

## Re: How to convert FB file to VBS32760 file?

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*Source:* <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Cobol/comp.lang.cobol/2006-03/msg00604.html>

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  - *Date:* 22 Mar 2006 10:07:14 -0800
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Hello

The IEBGENER solution posted by Joe is best, but below are some comments on your approach that may be helpful in other cases.

- 1) As well as the operating system, specify the particular compiler and version in use, this can usually be found at the top of the source listing.
- 2) Always include the Environment Division for questions about files, it may also be helpful to include the Identification Division, especially if the new options are being used. It is generally safer to include them and risk providing a little too much info than too little, they are not generally very large.
- 3) Use and check the file status for each file operation. Alternatively, older compilers and maybe some current ones would provide appropriate informative system messages, as long as the file status checking was not specified for the specific files in the Environment Division. If file status checking is specified in the Environment Division, but not actually done in the Procedure Division, then all file errors are just ignored at run time.
- 4) Don't try to display such vast records in their entirety, the key portion, if any, or the first 20 characters or so would usually suffice.
- 5) Keep counts of the records read and written and display those counts at program termination.
- 6) Open and close the files that you are reading and writing explicitly. This may not be essential for your compiler. the version of which you didn't specify, but it makes file status checking easier.
- 7) Specify a record size of 32752 for a blocksize of 32760. Each record needs a compiler generated leading 4 byte record length descriptor, each block also needs a leading 4 byte record length descriptor. I don't know what the maximum block size allowable is for this type of file with your operating system and compiler, you could

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look this up in the appropriate manual.

8) It used to be the case that the APPLY WRITE ONLY phrase/clause in the Environment Division was beneficial for writing variable length blocked files, but this may no longer be necessary for your compiler. This phrase allowed the program to continue to write records that would still fit in the block, whereas without it, the block would be written when there wasn't room for a maximum size record.

Robert

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