

# The Release of ooRexx 5.2.0

## Changes and New Features Since 5.1.0

37<sup>th</sup> International Rexx Symposium  
May 3<sup>rd</sup> – May 6<sup>th</sup> 2026, Barcelona



- Changes and additions in the context of `::OPTIONS`
- Updates of `.File`, `.Json`, `.TraceObject` classes
- New `.Yaml` class
- New built-in function `gc()`
- Incorporating "utf8proc" library
- Fixes and updates in the context of multithreading



- Classic REXX
  - Changing trace and numeric settings take effect for the entire program
- ooREXX
  - REXX code defined for `::routine` and `::method` directives define their own scope
    - E.g., labels are only visible within the scope
    - Trace and numeric settings are confined to the scope
  - Note: in ooREXX the code before the first directive is called *prolog*
    - Defines its own scope
  - The static `::OPTIONS` directive allows to define global settings
    - See REXX Reference (rexxref.pdf), "3.6. ::OPTIONS"



# ::OPTIONS, 2

## Default Values



- ::OPTIONS

DIGITS 9

FORM SCIENTIFIC

FUZZ 0

*NUMERIC NOINHERIT (new in 5.2.0)*

ERROR CONDITION

FAILURE CONDITION

LOSTDIGITS CONDITION

NOSTRING CONDITION

NOTREADY CONDITION

NOVALUE CONDITION

PROLOG

TRACE NORMAL





- New suboption
  - **NUMERIC NOINHERIT** (default)
  - **NUMERIC INHERIT**
    - Called routines will inherit the numeric settings of the caller
      - NUMERIC DIGITS
      - NUMERIC FORM
      - NUMERIC FUZZ



# ::OPTIONS

## NUMERIC {NOINHERIT | INHERIT}, 2



```
-- test_classic_01.rex
say "digits: " digits() "1/17:" 1/17
numeric digits 15
say "digits: " digits() "1/17:" 1/17
call work1
call work3 -- external program "work3.rex"
call work2
exit
```

```
work1:
  say "work1: " "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
  return
```

```
work2: procedure
  say "work2: " "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
  return
```

```
-- work3.rex
say "work3*:" "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
return
```

Output:

```
digits: 9 1/17: 0.0588235294
digits: 15 1/17: 0.0588235294117647
work1: digits: 15 1/17: 0.0588235294117647
work3*: digits: 9 1/17: 0.0588235294
work2: digits: 15 1/17: 0.0588235294117647
```



# ::OPTIONS

## NUMERIC {NOINHERIT | INHERIT}, 3



```
-- test_orx_01.rex
say "digits: " digits() "1/17:" 1/17
numeric digits 15
say "digits: " digits() "1/17:" 1/17
call work1
call work3 -- external program "work3.rex"
call work2
exit

::routine work1
  say "work1: " "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
  return

::routine work2
  say "work2: " "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
  return
```

```
-- work3.rex
say "work3*:" "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
return
```

Output:

```
digits:  9 1/17: 0.0588235294
digits: 15 1/17: 0.0588235294117647
work1:  digits: 9 1/17: 0.0588235294
work3*: digits: 9 1/17: 0.0588235294
work2:  digits: 9 1/17: 0.0588235294
```





# ::OPTIONS

## NUMERIC {NOINHERIT | INHERIT}, 4



```
-- test_classic_02.rex
say "digits: " digits() "1/17:" 1/17
numeric digits 15
say "digits: " digits() "1/17:" 1/17
call work1
call work3 -- external program "work3.rex"
call work4 -- external program "work4.rex"
call work2
exit

work1:
  say "work1: " "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
  return

work2: procedure
  say "work2: " "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
  return
```

```
-- work3.rex
say "work3*:" "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
return
```

```
-- work4.rex
say "work4*:" "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
return
```

**::options numeric inherit**

Output:

```
digits:  9 1/17: 0.0588235294
digits: 15 1/17: 0.0588235294117647
work1:  digits: 15 1/17: 0.0588235294117647
work3*: digits:  9 1/17: 0.0588235294
work4*: digits: 15 1/17: 0.0588235294117647
work2:  digits: 15 1/17: 0.0588235294117647
```



# ::OPTIONS

## NUMERIC {NOINHERIT | INHERIT}, 5



```
-- test_orx_02.rex
say "digits: " digits() "1/17:" 1/17
numeric digits 15
say "digits: " digits() "1/17:" 1/17
call work1
call work3 -- external program "work3.rex"
call work2
exit

::routine work1
  say "work1: " "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
  return

::routine work2
  say "work2: " "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
  return

::options numeric inherit
```

```
-- work3.rex
say "work3*:" "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
return
```

