

2022 REXXLA International Rexx Language Symposium Proceedings

René Vincent Jansen (ed.)

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Introduction

History of the International REXX Language Symposium

In 1990, Cathie Dager of SLAC¹ convened the organizing committee for the first independent REXX² Symposium for Developers and Users. SLAC continued to organize this annual event until the middle of the 1990's when the REXXLA took over that responsibility. Symposia have been held annually since 1990.

About REXXLA

During the 1993 Symposium in La Jolla, California, plans for a REXX User Group materialized. The REXX Language Association (REXXLA), as it was called, is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the use and understanding of the REXX programming language. REXXLA manages several open source implementations of REXX.

The selection procedure

Presentation proposals are solicited yearly using a CFP³ procedure, after which the REXXLA symposium committee reviews them and votes which presentations are selected for the symposium. The presentations are peer reviewed before being presented. Presenters are not compensated for their presentations.

Location

The 2022 symposium was held Online from 12 Sep 2022 to 14 Sep 2022.

Organizing Committee

- Chip Davis
- Jon Wolfers
- Mark Hessling
- René Jansen
- Terry Fuller

¹Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, since 2008 SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory

²Cowlshaw, M. F., **The REXX Language** (second edition), ISBN 0-13-780651-5, Prentice-Hall, 1990.

³Call For Papers.

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NetRexx 4.04 GA update – René Vincent Jansen

Date and Time

12 Sep 2022, 18:00:00 CET

Presenter

René Vincent Jansen

Presenter Details

René has used REXX since it appeared in TSO Extensions in the second half of the eighties when he was a systems programmer at the Central Bank of The Netherlands. He is an independent consultant since the turn of the century, specializing in models and meta models in order to rationalize data governance and model driven development. He likes to program in any language as long as it's REXX.

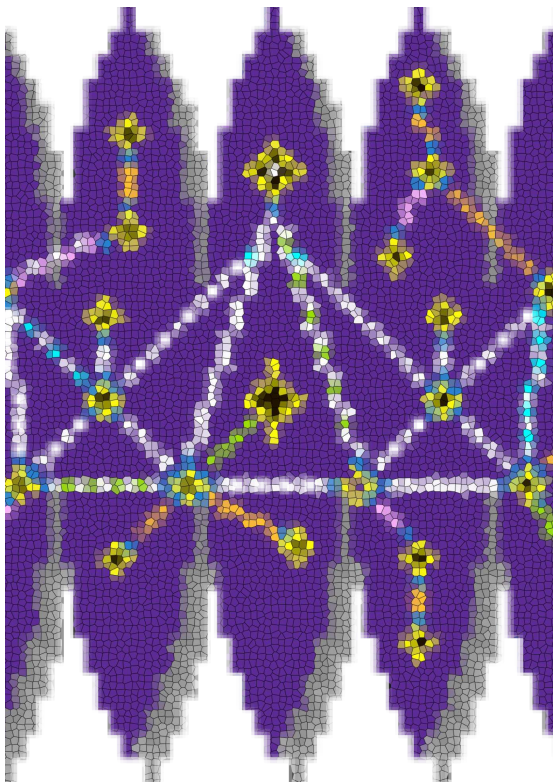
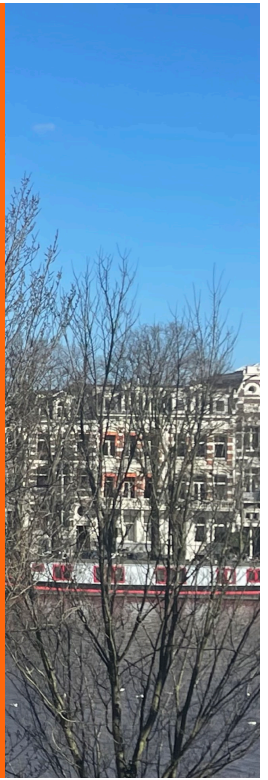
Session Abstract

NetRexx 4.0.4 should be GA by the first day of the symposium. It is future proof and more compatible with the past than ever. Some of the new functionality (and some added in 4.0.3) will be presented.



