WINREXX: PERSONAL REXX FOR WINDOWS

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QUECUS SYSTEMS
WinREXX
Personal REXX for Windows

. Background

. Current Product and Capabilities

. Market Needs and Opportunities

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The REXX Language

Created by Michael Cowlishaw.

Originally for IBM mainframe timesharing users (VM/CMS replacement for EXEC II).

Conceived as a "Command Language" running in a hosted environment (embedded).

Not an IBM product development - grass roots.

Easy to learn and use, designed to be extensible.

Keep it Small and Simple philosophy.
Becoming a Standard Language

IBM Systems had disparate Command Languages:
Mainframe - MVS/TSO and VM/CMS.
Mini - OS/400.
Desktop - OS/2 (CMD/BAT).

Quercus (Mansfield) delivers Personal REXX.
IBM Chose REXX for all their platforms.
ANSI chose REXX as its newest standard language.
Commodore embedded AREXX into AMIGA DOS.
The Workstation Group publishes UNIREXX.
Quercus publishes WinREXX.

WinREXX
Personal REXX for Windows
Personal REXX (DOS and OS/2)

Originally developed as a macro language for KEDIT, an IBM VM XEDIT compatible editor.

A REXX 4.0 compliant language for DOS & OS/2 - the REXX for PC's.

A powerful alternative to DOS BAT files and OS/2 CMD files.

A good language for developing simple utility applications - some useful extensions.

Comprehensive extensions for DOS disk and file manipulations, e.g. file attributes, free space.
WinREXX 1.x

A REXX 4.0 compliant language processor in a Windows DLL.

A comprehensive API -
(compatible with the IBM OS/2 REXX API).

A window for editing and running REXX programs.

A window for REXX program Input and Output.

The DOS REXX extensions, e.g. file management.

Windows REXX extensions, e.g. MessageBox.

The heart of a command language for Windows.
The WinREXX Windows

WinREXX
Personal REXX for Windows
WinREXX's Executable Structure

Only WREXX.DLL is *needed* for embedded REXX.

WinREXX
Personal REXX for Windows
Some WinREXX Features

Several sets of Windows HELP
Using WinREXX
Learning REXX
Messages Explanations
The WinREXX API

User Input Alternatives to SAY/PULL
Message/Question/CancelBox
PromptBox
ChoiceBox

Automatic PARSE ARG prompting

Get/Set "INI" file strings
WinREXX API Capabilities

Run REXX programs.
Create Subcommand environments.
Add External Functions.
Interrogate & Change REXX variables.
REXX Processing Exits, e.g. I/O or Trace.
Support *multiple concurrent threads* of execution
(from multiple windows tasks)!
A Command Language for Windows Applications

Windows does not have any command language.

Each vendor must write its own command language processor.

Each Windows product has its own proprietary command language.

The user must learn many languages, each different in structure, syntax and commands.

User still can't do what can easily be done in DOS, e.g. directory traversal and file manipulation.
The User Market Need

Users need a single consistent command language:
   Macros.
   Scripting.
   DDE control.
   OLE control.

Vendors need a standard embedded language -
without writing their own language processor.

The market needs a central point of control - not a macro in every applications.

There needs to be one powerful "glue" to bind applications together!
REXX Based Possibilities

REXX extensions for generic DDE and OLE.

A window that "knows" DDE and OLE to popular Windows applications, so users can "link" applications from one "REXX" place.

REXX based control of multi-application OLE - a "cross-application" command language.

WinREXX as a generic OLE Server, with REXX program created Objects (embedded output).

Cross-network support for applications on other platforms, e.g. UNIX, MAC?
Command Language Competition

Microsoft is variously promoting "System Basic"
Will this be part of NT?
Is Word Basic a prototype for all MS apps.?
(BASIC has a special place in the heart of Bill Gates).

REXX vs. BASIC was part of the IBM - Microsoft "divorce".

IBM could be an ally, and may be important depending on the success of OS/2 version 2.

Bridge Batch is a probable competitor
Softbridge promoting as a "common language".

SoftSCRIPT?, WinBatch?

WinREXX
Personal REXX for Windows
WinREXX

Positioned to become the industry standard embedded command language for Windows!