Output:

```
digits: 9 1/17: 0.0588235294
digits: 15 1/17: 0.0588235294117647
work1: digits: 15 1/17: 0.0588235294117647
work3*: digits: 9 1/17: 0.0588235294
work2: digits: 15 1/17: 0.0588235294117647
```





# ::OPTIONS

## NUMERIC {NOINHERIT | INHERIT}, 6



```
-- test_orx_02.rex
say "digits: " digits() "1/17:" 1/17
numeric digits 15
say "digits: " digits() "1/17:" 1/17
call work1
call work3 -- external program "work3.rex"
call work2
exit

::routine work1
  say "work1: " "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
  return

::routine work2
  say "work2: " "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
  return

::options numeric inherit
```

```
-- work3.rex
say "work3*:" "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
return
```

```
-- work4.rex
say "work4*:" "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
return
```

```
::options numeric inherit
```

Output:

```
digits: 9 1/17: 0.0588235294
digits: 15 1/17: 0.0588235294117647
work1: digits: 15 1/17: 0.0588235294117647
work3*: digits: 9 1/17: 0.0588235294
work4*: digits: 15 1/17: 0.0588235294117647
work2: digits: 15 1/17: 0.0588235294117647
```

- An ooRexx program is a *package* that may consist of
  - *Prolog* code ("main program") with its own scope
  - *Directives* which are led in with two consecutive colons (::) *after* the prolog
    - `::ANNOTATE` ... allow to annotate the prolog, classes, methods and routines
    - `::ATTRIBUTE` ... define an attribute for a class, creates getter and setter methods
    - `::CLASS` ... define a class (a.k.a. type, a.k.a. structure)
    - `::CONSTANT` ... define a constant value
    - `::METHOD` ... define a method and its code for a class, each defines an own scope
    - `::OPTIONS` ... define global options for the package
    - `::REQUIRES` ... request interpreter to call another Rexx program (package)
    - `::RESOURCE` ... define a resource of strings, returned as a string array
    - `::ROUTINE` ... define a routine and its code, each defines an own scope

- ooRexx defines a class named **Package** which ooRexx uses at runtime to manage and maintain all relevant information about each program (a "package"), e.g., methods like
  - `classes` (returns a `StringTable` of all defined classes), `addPublicClass` (allows to add a public class at runtime), ...
- A program can get at its package object at runtime using the `.context` environment symbol
 

```
thisPkg = .context~package
```

 and analyze or change it dynamically
- Up to ooRexx 5.1.0 it was not possible to find out at runtime which options are in effect for a particular program/package, let alone allowing to change them dynamically, e.g., for debugging
  - ooRexx 5.2.0 added
    - The class method `defaultOptions`
      - Please note: default options *never* override explicitly set options in a program (package)
    - The instance method `options`
 to query and change the default options and the options of an individual package (program)

- Class method `defaultOptions`
  - Query and change the default options to use for calling new programs/packages
    - Argument # 1: `"D[efinedDefaultOptions]"`
      - If argument # 2 is omitted, then it returns all current default options formatted as a single `"::OPTIONS"` string
    - Optional argument # 2: `"::OPTIONS"` string to define new default options
      - Changes the default options when calling a new program/package later
  - Query and change numeric indicator, which controls whether default options get applied to new called programs/packages
    - Argument # 1: `"C[ountOverrides]"`
      - If argument # 2 is omitted a number gets returned: `0` indicates that default options do not get applied when calling new programs/packages, a positive number `n` will apply the default options `n` times, whereas a negative number `-n` will always apply the default options
    - Optional argument # 2: any whole number

- Instance method `options`
  - Allows to query and change the current package options
    - Argument # 1, `option` name, if argument # 2 is omitted, returns current value
      - If argument # 1 is "All", then argument # 2 must be supplied with either the value "Condition" or "Syntax" and will set the options named "ERROR", "FAILURE", "LOSTDIGITS", "NOSTRING", "NOTREADY", "NOVALUE"
    - Optional argument # 2, new value for the option named in argument # 1
      - Note: new values only take effect when invoking routines or sending messages the next time



