	7,180	7,1795	1,0051
		01.04.2026	100.260	6,973	6,9733	1,0059

Oregano pur (€ pro kg): 2024 (red), 2025 (green), 2026 (magenta)

Prognose (€ pro kg): 07,18

Saisonschwankungen (Gewichtung): Ja, Fe, Ma, Ap, Mi, Ju, Ju, Au, Se, Ok, No, De

Wählen Sie bitte aus! NUM 14.03.08



Migration and where to?

Important key technologies of the new programming environment:

- ▶ Programming language and data engine in one piece!
- ▶ Future-proofing because:
 - large group of developers
 - powerful and FoxPro affinity
 - RAD tools and AI support



Silverlight

Servoy

.NET z.B. C#

Vision and challenge

Vision:

***We take a VFP-PRG or SCX convert
and in X# everything runs like it used to!***

Challenge:

Syntax differences between VFP and .NET

- Project structure,
- Compiler instead of interpreter,
- no event model,
- No distinction between PRG, SCX, VCX only PRG is
- Printing is completely missing
- Controls are missing, such as lines, shapes, command group,...
- Controlsource assignment textbox, grid,
- Properties such as DisableBackColor, ... missing



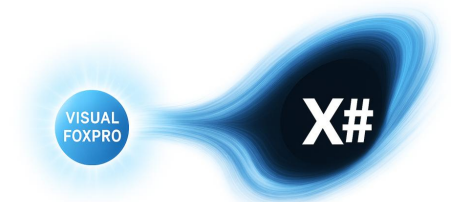
Converter: VFP2XS_Convert

What should he do?

- Main Feature** ▶ It does the full conversion to X#
- Solution approach** ▶ If possible, a maximum
Achieving VFP feeling in the result

How can this be achieved?

- Whitebook** ▶ Describes the what, how, why and
above all the why



Limits of VFP2XS_Convert

Basically **NONE!**

- 1 All missing commands have been incorporated into the **CSS_SYNTAX.DLL!**
- 2 All missing controls have been enhanced with **CSS_VFP_OBJEKT.DLL!**
- 3 **All format specifications** VFP-SCX tables are converted into the code structure of X# with templates. **Has been integrated!**
- 4 Printing was carried out in a **DRUCK.DLL!**

▶ This means that the entire conversion process can be adapted iteratively!
!! In both directions !!