NetRexx
4.04 GA

René Vincent Jansen
33rd Rexx Language Symposium
12 September 2022

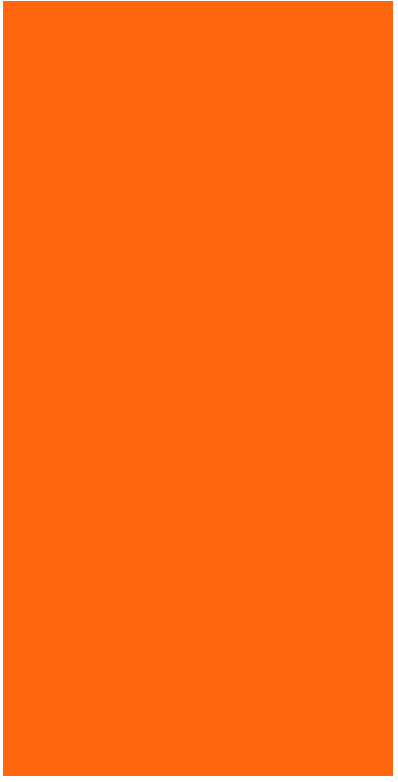


NetRexx 4.04

Our 4.04 release is more **future proof**, and at the same time more **compatible with the past** than it ever was



- 1 Project Developments
- 2 Translator Developments
- 3 Workspace Developments
- 4 Pipelines Developments
- 5 Documentation and Examples



Project Location

- Issue List has moved to Github
 - After being in disuse since Oracle shut down our previous forge
 - SourceForge has a finite future for the RexxLA NetRexx project
 - Among other reasons, instability and taking our list addresses hostage
 - <https://github.com/RexxLA/NetRexx/issues>
- This repository is also a shadow location for the source code
 - <https://github.com/RexxLA/NetRexx>

Search or jump to... Pull requests Issues Marketplac

RexxLA / NetRexx (Public)

<> Code Issues 32 Pull requests Actions Projects

Filters is:issue is:open

32 Open 3 Closed

- Rexx Date preferred over Java Date and not intende #35 opened 29 days ago by rvjansen
- Concatenating null values #34 opened 29 days ago by rvjansen
- Exception when interpreting code with constant pro #33 opened on 28 Jul by remesm
- XLATE bug with WordSeparator input range #32 opened on 28 Jun by Jeff-Ft-Myers
- address with issue in pipelines #31 opened on 22 Jun by rvjansen
- xlate issue in pipelines #30 opened on 22 Jun by rvjansen
- Date('n',2022166;'j') gives incorrect output #29 opened on 15 Jun by rvjansen
- parse source should give indication of current addr

github.com/RexxLA/NetRexx/blob/master/releasenotes.md

959 lines (752 sloc) | 61.6 KB

Raw Blame

NetRexx 4.04 GA [12 Sep 2022]

Project

- the NetRexx issue tracker has moved to [<https://github.com/RexxLA/NetRexx/issues>]
- The RexxLA/NetRexx shadow repository will be maintained to be identical in contents to the SourceForge one

Language

- non-oo notation for scripting mode (René Vincent Jansen) enables (much more) Classic Rexx source compatible scripting
- a new nr command for scripting purposes
- releasenotes are in Markdown syntax (and have moved to the root of the development tree)
- use of color in language processor messages enabled (but optional, opt-out for Linux and Mac, opt-in for windows)
- long and short form of options
- a bugfix on an address statement ("variable \$2 already defined") with interruptedexception
- add the netrex/lang/Sysutils class by Marc Remes