# Package Class

## Example 1



```
-- test_orx_01.rex
say "digits: " digits() "1/17:" 1/17
numeric digits 15
say "digits: " digits() "1/17:" 1/17
call work1
call work3 -- external program "work3.rex"
call work2
exit

::routine work1
say "options:" .context~package~options
  say "work1: " "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
  return

::routine work2
  say "work2: " "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
  return
```

```
-- work3.rex
say "work3*:" .context~package~options
say "work3*:" "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
return
```

```
digits: 9 1/17: 0.0588235294
digits: 15 1/17: 0.0588235294117647
options: ::OPTIONS DIGITS 9 FORM SCIENTIFIC FUZZ 0 NUMERIC NOINHERIT ERROR CONDITION FAILURE CONDITION LOSTDIGITS CONDITION
NOSTRING CONDITION NOTREADY CONDITION NOVALUE CONDITION PROLOG TRACE NORMAL
work1: digits: 9 1/17: 0.0588235294
work3*: ::OPTIONS DIGITS 9 FORM SCIENTIFIC FUZZ 0 NUMERIC NOINHERIT ERROR CONDITION FAILURE CONDITION LOSTDIGITS CONDITION
NOSTRING CONDITION NOTREADY CONDITION NOVALUE CONDITION PROLOG TRACE NORMAL
work3*: digits: 9 1/17: 0.0588235294
work2: digits: 9 1/17: 0.0588235294
```

Output:



# Package Class

## Example 2



```
-- test_orx_02.rex
say "options:" .context~package~options
say "digits: " digits() "1/17:" 1/17
numeric digits 15
say "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
call work1
call work3 -- external program "work3.rex"
call work2
exit
::routine work1
  say "work1: " "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
  return
::routine work2
  say "work2: " "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
  return
::options numeric inherit
```

```
-- work3.rex
say "work3*:" .context~package~options
say "work3*:" "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
return
```

Output:

```
options: ::OPTIONS DIGITS 9 FORM SCIENTIFIC FUZZ 0 NUMERIC INHERIT ERROR CONDITION FAILURE CONDITION LOSTDIGITS CONDITION
NOSTRING CONDITION NOTREADY CONDITION NOVALUE CONDITION PROLOG TRACE NORMAL
digits: 9 1/17: 0.0588235294
digits: 15 1/17: 0.0588235294117647
work1: digits: 15 1/17: 0.0588235294117647
work3*: ::OPTIONS DIGITS 9 FORM SCIENTIFIC FUZZ 0 NUMERIC NOINHERIT ERROR CONDITION FAILURE CONDITION LOSTDIGITS CONDITION
NOSTRING CONDITION NOTREADY CONDITION NOVALUE CONDITION PROLOG TRACE NORMAL
work3*: digits: 9 1/17: 0.0588235294
work2: digits: 15 1/17: 0.0588235294117647
```



# Package Class

## Example 3



```
-- test_orx_03.rex
say "options:" .context~package~options
say "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
numeric digits 15
say "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
call work1
call work3 -- external program "work3.rex"
call work4 -- external program "work4.rex"
call work2
exit

::routine work1
  say "work1: " "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
  return

::routine work2
  say "work2: " "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
  return
::options numeric inherit
```

```
-- work3.rex
say "work3*:" .context~package~options
say "work3*:" "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
return
```

```
-- work4.rex
say "work4*:" .context~package~options
say "work4*:" "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
return
```

```
::options numeric inherit
```

```
options: ::OPTIONS DIGITS 9 FORM SCIENTIFIC FUZZ 0 NUMERIC INHERIT ERROR CONDITION FAILURE CONDITION LOSTDIGITS CONDITION
NOSTRING CONDITION NOTREADY CONDITION NOVALUE CONDITION PROLOG TRACE NORMAL
digits: 9 1/17: 0.0588235294
digits: 15 1/17: 0.0588235294117647
work1: digits: 15 1/17: 0.0588235294117647
work3*: ::OPTIONS DIGITS 9 FORM SCIENTIFIC FUZZ 0 NUMERIC NOINHERIT ERROR CONDITION FAILURE CONDITION LOSTDIGITS CONDITION
NOSTRING CONDITION NOTREADY CONDITION NOVALUE CONDITION PROLOG TRACE NORMAL
work3*: digits: 9 1/17: 0.0588235294
work4*: ::OPTIONS DIGITS 9 FORM SCIENTIFIC FUZZ 0 NUMERIC INHERIT ERROR CONDITION FAILURE CONDITION LOSTDIGITS CONDITION
NOSTRING CONDITION NOTREADY CONDITION NOVALUE CONDITION PROLOG TRACE NORMAL
work4*: digits: 15 1/17: 0.0588235294117647
work2: digits: 15 1/17: 0.0588235294117647
```

Output:



# Package Class

## Example 4, Programs/Packages



```
-- test_orx_04.rex
pkg = .context~package -- get this package
object
say "options:" pkg~options
say "digits: " digits() "1/17:" 1/17
pkg~options("digits",15)
pkg~options("trace","result")
say "digits: " digits() "1/17:" 1/17
say "new *internal* invocations (in this package)
will have:"
say pkg~options
say "..."
call work1
call work3 -- external program "work3.rex"
call work4 -- external program "work4.rex"
call work2
exit
::routine work1
  say .context~package~options
  say "work1: " "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
  return
::routine work2
  say .context~package~options
  say "work2: " "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
  return
```

```
-- work3.rex
say "work3*:" .context~package~options
say "work3*:" "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
return
```

```
-- work4.rex
say "work4*:" .context~package~options
say "work4*:" "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
return
```

```
::options numeric inherit
```