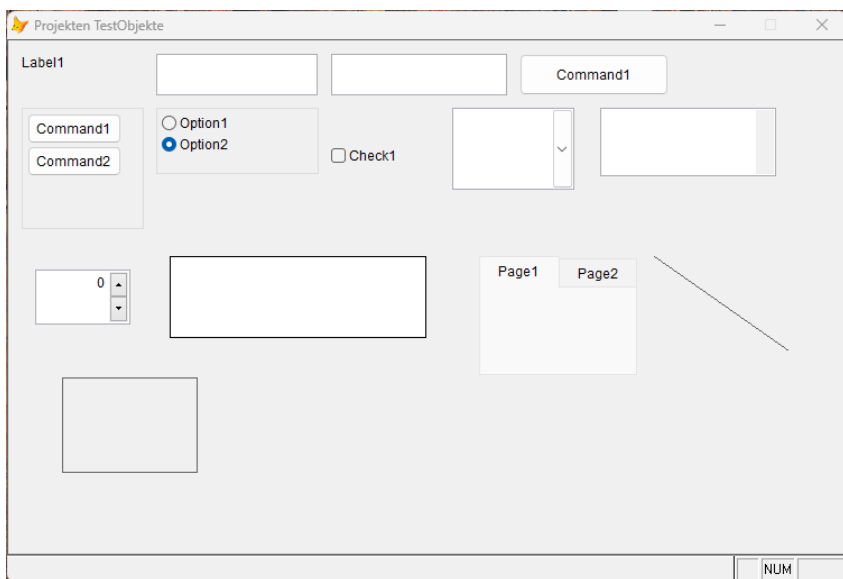


Example VFP to X#

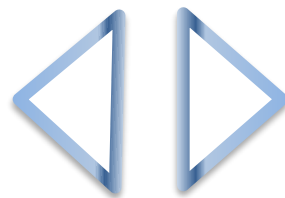
Object and Controls Management



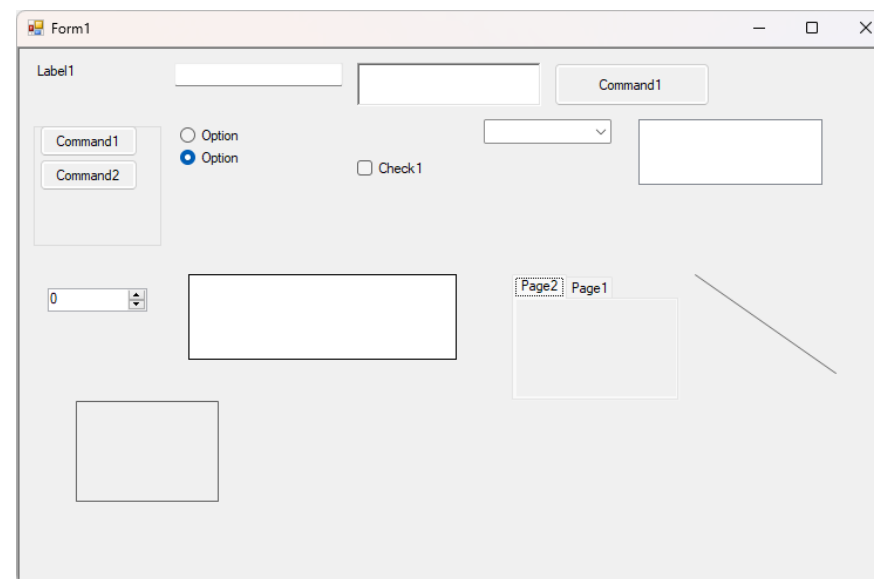
VFP 9.0



A screenshot of a Visual FoxPro 9.0 form window titled 'Projekten TestObjekte'. The form contains several controls: a label 'Label1', two text boxes, a 'Command1' button, a 'Command1' button, a 'Command2' button, two radio buttons labeled 'Option1' and 'Option2' (with 'Option2' selected), a 'Check1' checkbox, a dropdown menu, a text box, a numeric spinner with '0', a large text box, a 'Page1' tab, a 'Page2' tab, and a 'NUM' label at the bottom right.



X#

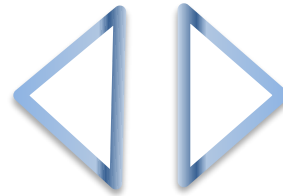


A screenshot of an X# form window titled 'Form1'. The form contains several controls: a label 'Label1', two text boxes, a 'Command1' button, a 'Command1' button, a 'Command2' button, two radio buttons labeled 'Option' and 'Option' (with the second 'Option' selected), a 'Check1' checkbox, a dropdown menu, a text box, a numeric spinner with '0', a large text box, a 'Page2' tab, a 'Page1' tab, and a 'NUM' label at the bottom right.

