REXX—THE FUTURE

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The Future of REXX

♦ Where are we now?
♦ REXX assets
♦ Trends and directions
♦ Discussion
Where are we now?

- 17 implementations, on most significant platforms
- 35 published books and manuals
  (Over 50, if service guides, second editions, and translations are included.)
- Accessible to over ten million users
- Widely used, with an international following
- ANSI standard work well under way.
Which assets are most important for the future?

- Simplicity:
  - A small, readable, language
  - Just one data type—the string
  - Decimal arithmetic
  - Few limits

- Flexible and extendible
  - Existing and future system interfaces
More assets...

- *Designed* as a multi-purpose extension language
  - Highly system and hardware independent
  - Keywords reserved only in context, so macros in source form are resistant to breakage
  - Adds value to almost all platforms and applications
- Skills reuse between platforms
  - Reduced education costs.
Trends and directions

✦ Mainframe interactive applications continue to move to workstations and PCs
✦ Networking of workstations and PCs encourages standardization of applications and languages
✦ Increasing complexity of applications, and sophistication of users, demands extensive subsetting and customization.
REXX Language Products Available

![Graph showing the number of REXX language products available from 1983 to 1991.](Image)

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