# Package Class

## Example 4, Output 1/2



Output:

```
options: ::OPTIONS DIGITS 9 FORM SCIENTIFIC FUZZ 0 NUMERIC NOINHERIT ERROR CONDITION FAILURE CONDITION LOSTDIGITS CONDITION
NOSTRING CONDITION NOTREADY CONDITION NOVALUE CONDITION PROLOG TRACE NORMAL
digits: 9 1/17: 0.0588235294
digits: 9 1/17: 0.0588235294
new *internal* invocations (in this package) will have:
::OPTIONS DIGITS 15 FORM SCIENTIFIC FUZZ 0 NUMERIC NOINHERIT ERROR CONDITION FAILURE CONDITION LOSTDIGITS CONDITION NOSTRING
CONDITION NOTREADY CONDITION NOVALUE CONDITION PROLOG TRACE RESULTS
...
  >I> Routine "WORK1" in package "C:\rgf\test_orx_04.rex".
17 *-* say .context-package~options
  >>>  "::OPTIONS DIGITS 15 FORM SCIENTIFIC FUZZ 0 NUMERIC NOINHERIT ERROR CONDITION FAILURE CONDITION LOSTDIGITS CONDITION
NOSTRING CONDITION NOTREADY CONDITION NOVALUE CONDITION PROLOG TRACE RESULTS"
::OPTIONS DIGITS 15 FORM SCIENTIFIC FUZZ 0 NUMERIC NOINHERIT ERROR CONDITION FAILURE CONDITION LOSTDIGITS CONDITION NOSTRING
CONDITION NOTREADY CONDITION NOVALUE CONDITION PROLOG TRACE RESULTS
18 *-* say "work1: " "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
  >>>  "work1: digits: 15 1/17: 0.0588235294117647"
work1: digits: 15 1/17: 0.0588235294117647
19 *-* return
  <I< Routine "WORK1" in package "C:\rgf\test_orx_04.rex".
work3*: ::OPTIONS DIGITS 9 FORM SCIENTIFIC FUZZ 0 NUMERIC NOINHERIT ERROR CONDITION FAILURE CONDITION LOSTDIGITS CONDITION
NOSTRING CONDITION NOTREADY CONDITION NOVALUE CONDITION PROLOG TRACE NORMAL
work3*: digits: 9 1/17: 0.0588235294

... continued ...
```



# Package Class

## Example 4, Output 2/2



... continued ...

```
work4*: ::OPTIONS DIGITS 9 FORM SCIENTIFIC FUZZ 0 NUMERIC INHERIT ERROR CONDITION FAILURE CONDITION LOSTDIGITS CONDITION
NOSTRING CONDITION NOTREADY CONDITION NOVALUE CONDITION PROLOG TRACE NORMAL
work4*: digits: 9 1/17: 0.0588235294
  >I> Routine "WORK2" in package "C:\rgf\test_orx_04.rex".
  21 ** say .context~package~options
  >>>  "::OPTIONS DIGITS 15 FORM SCIENTIFIC FUZZ 0 NUMERIC NOINHERIT ERROR CONDITION FAILURE CONDITION LOSTDIGITS
CONDITION NOSTRING CONDITION NOTREADY CONDITION NOVALUE CONDITION PROLOG TRACE RESULTS"
  ::OPTIONS DIGITS 15 FORM SCIENTIFIC FUZZ 0 NUMERIC NOINHERIT ERROR CONDITION FAILURE CONDITION LOSTDIGITS CONDITION NOSTRING
CONDITION NOTREADY CONDITION NOVALUE CONDITION PROLOG TRACE RESULTS
  22 ** say "work2: " "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
  >>>  "work2: digits: 15 1/17: 0.0588235294117647"
work2: digits: 15 1/17: 0.0588235294117647
  23 ** return
  <I< Routine "WORK2" in package "C:\rgf\test_orx_04.rex".
```

Output:





# Package Class

## Example 5, Programs/Packages



```
-- test_orx_05.rex
say ".package~defaultOptions:" .package~defaultOptions("d")
.package~defaultOptions("D", "::options digits 15 trace r")
.package~defaultOptions("countOverrides", -1)
say "calling programs/packages will have as their default options:"
say ".package~defaultOptions:" .package~defaultOptions("D")
say "digits: " digits() "1/17:" 1/17
say "... "
call work1
call work3 -- external program "work3.rex"
call work4 -- external program "work4.rex"
call work2
exit
::routine work1
  say "work1: " .context~package~options
  say "work1: " "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
  return
::routine work2
  say "work2: " .context~package~options
  say "work2: " "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
  return
```

```
-- work3.rex
say "work3*:" .context~package~options
say "work3*:" "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
return
```

```
-- work4.rex
say "work4*:" .context~package~options
say "work4*:" "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
return
```

