REXX for CICS/ESA

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IBM
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May 4, 1994

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## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disclaimer</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is &quot;REXX for CICS/ESA&quot;</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Background</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project history</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Background</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overview</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Environment</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REXX File System (RFS)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questions</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Disclaimer

This discussion is about REXX for CICS/ESA, a set of products that IBM has announced an early customer program for, but has not announced for general availability.

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What is "REXX for CICS/ESA" REXX/CICS

- Two products

- REXX language support for CICS/ESA
  - Native CICS application environment
  - Run-time facility

- And More
What were design goals for REXX/CICS

- Focus on Productivity
- Common REXX (across CICS platforms)
- Production REXX (suitable for use in a production environment)
- Distributed REXX (Client/Server enabled)
- CICS REXX (REXX language under CICS with CICS interfaces)
- Integration Platform (REXX is natural application integration platform)
Project history

- REXX prototype to IBM PP

- From Assembler & REXX to PL/X & REXX for portability

- FROM TSO/E REXX base to direct use of REXX kernel
Why Now

- Growing popularity of REXX
- Growing emphasis on productivity
- Additional REXX implementations
- Product requirements
- Need for Application Integration platform
- Need for Common, Production REXX
- Need for high-level Client/Server support
Overview

REXX/CICS

Highlights

- Full REXX 3.48 language support under CICS
- Dynamic EXEC CICS command level support
- REXX interface to CEDA, CEMT
- DB2 Interface (SQL statements & DB2 commands)
- CICS native text editor for REXX execs and data
- High-level VSAM-based REXX file system (RFS)
- Execs may also be run from MVS Partitioned Datasets
- High-level Panel I/O facility
- Support for REXX Subcommands written in REXX
- Pseudo-conversational support
- System and user profile exec support
- Shared execs in storage (via EXECLOAD & EXECDROP)
- High-level Client/Server interfaces
Need for REXX/CICS

- As a tool to streamline support staff activities
  - CICS Systems Programers and Administrators
  - DB2 Analysts
  - CICS and DB2 testers, other support staff
- More productive CICS application development
  - Native CICS development (simpler)
  - Enjoy the strengths of REXX under CICS
- More flexible, powerful product customization & extension (macros)
- Quick prototyping and procedural language functions
- Preserve REXX investments in migrations
- Needed for products with REXX requirements
- As a script language to automate/streamline development sequences
- Help enable enterprise-wide Client/Server computing
- Better enable CICS end-user computing
- CICS Application Integration
REXX/CICS Basic Environment Support

- Invoking REXX execs

- Where execs run
REXX File System (RFS) Features

- Hierarchical Directory structure (like OS/2, AIX)
- VSAM RRDS based
- No need to register most new users
- No need to register individual EXECs
- Import/Export to MVS Partitioned Datasets
- Management functions for members (COPY, DELETE, RENAME)
- FLST file directory interface utility
- An EXECIO-like I/O utility (RFS)
- Maximum records per member is approx. $2^{32} - 2$
- Maximum VSAM datasets in a RFS filepool is 511
- Number of filepools is only limited by DASD
REXX/KICS Summary

- REXX/CICS is more than just support for another language
- REXX/CICS introduces significant new capability
- REXX/CICS provides new approaches to CICS computing
- REXX is a good integration platform
- REXX is useful for serious programming
- REXX is a natural for Client/Server computing
- REXX is in step with current trends
- REXX + CICS = Greater Productivity
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</tbody>
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