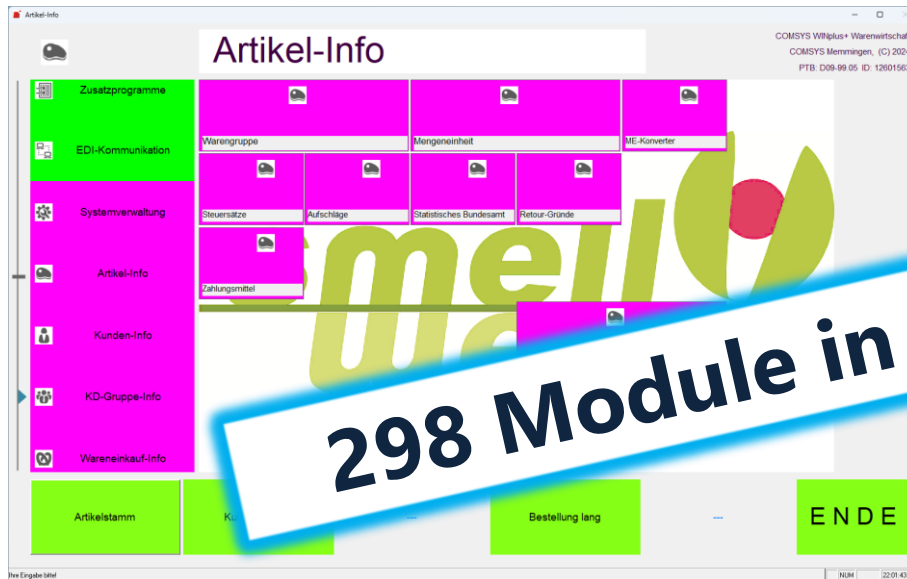
Example VFP to X#

Product group management in the WINplus+ package

VFP 9.0



X#



298 Module in Side-by-Side-Migration

Conversion – an example Object and Controls Management



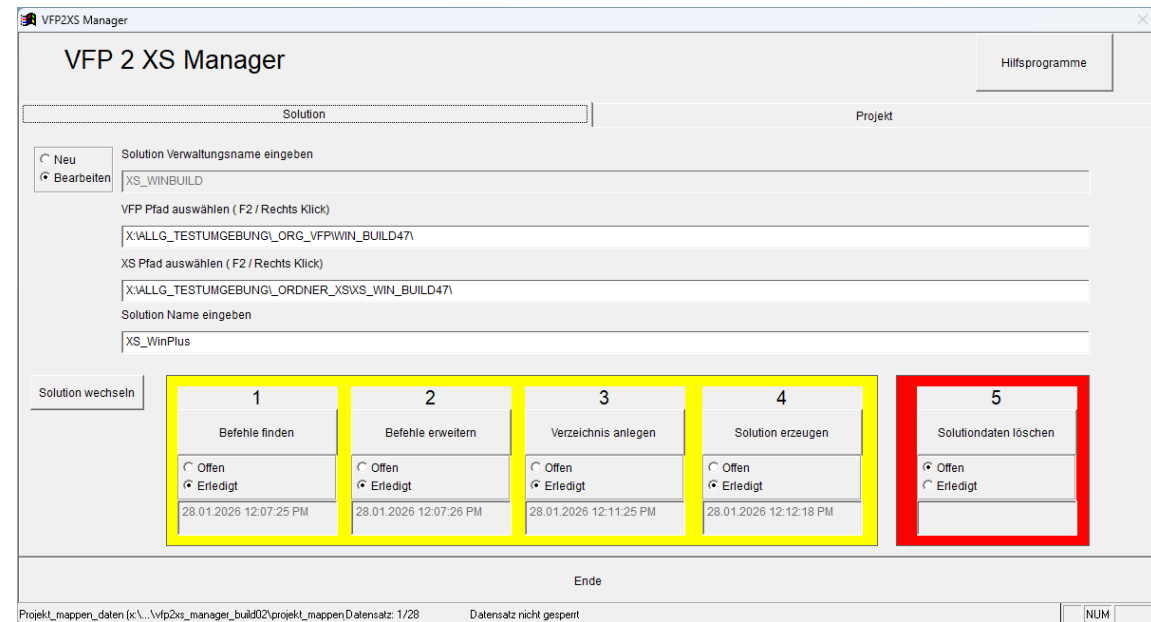
▶ Set paths of VFP and X#

▶ Create the solution

3. Create directories

4. Basics for the
Solution
Projects
References
Creation

Creating a Solution

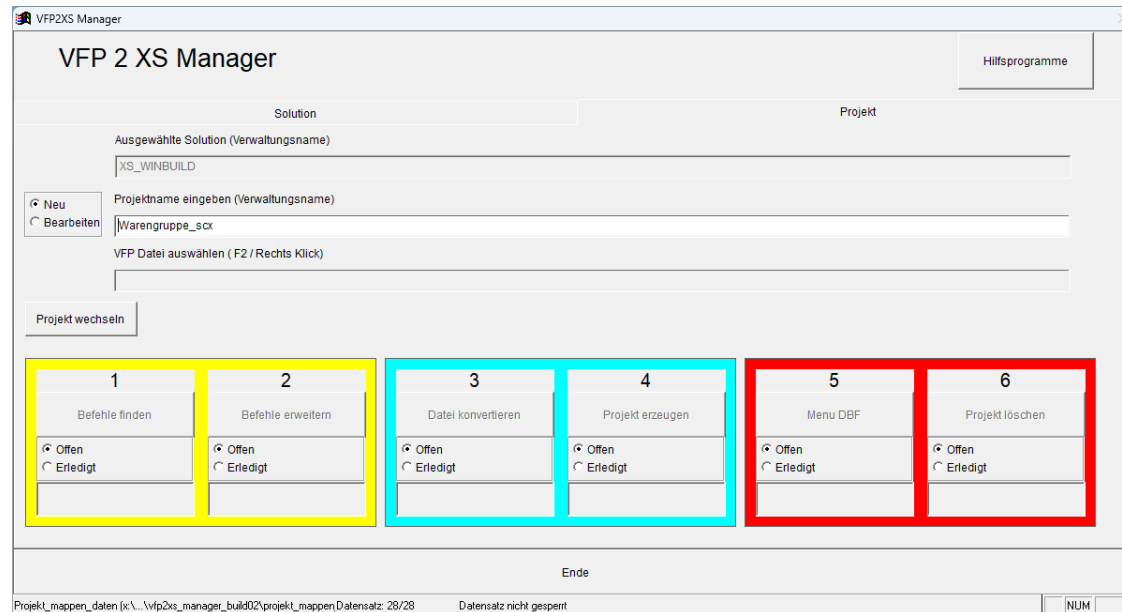
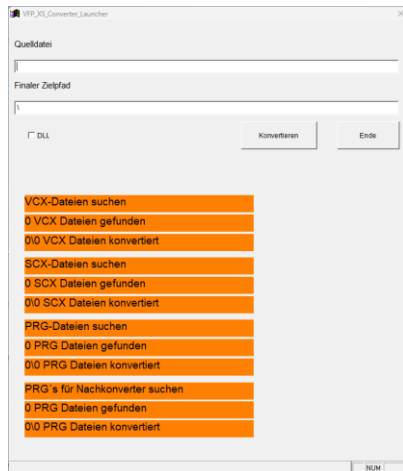


Conversion – an example Object and Controls Management



3. Convert data

▶ Creating a Project ◀



4. Create Project in Solution

Object and Controls Management

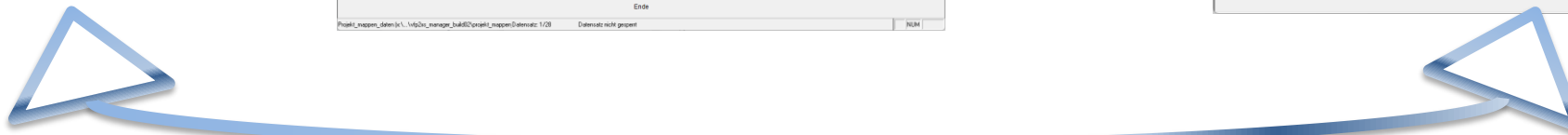


The screenshot displays the VFP 2 XS Manager interface, which is used for managing objects and controls during the migration process. It features several windows and panels:

- Projekten TestObjekte:** A window showing a form with various controls like labels, commands, options, and checkboxes.
- VFP 2 XS Manager (Main):** The central interface with a menu bar and a list of objects. The list includes:

1	2	3	4	5
Befehle finden	Befehle erstellen	Daten konvertieren	Projekt erzeugen	Menu DBF
Offen / Eingedt	Offen / Eingedt	Offen / Eingedt	Offen / Eingedt	Offen / Eingedt
