

Open Object Rexx



Rapid Application Development for Today's Business Environment

In a world where the IT practitioner's constant challenge is "Deliver business results faster", tools that accelerate delivery, provide reliability, and reduce maintenance costs are more important than ever before. Mash-ups based on web services may allow the non-technical user to quickly craft and deploy new business applications, but this may not be a sustainable model for long-term business needs. In addition, the demands for business continuity mean that the computing infrastructure that hosts the business applications must be reliable and resilient and easily managed.

What if there were a single tool to address your requirements for rapid application delivery and reliable management of your infrastructure?

Imagine a World

. . . where individuals with business or IT skills could quickly create and deploy new applications

. . . where automation of your office tools can be implemented and quickly adapted as the needs of the business change

. . . where you can manage your entire server and desktop infrastructure with a single tool

. . . where a community of professionals whose collective experience is measured in centuries to guide you on best practices, offer tips and techniques, and answer your most complex questions

Welcome to Open Object Rexx

Now available as open source under Common Public License (CPL), Open Object Rexx uniquely addresses both your application development and infrastructure management needs. With its modern attributes of natural language syntax, implicit data typing, object orientation, decimal arithmetic, and cross-platform interoperability, Open Object Rexx allows you to

- ▶ leverage multiple skill sets within your IT and business units
- ▶ write once, run many in heterogeneous server environments
- ▶ preserve functionality as your server deployments change
- ▶ conform to legal and financial requirements for precise decimal calculations
- ▶ seamlessly bridge between legacy and web-based applications
- ▶ glue applications together for fully automated business processing

Open Object Rexx fully conforms with the ANSI standard for the Rexx language (X3.274-1996, "Programming Language Rexx"), providing assurance of interoperability across platforms and with other conforming Rexx implementations.

Extension packages provide direct access to SQL databases, TCP/IP sockets for data communications and client/server applications, regular expression processing, OLE/ActiveX support, a Windows Scripting Host (WSH) engine, and a dialog development environment for Windows. Community-developed extensions include a Bean Scripting Framework Engine to allow bi-directional interoperability between Java and Open Object Rexx and scripting of OpenOffice.org, the open source office suite.

*Natural Language
Syntax
Object Orientation
Implicit Data Typing
Decimal Arithmetic
Cross-Platform
Interoperability
Rapid Diagnostics
Easily Integrated
Extensions*

History

In 2004, IBM reached a decision to contribute its Object Rexx product to the open source community. It chose the Rexx Language Association to manage the open source project.

The legal transfer of intellectual property was completed in late 2004 and the first release of Open Object Rexx was announced in March 2005.

Since then, there have been 3 product releases, ports to 4 additional platforms, and over 46,000 downloads of the product.

An active community contributes to the project, suggests enhancements, and provides on-line support and answers to user questions. The project architect has extensive career experience in the architecture, design, and implementation of Rexx interpreters. The project manager has extensive experience with multiple open source initiatives. Additional details on the project team are available at <http://www.oorexx.org/contact.html>.

Features

The fundamental principle of the Rexx language is to make programming easy and accessible to individuals with a wide variety of skill sets. Unlike tools that require in-depth knowledge of platform architectures or advanced programming skills, all Rexx language products facilitate rapid development, easy deployment, and cost-effective maintenance of business-critical systems. Key features of Open Object Rexx are:

Natural Language Syntax – makes writing and maintaining programs easy. Intuitive instructions make programming accessible to IT or business users. Without arcane abbreviations or punctuation, it is easy to read a program or script and readily understand its functionality. This enhances maintainability and reduces maintenance costs.

Object Orientation – supports effective componentization and promotes reuse of code.

Implicit Data Typing – reduces the complexity of application code and makes programming more intuitive and faster.

Decimal Arithmetic – performs calculations the way that humans expect. Get accurate financial results without unexpected rounding errors introduced by binary arithmetic. Reduce financial risk and comply with legal requirements for financial reporting.

Cross-Platform Interoperability – reduces development costs and supports skills transfer across platforms.

Rapid Diagnostics – reduce development and maintenance time and costs. Clear messages and a built-in, multi-level debugger give the developer meaningful insight into run-time operations.



Platforms and System Requirements

Open Object Rexx is currently available for the following platforms:

- ▶ 32-bit Windows platforms (desktop or server):
 - ▶ Windows 9x, Windows Me
 - ▶ Windows NT, Windows 2000, Windows XP
 - ▶ Windows Vista
- ▶ 32-bit Linux distributions:
 - ▶ Red Hat/Fedora
 - ▶ Debian
 - ▶ Ubuntu
- ▶ 32-bit mode on commercial Unix platforms:
 - ▶ Solaris on Sparc
 - ▶ Solaris x86
 - ▶ AIX 5.x
- ▶ Apple Mac
 - ▶ Mac OS X

Downloads are available from the Rexx Language Association at <http://www.oorexx.org/download.html>.

About the Rexx Language Association

Since 1994, the Rexx Language Association (RexxLA) has been the largest organized community of IT practitioners using the Rexx language or implementing Rexx language products. Its global membership comes from businesses of all sizes, consultancies, and academic institutions.

Representatives of RexxLA contributed to the development of the ANSI standard for the Rexx language (X3.274-1996, "Programming Language Rexx").

In addition to an active discussion list, RexxLA supports the annual International Rexx Symposium which features presentations by recognized Rexx experts and practitioners, interesting products, and an opportunity to network with peers.

For more information about the Rexx Language Association, visit <http://www.rexxla.org>.

For more information about Open Object Rexx, visit <http://www.oorexx.org>.