The release notes are in Markdown now

Nº 2 Translator Developments

Classic Rexx compatible BIF

- BIF: Built in Functions (substr(), length(), left(), right() etcetera).
- Implemented in the RexxRexx class (to be analogous with RexxDate, RexxStream and other compatibility efforts)
 - Automatically included in 'Scripting Mode'
 - In 'class mode': use 'uses'

```
File Edit Options Buffers Tools Index NetRexx Help
package netrexx.lang
options binary decimal strictargs strictcase noformat
/**
 * With this one weird trick ... Rexx is back in 1984
 * Class RexxRexx provides static versions of the Rexx
 * to be called without oo notation.
 * Created on: Fri, 01, Apr 2022 13:04:19 +0200
 */
class RexxRexx

method RexxRexx()

method abbrev(a=Rexx, b=Rexx, length='') static
if length='' then len=b.length()
else len=length
return a.abbrev(b,len)

method abs(a) static returns Rexx signals NumberForm
return a.abs()

method b2d(a=Rexx,dil=Rexx -1) static returns Rexx
return b2d(a,dil)

method b2x(a=Rexx) static returns Rexx
return a.b2x()

method centre(a=Rexx, wid=Rexx, pad=Rexx ' ') static
return a.centre(wid,pad)

method center(a=Rexx,wid=Rexx, pad=Rexx ' ') static
return a.center(wid,pad)

method changestri(a=Rexx,old=Rexx,new=Rexx) static re
return old.changestri(a,new)
```

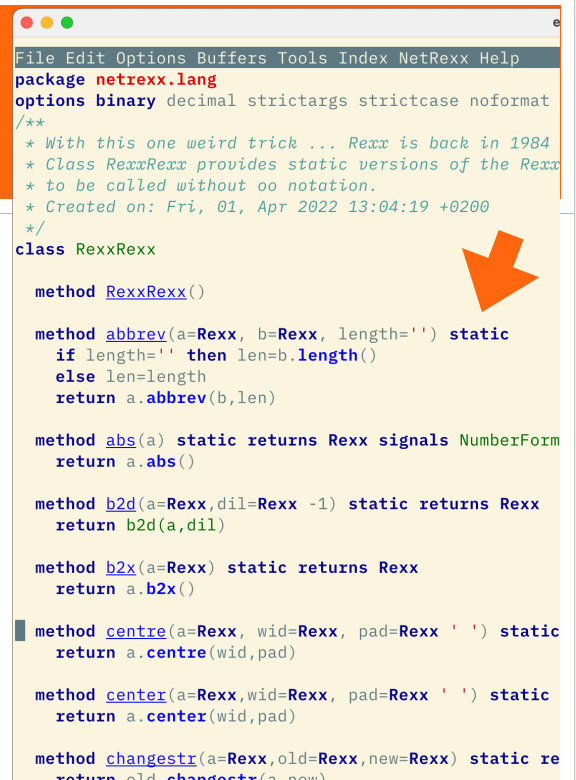
Why? “It really was fine as it was ...”

- NetRexx was conceived as a fully object-oriented language, and method calls have the form **[instance].[method](parameters)**
 - The instance points to where the non-oo (let's call it procedural) version has the object that needs to be processed by the function
- Over the years, users indicated that they would like to use older scripts that they had written over the years
 - 'Scripting mode' (available from the early beginnings) is a nod to that requirement
- Users of simple pipelines especially balked at having to switch around the objects and arguments in their own pipeline stages - these users are only in it for the (mostly compatible) pipelines, not specifically the other NetRexx benefits
- This increases your chance of running an old (but really simple) script unchanged,
 - And greatly reduces the work to get a one-off running quickly
- (And the ultimate retort - you don't have to use it if you don't want to)

```
file: half.rexx
/* rexx */
parse arg number
if datatype(number,'whole')
then say number%2 + number //2
else say ' argument is not a whole number'
```