**::options numeric inherit**



# Package Class

## Example 5, Output 1/2



Output:

```
.package~defaultOptions: ::OPTIONS DIGITS 9 FORM SCIENTIFIC FUZZ 0 NUMERIC NOINHERIT ERROR CONDITION FAILURE CONDITION LOSTDIGITS
CONDITION NOSTRING CONDITION NOTREADY CONDITION NOVALUE CONDITION PROLOG TRACE NORMAL
calling programs/packages will have as their default options:
.package~defaultOptions: ::OPTIONS DIGITS 15 FORM SCIENTIFIC FUZZ 0 NUMERIC NOINHERIT ERROR CONDITION FAILURE CONDITION
LOSTDIGITS CONDITION NOSTRING CONDITION NOTREADY CONDITION NOVALUE CONDITION PROLOG TRACE RESULTS
digits: 9 1/17: 0.0588235294
...
work1: ::OPTIONS DIGITS 9 FORM SCIENTIFIC FUZZ 0 NUMERIC NOINHERIT ERROR CONDITION FAILURE CONDITION LOSTDIGITS CONDITION
NOSTRING CONDITION NOTREADY CONDITION NOVALUE CONDITION PROLOG TRACE NORMAL
work1: digits: 9 1/17: 0.0588235294
>I> Routine "C:\rgf\work3.rex" in package "C:\rgf\work3.rex".
2 *-* say "work3*:" .context~package~options
>>> "work3*: ::OPTIONS DIGITS 15 FORM SCIENTIFIC FUZZ 0 NUMERIC NOINHERIT ERROR CONDITION FAILURE CONDITION LOSTDIGITS
CONDITION NOSTRING CONDITION NOTREADY CONDITION NOVALUE CONDITION PROLOG TRACE RESULTS"
work3*: ::OPTIONS DIGITS 15 FORM SCIENTIFIC FUZZ 0 NUMERIC NOINHERIT ERROR CONDITION FAILURE CONDITION LOSTDIGITS CONDITION
NOSTRING CONDITION NOTREADY CONDITION NOVALUE CONDITION PROLOG TRACE RESULTS
3 *-* say "work3*:" "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
>>> "work3*: digits: 15 1/17: 0.0588235294117647"
work3*: digits: 15 1/17: 0.0588235294117647
4 *-* return
<I< Routine "C:\rgf\work3.rex" in package "C:\rgf\work3.rex".
... continued ...
```





# Package Class

## Example 5, Output 2/2



... continued ...

```
>I> Routine "C:\rgf\work4.rex" in package "C:\rgf\work4.rex".
```

```
2 ** say "work4*:" .context-package~options
```

```
>>> "work4*: ::OPTIONS DIGITS 15 FORM SCIENTIFIC FUZZ 0 NUMERIC INHERIT ERROR CONDITION FAILURE CONDITION LOSTDIGITS  
CONDITION NOSTRING CONDITION NOTREADY CONDITION NOVALUE CONDITION PROLOG TRACE RESULTS"  
work4*: ::OPTIONS DIGITS 15 FORM SCIENTIFIC FUZZ 0 NUMERIC INHERIT ERROR CONDITION FAILURE CONDITION LOSTDIGITS CONDITION  
NOSTRING CONDITION NOTREADY CONDITION NOVALUE CONDITION PROLOG TRACE RESULTS
```

```
3 ** say "work4*:" "digits:" digits() "1/17:" 1/17
```

```
>>> "work4*: digits: 9 1/17: 0.0588235294"
```

```
work4*: digits: 9 1/17: 0.0588235294
```

```
4 ** return
```

```
<I< Routine "C:\rgf\work4.rex" in package "C:\rgf\work4.rex".
```

```
work2: ::OPTIONS DIGITS 9 FORM SCIENTIFIC FUZZ 0 NUMERIC NOINHERIT ERROR CONDITION FAILURE CONDITION LOSTDIGITS CONDITION  
NOSTRING CONDITION NOTREADY CONDITION NOVALUE CONDITION PROLOG TRACE NORMAL
```

```
work2: digits: 9 1/17: 0.0588235294
```

Output:

- New command line option to override program's options

```
rexx[.exe] -o[d] "::OPTIONS ..." rexxProgram [arguments]
```

