IBM

From Object REXX to ooRexx

The 16th
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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 <u>the</u> 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 Cowlishaw 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**

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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?**

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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**
- **.......**
- **.......**
- **Increase acceptance on Linux**
  ...(get on Linux distribution CDs)

- **Port to other platforms**

Congratulation …. RexxLA

Product owner of ooRexx