REXX LA Symposium

Business Update on REXX at IBM
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REXX (Restructured eXtended eXecutor) History

- March 1979 Mike Cowlishaw (IBM Fellow) writes initial specification
- Late 1979 first implementation internal to IBM on VM/CMS.
- Available to the general public in 1983 VM (3rd release)
- 1989 REXX Compiler for MVS and VM released
- 1990 first (annual) Rexx symposium
- 1996 NetRexx (for Java) / Object REXX released
- 2003 REXX Compiler Release 4 (aka Version 1.4)
- 2005 Open source ooRexx (Object REXX)
- 2011 Open source NetRexx

“Other” REXX at IBM

- System REXX (SysRexx)
  - 'Server' infrastructure through which REXX may be run outside the normal TSO/E or batch environments; ability to initiate REXX directly via operator console
- IBM Rexx for CICS
  - webpage (http://www-306.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/products/rexx/)
REXX Compiler on z/OS and z/VM

- **IBM Compiler for REXX on zSeries Release 4**
  - z/VM, z/OS: PID 5695-013

- **IBM Run Time Library for REXX on zSeries Release 4**
  - z/VM, z/OS: PID 5695-014
  - VSE part of operating system

- **IBM Alternate Library for REXX on zSeries Release 4**
  - Free download
  - Included in z/OS 1.9 base operating system

- **Continued ongoing support for Release 4**
  - Release 4 has been available since 2003
  - Release 3 is no longer in service
Object REXX / NetREXX as Open Source

- Object REXX is a scripting programming language (similar to Perl, PHP, Ruby, or others), running on MS Windows, AIX, several Linux implementations, and SUN Solaris
  - Object REXX includes support for TCP/IP sockets, regular expressions, mathematical functions, and ActiveX/OLE

- NetRexx is a system independent programming and scripting language, which blends the clean, easy-to-learn syntax of Rexx with the Java™ environment
  - With NetRexx, applications and applets for the Java environment can be created faster and more easily than by programming in Java

- Object REXX and NetRexx as open source are maintained by the international user group REXX Language Association (http://www.rexxla.org)
  - Recent activities include:
    - Rexx LA plans to release ooRexx v4.2 before year end 2011
      - A major memory leak has been fixed in ooRexx v4.2 in the rxapi daemon
      - A new version of ooDialog will be included in ooRexx v4.2 (the previous ooDialog will continue to be maintained)
    - Recently assumed ownership of NetRexx as open source
### SHARE Aug 2012

**Language track**

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<td>LE for Dummies</td>
<td><a href="mailto:craig.schneiderwent@dot.wi.gov">craig.schneiderwent@dot.wi.gov</a></td>
<td>Tom Petrolino (Speaker)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language Environment Futures Workshop and AMODE 64 Discussion</td>
<td><a href="mailto:craig.schneiderwent@dot.wi.gov">craig.schneiderwent@dot.wi.gov</a></td>
<td>John Monti (Speaker), Visda Vokhshoori (Speaker), Tom Petrolino (Speaker), Tom M. Ross (Speaker)</td>
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<td>Introduction to IPCS for Application Programmers</td>
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<td>John Monti (Speaker)</td>
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<td>Language Environment, COBOL, PL/I, C/C++, Rexx Project Opening</td>
<td><a href="mailto:craig.schneiderwent@dot.wi.gov">craig.schneiderwent@dot.wi.gov</a></td>
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<td>REXX Language Coding Techniques</td>
<td><a href="mailto:craig.schneiderwent@dot.wi.gov">craig.schneiderwent@dot.wi.gov</a></td>
<td>Virgil Hein (Speaker)</td>
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<tr>
<td>An Introduction to Using REXX with Language Environment</td>
<td><a href="mailto:craig.schneiderwent@dot.wi.gov">craig.schneiderwent@dot.wi.gov</a></td>
<td>Barry L. Lichtenstein (Speaker)</td>
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<td>Full Speed Ahead with COBOL Into the Future</td>
<td><a href="mailto:craig.schneiderwent@dot.wi.gov">craig.schneiderwent@dot.wi.gov</a></td>
<td>Tom M. Ross (Speaker)</td>
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- Language track

  - Session Title Submitter Email  PeopleP
    - Exploit Condition Handling in LE  craig.schneiderwent@dot.wi.gov  Tom M. Ross (Speaker)
    - REXX – PARSE Command  Bruce.Koss@WellsFargo.com  Bruce Koss (Speaker)
    - REXX – Trouble Shooting  Bruce.Koss@WellsFargo.com  Bruce Koss (Speaker)
    - Look What I Found Under the Bar!  craig.schneiderwent  John Monti (Speaker)
    - Heap Damage, Is Your Insurance Up-to-date?  craig.schneiderwent@dot.wi.gov  John Monti (Speaker)
    - Finding Debugging Clues in LE Dumps  craig.schneiderwent@dot.wi.gov  John Monti (Speaker)
    - COBOL Performance - Myths and Realities  craig.schneiderwent@dot.wi.gov  Tom M. Ross (Speaker)
    - Make your PL/I and C/C++ code FLY with the right compiler options  craig.schneiderwent@dot.wi.gov  Visda Vokhshoori (Speaker)
Hello REXX fans, z/OS REXX requirements for the interpreter, not the compiler, should be routed to the z/OS -> TSO pipeline in FITS. Who is the IBM contact that is routing these requirements? These should go to TSO. I'll need to go over our list, but should have news to report soon about some REXX requirements we are about to mark as accepted, not just recognized. There are already many in recognized status. TSO/E compids 566528508 and 5665IXX00 cover z/OS REXX and the z/OS REXX Interpreter. These are part of TSO/E and ship with our TSO/E FMID (as in HTE7790). Not part of the REXX compiler! If you need a IBM contact for z/OS REXX you can contact me directly. My co-worker **Bill Yurkovic** has more REXX expertise than I do but I can answer any of your questions or respond to requirements. John Eells attends every SHARE and handles software strategy for both TSO/E and REXX, so he can be easily contacted as well.

In terms of REXX being dead, SYSREXX and SDSF REXX are just two or many recent features that are using and extending REXX.

Best regards, Mike: z/OS Software Service TSO/E Change Team Dept D27A Poughkeepsie, NY Bldg 707-2-F-03 845-435-8075 (T/L 295-8075) mkasper@us.ibm.com
Recent REXX requirements addressed

- **summary of what has been done in recent releases for TSO/E REXX (based on previous requirements noted)** - - as of April 2011

  - z/OS V1R8 - Allow REXX execs to trap output from authorized commands in 31-bit storage not 24-bit storage with a new VARSTORAGE(HIGH) profile option. This was in response to user requirements.

  - z/OS V1R9 - Updated REXX and the LISTDSI function in REXX to support data sets with new DSNTYPE LARGE and add a new LISTDSI variable SYSSEQDSNTYPE.

  - z/OS V1R10 - TSO/E REXX support for System REXX or SYSREXX, which was also rolled back to z/OS V1R9 through an SPE new function APAR.

  - z/OS V1R11 - Updated REXX and the LISTDSI function in REXX to support new EAV data sets and add two new LISTDSI variables SYSEATTR and SYSEADSCB.