From Object REXX to ooRexx

The 16th Annual International Rexxx Symposium 2005

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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 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
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

• Open Source Software Educational Society
  http://www.softpanorama.org/Editors/eoe.shtml

• zJournal

• 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
Congratulations … RexxLA

Product owner of ooRexx