- VFP 2 XS Manager (Sub-window):** A sub-window showing a list of solutions with columns for commands and dates.

1	2	3	4	5
Befehle finden	Befehle erstellen	Verzeichnis anlegen	Solution erzeugen	Solutiondaten löschen
Offen / Eingedt	Offen / Eingedt	Offen / Eingedt	Offen / Eingedt	Offen / Eingedt
28.01.2028 12:07:25 PM	28.01.2028 12:07:25 PM	28.01.2028 12:11:20 PM	28.01.2028 12:12:18 PM	
- Form1:** A window showing a form with controls, including a label, commands, options, and checkboxes, similar to the 'Projekten TestObjekte' window.



Benefits of VFP2XS_Convert

COST

BENEFIT

Know-how securing in the company

Reduction of migration errors

Faster project progress

Standardized code base

Massive time savings

Future-proofing

Modernization

Flexibility

Benefits of VFP2XS_Convert


COST

BENEFIT

Cost saving



How do we design the conversion?

- 
1. Code analysis of the VFP project (PRG, SCX, VCX)
 2. Extension of the template file if necessary
 3. Expansion of controls if necessary
 4. Side-by-side conversion of the modules
 5. Side-by-Side Roll out



Q&A / Conclusion

Website: www.VFP2XS.net

Presentation: Powerpoint

Lecture: Video

Whitebook: COMSYS VFP2XS



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