- `-o ...` override default options for `rexxProgram` only
- `-od ...` override default options for `rexxProgram` and all of its called or required programs
- `"::OPTIONS ..."` any definitions
- `rexxProgram ...` the Rexx program to run



# Command Line Options



```
-- test_1.rex
thisFileName=filespec("Name",.context~name)
say "L".line:" thisFileName:" "trace():" trace()," "digits():" digits()," "1/17:" 1/17
call "test_2.rex"
```

```
-- test_2.rex
thisFileName=filespec("Name",.context~name)
say "L".line:" thisFileName:" "trace():" trace()," "digits():" digits()," "1/17:" 1/17
```

```
E:\rony>rexx test_1.rex
L3: test_1.rex: trace(): N, digits(): 9, 1/17: 0.0588235294
L3: test_2.rex: trace(): N, digits(): 9, 1/17: 0.0588235294

E:\rony>rexx -o "::options trace r" test_1.rex
  2 *** thisFileName=filespec("Name",.context~name)
  >>> "test_1.rex"
  3 *** say "L".line:" thisFileName:" "trace():" trace()," "digits():" digits()," "1/17:" 1/17
  >>> "L3: test_1.rex: trace(): R, digits(): 9, 1/17: 0.0588235294"
L3: test_1.rex: trace(): R, digits(): 9, 1/17: 0.0588235294
  4 *** call "test_2.rex"
L3: test_2.rex: trace(): N, digits(): 9, 1/17: 0.0588235294

E:\rony>rexx -o "::options digits 24" test_1.rex
L3: test_1.rex: trace(): N, digits(): 24, 1/17: 0.0588235294117647058823529
L3: test_2.rex: trace(): N, digits(): 9, 1/17: 0.0588235294

E:\rony>rexx -od "::options digits 24" test_1.rex
L3: test_1.rex: trace(): N, digits(): 24, 1/17: 0.0588235294117647058823529
L3: test_2.rex: trace(): N, digits(): 24, 1/17: 0.0588235294117647058823529
```

Output:



- The `File` class gains new class methods to ease reading and writing entire files
  - Text files
    - `readLines( fileName )` ... reads all text lines into an array and returns it
    - `writeLines( fileName, orderedCollection [, Append | Replace] )` ... writes the content of an ordered collection array into a file, by default in appending mode
  - Binary files
    - `readChars( fileName )` ... reads and returns all bytes as a string
    - `writeChars( fileName, string [, Append | Replace] )` ... writes the bytes of the string into a file, by default in appending mode

```
-- demoReadWriteLines.rex
parse arg fname
say "file: '"fname"' SysFileExists:" SysFileExists(fname)
code = .file~readLines(fname)
say "'fname'" has code~items "lines"
r = .routine~new("calcCone", code)
say "running '"fname"' via a routine object ..."
r~call("817 9")
newFile = fname~writeLines.bkp
say "writing array to '"newFile"' (in replace mode)"
.file~writeLines(newFile, code, "replace")
say
say "--- now using readChars/writeChars"
content = .file~readChars(fname)
say "'fname'" has a size of" content~length "chars"
newFile = fname~writeChars.bkp
say "writing chars to '"newFile"' (in replace mode)"
.file~writeChars(newFile, content, "replace")
```

```
-- calcCones.rex
parse arg startNumber loops
lenLoops = length(loops)
width = 15
numeric digits width
val = startNumber
-- multiplications
op = "*"
do i=2 to loops
  str = val~right(width)
  val = val * i
  say str op i~right(lenLoops)
end
-- divisions
op = "/"
i=2
do i=2 to loops
  str = val~right(width)
  val = val / i
  say str op i~right(lenLoops)
end
say val~right(width)
```



# New Class Methods for File Class, 3



```
E:\rony>demoReadWriteLines.rex calcCones.rex
file: 'calcCones.rex' SysFileExists: 1
'calcCones.rex' has 22 lines
running 'calcCones.rex' via a routine object ...
      817 * 2
     1634 * 3
     4902 * 4
     19608 * 5
     98040 * 6
    588240 * 7
   4117680 * 8
  32941440 * 9
 296472960 / 2
148236480 / 3
 49412160 / 4
 12353040 / 5
  2470608 / 6
   411768 / 7
   58824 / 8
    7353 / 9
     817
writing array to 'calcCones.rex-writeLines.bkp' (in replace mode)

--- now using readChars/writeChars
'calcCones.rex' has a size of 407 chars
writing chars to 'calcCones.rex-writeChars.bkp' (in replace mode)
```

```
E:\rony>dir
... cut ...
29.04.2026  21:24                407 calcCones.rex
29.04.2026  21:37                407 calcCones.rex-writeChars.bkp
29.04.2026  21:37                407 calcCones.rex-writeLines.bkp
29.04.2026  21:31                679 demoReadWriteLines.rex
```

