2007 International Rexx Symposium
IBM Rexx Business Update
May 1, 2007

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Mature Technology Business Model

A "virtual software company" within IBM

DB2	WebSphere	Lotus	Tivoli	Rational

- Development organization

- Marketing organization

- Sales organization

- Services organization

Core VS Non-Core

- **Two models for two sets of conditions**

Non-core Products

Mature Technology Model

Core Products

Core Model

Business Model

MATURE TECHNOLOGY	Business Value	Drive business model to provide continued focus on mature technology
	Infrastructure Value	Deliver support and new development Use customized processes for quick delivery & action Build OEM relationships
	Component Value	Extend the life of mature products as applicable Manage others to EOL (gracefully)

REXX Language Technology

CODE GENERATION	Business Value	Programming language compiler support based on mature technology, supporting other programming languages and operating system interfaces
	Infrastructure Value	Capitalize on existing investments Expand with new technologies Easy Migration / Upwardly Compatible
	Component Value	IBM Compiler and Library for REXX on zSeries IBM Object REXX (now Open Source)

REXX Language Technology

- **Business Status**
  - Continued significant customer use/visibility
    - System z platforms: z/OS, z/VM
- **Products supported**
  - IBM Compiler and Library for REXX on zSeries Release 4
    - Provides improved performance of REXX programs on z/OS, z/VM, z/VSE
    - Alternate Library available for free
      - Executes compiled code as interpreted code
      - Performance comparable to the REXX Interpreter rather than the Library
  - IBM Object REXX for Windows V2.1.0 or later
    - Withdrawn from marketing January 12, 2005
    - End of Support effective April 30, 2006
    - Available as open source, supported by RexxLA
- **Continued IBM support for z/OS and z/VM REXX products**
  - Open source decision for Object REXX does not affect compiler and library on System z

IBM REXX Positioning

- **"Classic" products managed by an IBM organization specializing in mature technology products**

- **Customers continue to rely on and invest in REXX products**

- **IBM recognizes importance of REXX technology**

- **Latest releases address customer requirements for modern end user interface**

- **Will continue to support IBM REXX and work with customers to ensure ongoing customer satisfaction / loyalty**

May 1, 2007

REXX standard INCITS/J18

- **July 2006**
  - "In the absence of an INCITS/J18 recommendation, at their July 19, 2006 meeting, the INCITS Standards Development Board (SDB) established a recommendation on the 2006 maintenance action for INCITS 274-1996(R2001), Programming Language REXX, and INCITS   274-1996/Amendment 1-2000.

    During the discussion, the SDB noted that the work of INCITS/J18 is complete and the standard had become open source. The SDB voted by unanimous consent to not reaffirm the two standards. Both standards are presently being processed for withdrawal."

- **October 2006**
  - *"For Action* - IBM Contribution on Withdrawal of REXX Standards

    At the July 2006 EB meeting, the EB approved the withdrawal of INCITS 274-1996(R2001), Programming Language REXX and INCITS 274-1996/Amendment 1-2000. The public reviews on the withdrawals closed on October 9, 2006. Several comments were submitted opposing the withdrawals. Additional comments have been submitted since the documents were posted to this agenda. IBM has submitted a contribution opposing the withdrawals. The following motion was addressed:

    The INCITS Executive Board overturns the action approved at the July 2006 meeting and approves the reaffirmation of INCITS 274-1996(R2001), Programming Language REXX and INCITS 274-1996/Amendment 1-2000.

    The INCITS Secretariat will notify INCITS/J18 and the public review commenters that the EB has reconsidered its previous action and has approved the reaffirmation of INCITS 274-1996(R2001), Programming Language REXX and INCITS 274-1996/Amendment 1-2000. The INCITS Secretariat will initiate the public reviews on the reaffirmation of INCITS 274-1996(R2001), Programming Language REXX and INCITS 274-1996/Amendment 1-2000.

    It was agreed that given this action and subsequent discussion, there would be no action to disband INCITS/J18. "

REXX standard INCITS/J18

- ## IBM Letter

This is to document IBM's contribution concerning the proposal to withdraw the REXX standard INCITS/J18. I understand that this contribution meets the two week rule and will be included on the upcoming INCITS agenda...   If you need any additional information, please contact me...thanks...

Background Information

This is in response to the communication we have received from the INCITS/J18 Technical Committee that states:

" In the absence of an INCITS/J18 recommendation, at their July 19, 2006 meeting, the INCITS Standards Development Board (SDB) established a recommendation on the 2006 maintenance action for INCITS 274-1996(R2001), Programming Language REXX, and INCITS 274-1996/Amendment 1-2000.
During the discussion, the SDB noted that the work of INCITS/J18 is complete and the standard had become Open source. The SDB voted by unanimous consent to not reaffirm the two standards. Both standards are presently being processed for withdrawal. "

IBM's position is that the REXX standards should be reaffirmed and not withdrawn.

Rationale

The Rexx programming language is very widely used, and there are dozens of implementations, both open source and commercial (for a partial list, see http://www.rexxla.org/About_Rexx/mfc/rexxplat.html). These, almost without exception, have adopted the ANSI standard for Rexx, making this one of the more successful programming language standards.

Recently (in late 2004), IBM contributed the source of one of its Rexx products, Object REXX, to the Rexx Language Association (an international independent organization dedicated to promoting the use and understanding of the Rexx programming language).

"IBM and the Rexx Language Association (RexxLA) announced that IBM is contributing source code of the Object REXX Interpreter Edition to the Open Source community. The source code for Object REXX for MS Windows, AIX, Linux, and SUN Solaris is available from RexxLA (http://www.rexxla.org) under Common Public License (CPL) V1."

REXX standard INCITS/J18

- ## IBM Letter (continued)

This, now called ooRexx, is in the top 1% of the open source projects on SourceForge. It makes the ANSI standard REXX language available for almost every platform and allows programmers and users everywhere to benefit from it. IBM and other vendors continue to provide other Rexx compiler and interpreter products, and applications written in the Rexx language. These all benefit from there being a common standard. If the standard were to be withdrawn, all of these products and applications would be jeopardized, because without a standard, open source will inevitably diverge from other implementations.

It should be noted that there was considerable effort in writing the ANSI standard so as to make it as comprehensive as possible, making interpretations of the standard very clear and not prone to error. In addition, given this comprehensive document, there have been very few corrections to the standard over the ten years it has been in use; a testimonial to the high level of quality of the original publication.
IBM is concerned on the potential impact to customer investments and (strongly) feels that customer satisfaction may be jeopardized as current and future Rexx implementations diverge from the current standard.
IBM requests that the subject standard be reaffirmed and not withdrawn.
Thank you for your time, support and consideration...

Best regards,
Ronald F. Silletti
IBM Corporate Program Director of Standards

IBM REXX will continue to be supported

- **Supported by originating company**

- **World-class skills, people, and strength of offerings**

- **Accelerates application development**

- **Reduces complexity so developers can work at the right level of abstraction**

- **Ensures architectural integrity and ultimate quality**

- **Promotes development of service-oriented architectures**

- **Exploits leading edge technology**

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REXX Compiler on z/OS and z/VM

- **IBM Compiler for REXX on zSeries Release 4**

  – VM, MVS: PID 5695-013

- **IBM Library for REXX on zSeries Release 4**

  – VM, MVS: PID 5695-014

  – VSE, part of operating system

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