Rexx for Android

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Embedded systems are (were?) a programming environment challenge, and, as such, raised our interest while willing to prove the continued usefulness of the REXX concept.

Initially targeted for PalmOS, written in C++, Jaxo REXXX library runs on the most widely used operating systems.

The port to Android took 11 days for the core part and the base GUI.
Why Android?

- The success of mobile devices generated a plague of operating systems, inheriting the past, and poorly "adapted" to the new features.
- For programmers, Android is a revolution, benefitting of years of technology evolution in terms of:
  - portability (Java and C, Linux kernel)
  - descriptive GUI (XML) and data storage (SQL),
  - multi-tasking, connectivity and media support
  - coordination of software resources (activities, providers, intents, …)
- Android is the ideal candidate for a glue language as powerful as REXX
How it works
A Few Specifics(*)

- It already talks:
  
  Call Charout "Speaker:“, "Bonjour Aruba."

- It properly passes commands to the system:
  
  "ls -a" /* a typical Linux command (dir) */
  /* running an intent */
  "am start -a android.intent.action.MAIN -n com.android.settings/.Settings"

- It is enough fast:

  ![Device Performance](image)

  (device is a Samsung Galaxy Space II running Android 2.3.3)

(*) probably more, to come later - it’s an ‘own-time’ project!
Download and Install

- Nowadays, distributed as an APK (application package file)
  - Run on Android phones and tablets, emulator...
  - Send me mail... (pgr@jaxo.com)

- Soon to be on the Android Market
Q & A