- Updated to conform to RFC 8259
- Now passes the comprehensive JSON Parsing Test Suite from <https://github.com/nst/JSONTestSuite>
- Cf. "Rexx Extensions Library Reference" ([rexxextensions.pdf](#))
- ooRexx [MapCollections](#) are encoded as JSON objects
- Decodes JSON objects to ooRexx [Directory](#) objects
- Added ability to encode to JSON XML and decode from JSON XML
  - Uses either [json.dtd](#) (default) or [json.xsd](#)
    - JSON XML encoded files can be transformed to JSON with the supplied [xmlToJson.xsl](#)
  - New methods [jsonToXml](#), [jsonToXmlFile](#), [parseXml](#), [parseXmlFile](#)

Output:

```
jsonData = '{"name": "Alice", "age": 30, "active": true}'
say "reading jsonData:" jsonData
obj = .json~fromJSON(jsonData)
say
say "turning REXX object to JSON-XML:"
xml = .json~jsonToXml(obj)
say xml
say
say "turning JSON-XML into REXX object:"
obj = .json~new~parseXML(xml)
say 'obj["name"]   :' obj["name"]   -- Alice
say 'obj["age"]   :' obj["age"]   -- 30
say 'obj["active"]:' obj["active"] -- 1 (a JsonBoolean singleton)
say
say "saving object in a JSON-XML file ..."
fn ="03_json.xml"
.json~jsonToXmlFile(obj, fn)

::requires "json.cls" -- get JSON support
```

```
reading jsonData: {"name": "Alice", "age": 30, "active": true}
```

```
turning REXX object to JSON-XML:
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<json xmlns="urn:json:xml:1.0">
  <object>
    <entry>
      <n>active</n>
      <value>
        <boolean>true</boolean>
      </value>
    </entry>
    <entry>
      <n>age</n>
      <value>
        <number>30</number>
      </value>
    </entry>
    <entry>
      <n>name</n>
      <value>
        <string>Alice</string>
      </value>
    </entry>
  </object>
</json>
```

```
turning JSON-XML into REXX object:
obj["name"] : Alice
obj["age"]  : 30
obj["active"]: 1
```

```
saving object in a JSON-XML file ...
```

- While tracing `TraceObject` instances get created at the start of each trace at which time an `append` message gets sent to the `collector` attribute, if it is not `.nil`
  - At that point in time not all information of a `TraceObject` has been filled-in yet
  - If a real-time debugger wishes to inspect the full state of a `TraceObject` at its creation time, one would need an additional callback when the `TraceObject` setup got completed
- The new `notify` attribute will get an `append` message, if it is not `.nil` when the `TraceObject`'s setup got completed
  - This allows for full inspection of all `TraceObject` information by a real-time debugger

Output:

```

-- the collector gets the APPEND message at creation time
.TraceObject~collector=.myCollector~new
-- the notifier gets the APPEND message upon completion
.TraceObject~notify  =.myNotifier~new

trace results
say "L".line:" "3+4="3+4
say
trace normal

::class myCollector    -- intended for debugging
::method append       -- invoked at TraceObject creation time
  use arg traceObject
  say "---> myCollector, #" traceObject~number "'traceObject'"

::class myNotifier    -- intended for realtime debugging
::method append
  use arg traceObject -- invoked upon TraceObject's completion
  say "<--- myNotifier, #" traceObject~number "'traceObject'"
  say "<--->"

```

```

---> myCollector, # 1 "?"
<--- myNotifier, # 1 "      7 *-* say "L".line:" "3+4="3+4"
<--->
      7 *-* say "L".line:" "3+4="3+4
---> myCollector, # 2 "?"
<--- myNotifier, # 2 "      >>>  "L7: 3+4=7""
<--->
      >>>  "L7: 3+4=7"
L7: 3+4=7
---> myCollector, # 3 "?"
<--- myNotifier, # 3 "      8 *-* say"
<--->
      8 *-* say
---> myCollector, # 4 "?"
<--- myNotifier, # 4 "      >>>  ""
<--->
      >>>  ""

---> myCollector, # 5 "?"
<--- myNotifier, # 5 "      9 *-* trace normal"
<--->
      9 *-* trace normal

