Report from the X3J18 Committee

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History & Status

Enthusiasm at first Rexx Symposium.

First committee meeting 1991.

Fifteenth meeting 1995.

First public review completes May 3rd 1995.

Expected approval as ANSI standard, 1995.

Already an influence on implementations.

Committee continues for maintenance and further versions.

Proposal Document

167 pages including the informal parts.

Has been circulated.

Available commercially.

On the World Wide Web. http://rexx.hursley.ibm.com/rexx/

Available at this symposium.

Method

Backus-Naur Form describes syntax.

Prose describes facilities provided by the "configuration".

Complicated Rexx described in terms of simpler Rexx.

Some "pseudo-Rexx" to glue parts of the definition together.

Content

"The scope of the standard will be the second edition of the Cowlishaw book, plus consideration of implementation experience. The scope may be altered as necessary to promote portability, reliability, maintainability and efficient execution of REXX programs on a variety of computing systems. Both compiling and interpreting REXX programs will be considered."

Not "Design a Rexx for the nineties".
Although Date conversion, error subcodes, command I/O ....

Not "The union of every existing implementation".
Although alternatives for negation and blank characters.

Not "Better wrong than changed"
For example D2C(0), DATATYPE('','B'), 1.0000000003 non-integer.

You can help:

Correct the document.

Talk to your supplier of Rexx about the Standard.

Join the committee for the next version of the standard.