

From Object REXX to ooRexx

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From Object REXX to ooRexx

We will show the way from the very **first idea about 'going open source' to the final realization** and try to give answers to the following questions: How did the Object REXX development team **convince IBM** (IBM management) to release this product to open source? What was the **role of the Rexx Language Association** within the approval process? What technical problems occurred? What are the **first customer reactions**? What does IBM **expect from RexxLA** with respect to ooRexx?

Any other questions are welcome... including Object REXX for OS/2.

From Object REXX to ooRexx

Agenda:

- **History of Object REXX**
- **Open Source – first steps**
- **Role of RexxLA**
- **IBM approval process**
- **Realization**
- **Customers reactions**
- **What do we expect from RexxLA w/r ooRexx?**

History of Object REXX (1)

- 1996:** Object REXX as **part of OS/2 Warp 4**
- 1997:** Object REXX for MS Windows. **2 products:**
 - » Interpreter Edition
 - » Development Edition
- 1997:** Object REXX for Linux: No fee; **As-is**
- 1999:** Object REXX for AIX: **Product**
- 2000:** Object REXX for zLinux: No fee; **As-is**
- 2000:** Object REXX for Sun/Solaris: No fee; **As-is**

History of Object REXX (2)

- Object REXX designed as **the** script language of OS/2

>> OS/2 development ... Stopped!

- IBM products to be transferred to MS Windows
 - Object REXX required!
- Customer applications to be transferred to MS Windows
 - Object REXX required!

>> Object REXX to be transferred to MS Windows

History of Object REXX (3)

Business view:

- **on OS/2: no separate business considerations; part of OS/2**
- **on MS Windows:**
 - Low priced product Millions of licenses needed
 - Very good acceptance at beginning
- **on Linux:**
 - Free down-loads, marginal interest
 - Difficult to get Object REXX on Linux distributions CDs.

>> Possibilities:

- **Reduce support to minimum**
- **Open Source**

Open Source – first steps

- **Discussions with Mike Cowlshaw and Virgil Hein**
- **Discussions with Rick McGuire and development team**

==>>Pressure of time: REXX Symposium 2004

- **Talk to Chip, Rony,...**
- **Pre-announcement on May 6, 2004 at RexxLA**
Symposium 2004
 - **Very positive reactions; people were interested**
 - **Meetings day and night**

Role of RexxLA

- **RexxLA committee:**
Chip Davis, Pam Taylor, Rony Flatscher, Mark Hessling,
 - **Structured, clearly defined responsibilities**
- ==>> Very good co-operation: Many thanks to all!!!**

IBM approval process

- **Business:** Why are we doing this?
- **Legal:** Are we allowed to do this?
Patents, Copy right, intellectual properties?
- **Sales:** What about responsibility to current customers?
- **IBM Development:** internal use?

Realisation (1)

- **Decide which part of Object REXX to be part of the Open Source:**
 - Interpreters for Window, AIX, and Linux
 - Not: OS/2, Development Edition for Windows
- **Decide type of open source license: GNU, CPL,**
- **Clean up source code**
- **Update Object REXX documentation**
- **Transfer source code to: RexxLA (Rick, Mark, David)**
- **Prepare IBM announcement**
- **Prepare Press Release**
- **(Archive code of Object REXX V 2.1.3...future use?)**

Realisation (2)

Announcements:

- **Pre-announcement to RexxLA members 08/12/2004**
- **IBM approval for Open Source 09/09/2004**
- **IBM announcement 10/12/2004**
 - **Object REXX ... Open Source**
 - **Object REXX ... end of market 01/31/2005**
 - **Object REXX ... end of service 03/31/2006**
- **IBM Press release**

Customers reactions (1)

- **Existing customers: few questions to RexxLA organization**
- **Prospects: Positive interest at last SHARE**
- **Publications: (next page)**

Customers reactions (2)

Publications:

- **DevSource**

<http://devsource.ziffdavis.com/article2/0,1759,1729098,00.asp>

- **OSnews**

http://www.osnews.com/story.php?news_id=8915

- **Open Source Software Educational Society**

<http://www.softpanorama.org/Editors/eoe.shtml>

- **zJournal**

<http://www.zjournal.com/News.asp?NewsID=1159>

- **The INQUIRER**

<http://www.theinquirer.net/?article=21161>

What do we expect from RexxLA w/r ooRexx

- **Keep ooRexx reliable**
- **Keep ooRexx compatible to Object REXX and REXX programs**
- **Provide easy migration from Object REXX to ooRexx**
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- **Increase acceptance on Linux
...(get on Linux distribution CDs)**
- **Port to other platforms**

Congratulation RexxLA

**Product owner of
ooREXX**