```

- Comprehensive yaml 1.2 (core) support
  - Cf. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/YAML> and <https://yaml.org/>
- Passes the official comprehensive YAML Test Suite from <https://github.com/yaml/yaml-test-suite>
- Cf. "Rexx Extensions Library Reference" ([rexxextensions.pdf](#))
- Supports multi-document files and front-matters
- Decodes YAML ooRexx **Table** objects, sequences to ooRexx **arrays**
- Ability to encode to YAML XML and decode from YAML XML
  - Uses either [yaml.dtd](#) (default) or [yaml.xsd](#)
    - JSON XML encoded files can be transformed to JSON with the supplied [xmlToJson.xml](#)
  - New methods [yamlToXml](#), [yamlToXmlFile](#), [parseXml](#), [parseXmlFile](#)



# New YAML Class, Example "01\_yaml.rex"

Read **YAML** from ooRexx Directive, Create Corresponding **YAML** File



Output:

```
-- 01_yaml.rex
y = .yaml~new
arr = .resources~yaml_data
say "resource yaml_data:"
say arr
say
obj = y~parseArray(arr)
say 'obj["title"]='obj["title"] '| version:' obj["version"]
say 'obj["authors"]='obj["authors"]~toString('L','')
say
fn = "01_yaml_data.yaml"
say "saving to:" fn
.yaml~toYamlFile(obj, fn)
say
say "content of" fn:"
say .File~readChars(fn)

::resource yaml_data    -- YAML data sample
title: My Application
version: 2
authors:
  - Alice
  - Bob
::END

::requires "yaml.cls"  -- get YAML support
```

```
resource yaml_data:
title: My Application
version: 2
authors:
  - Alice
  - Bob

obj["title"]=My Application | version: 2
obj["authors"]=Alice,Bob

saving to: 01_yaml_data.yaml

content of 01_yaml_data.yaml:
authors: [Alice, Bob]
title: My Application
version: 2
```



# New YAML Class, Example "02\_yaml.rex"

## Read YAML from ooRexx Directive, Create YAML XML File



Output:

```
-- 02_yaml.rex
y = .yaml~new
arr = .resources~yaml_data
say "resource yaml_data:"
say arr
say
obj = y~parseArray(arr)
fn = "02_yaml_data.xml"
say "create YAML-XML file:" fn
.yaml~yamlToXmlFile(obj, fn)
say
say "content of" fn:"
say .File~readChars(fn)

::resource yaml_data    -- YAML data sample
title: My Application
version: 2
authors:
  - Alice
  - Bob
::END

::requires "yaml.cls"   -- get YAML support
```

```
resource yaml_data:
title: My Application
version: 2
authors:
  - Alice
  - Bob

create YAML-XML file: 02_yaml_data.xml

content of 02_yaml_data.xml:
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<yaml xmlns="urn:yaml:xml:1.0" version="1.2">
  <document>
    <mapping>
      <entry>
        <key>
          <scalar type="str">authors</scalar>
        </key>
        <value>
          <sequence>
            <item>
              <scalar type="str">Alice</scalar>
            </item>
            <item>
              <scalar type="str">Bob</scalar>
            </item>
          </sequence>
        </value>
      </entry>
    </mapping>
  </document>
</yaml>
```

```
... continued ...

  <entry>
    <key>
      <scalar type="str">title</scalar>
    </key>
    <value>
      <scalar type="str">My Application</scalar>
    </value>
  </entry>
  <entry>
    <key>
      <scalar type="str">version</scalar>
    </key>
    <value>
      <scalar type="int">2</scalar>
    </value>
  </entry>
</mapping>
</document>
</yaml>
```

- New built-in-function (BIF) `gc()`
  - Invokes the ooRexx garbage collector if running the debug version of ooRexx
  - Meant for debugging native bridges between ooRexx and other environments as it causes pending `UNINIT` methods to be run which usually get used for maintaining reference counters
  - Please note: *never use it in production* as it may impact the performance if done wrongly, therefore let the interpreter execute it!
    - For that reason `gc()` by default gets executed in the debug version of ooRexx and returns `.true`, but will not execute a `gc()` call in the release version of ooRexx and returns `.false` in that case

- Improved syntax error "13.1 – Incorrect character in program."
  - To display Unicode characters properly, ooRexx 5.2.0 starts to include and employ the quite popular Unicode library "`utf8proc`"
- This will allow to gradually introduce native Unicode support into ooRexx

- Multithreading
  - Fixes a number of crashes and problems in native multithreading
  - No known multithreaded errors in ooRexx 5.2.0
  - Now `RexxInstance->Terminate()` may be safely invoked from any thread

- Makes ooRexx fully dynamic in the area of global package options
  - Great for (temporarily) debugging programs/packages
- Improves support for JSON, allows XML renderings
- Introduces fully functional YAML support, allows XML renderings
- Introduces a `gc()`-BIF for debugging ooRexx bridges
- Incorporates "`utf8proc`" library for Unicode support
- Improves native multi-threading
- ***Use ooRexx 5.2.0 to replace older versions as soon as possible!***