Static functions

- These implementations of the BIF's are **static** calls
 - Ironically, the greatest benefit is for those that are a bit unsure about the difference between instance methods and static methods
 - You cannot do the usual oo-magic here, but that is the whole point



```
File Edit Options Buffers Tools Index NetRexx Help
package netrexx.lang
options binary decimal strictargs strictcase noformat
/**
 * With this one weird trick ... Rexx is back in 1984
 * Class RexxRex provides static versions of the Rexx
 * to be called without oo notation.
 * Created on: Fri, 01, Apr 2022 13:04:19 +0200
 */
class RexxRex

method RexxRex()

method abbrev(a=Rexx, b=Rexx, length='') static
if length='' then len=b.length()
else len=length
return a.abbrev(b,len)

method abs(a) static returns Rexx signals NumberForm
return a.abs()

method b2d(a=Rexx,dil=Rexx -1) static returns Rexx
return b2d(a,dil)

method b2x(a=Rexx) static returns Rexx
return a.b2x()

method centre(a=Rexx, wid=Rexx, pad=Rexx ' ') static
return a.centre(wid,pad)

method center(a=Rexx,wid=Rexx, pad=Rexx ' ') static
return a.center(wid,pad)

method changesti(a=Rexx,old=Rexx,new=Rexx) static re
return old.changesti(a,new)
```

Use of Colour/Color

- The translator now uses ANSI colour sequences to indicate the difference between warnings and errors
- This is switched on as a default, except for Windows, where we need to wait until more people use a sensible shell
- There are options **-color** and **-nocolor**
 - When **-colour** and **-nocolour** are really needed, we'll see the votes on the issue and will do our homework

Some bug fixes

- a bugfix on an address statement ("variable \$2 already defined") with interruptedexception
- date('j') input format gave incorrect output and is fixed. This version 'century windows' around 75 for compatibility with z/VM CMS Rexx; in a coming release 2-digit years will be deprecated on date'j' input format.

Sysutils

• The SysUtils class by Marc Remes is added to the distribution

• SysUtils is a traditional package that delivers

- sleep()
- I/O Functions
 - File search - search a path
 - File properties (datetime)
 - Create/remove directories
 - SysFileTree
- Mutex Semaphores
- Event Semaphores

NetRexx Trace Interactive

This deserves its own presentation, which Marc Remes will deliver

TRACE INT

Marc Remes

remesm@gmail.com

Nº 3

NetRexx Workspace Developments

What is new and/or fixed in the Workspace

- You can now exit it with the **exit** command
 - I know this isn't a great feat but you don't have to remember what was that again ...?
- The **timer** on the sessions has been fixed
- It now starts up with the timer option (right side of screen) as a default
 - This was the intention earlier but that first starting time was way off - so instead you were shown the session number (which was correct)
- the default prompt changed to 'Ready;' (but both options can still be changed in an \$HOME/nrws.properties file)
- the **pipelines processor** is now loaded by default

Nº 4 Pipelines Developments

Pipelines

- a pipelines example that uses the ADDRESS WITH functionality in a NetRexx script
- Stage **locate** can be abbreviate to locat, loc, lo and l

```
OUT = ''
ADDRESS PIPE WITH OUTPUT STEM OUT
"LITERAL AAP NOOT MIES | SPLIT | REVERSE | CONS"
DO I=1 TO OUT[0]
  SAY OUT[I]
END
```

Nº 5 Documentation and Examples

Documentation

- Programmer's Guide made up to date with currently included scripting environments
- New Date(), Time(), and Stream() (linein, line out, charin, charout) functions documented
- ADDRESS WITH documentation added
-

A wonderful Swing GUI Sample

Thanks to Ruurd Idenburg

```

emacs
FILE EDIT OPTIONS BUFFERS TOOLS INDEX NETREXX HELP
CLASS BezierCurves.DrawCanvas DEPENDENT PRIVATE EXTENDS JPanel -
  ADAPTER IMPLEMENTS MouseListener, MouseMotionListener

  PROPERTIES PUBLIC
  -- FIRST POINT IS START, LAST POINT IS END, IN BETWEEN ARE CONTROL
  POINTS=ARRAYLIST()
  -- CURVEPOINT IS UPDATED EVERY FLATTENING STEP
  CURVEPOINT
  -- SIZE OF A CURVEPOINT
  CURVEPOINTRADIUS = 5
  -- DISTANCE BETWEEN X AND ALSO Y AXES
  SKELETONAXESINCREMENT = 25
  -- THE NUMBER OF FLATTENING STEPS TO CALCULATE THE BEZIER CURVE
  FLATTENINGSTEPS = 10

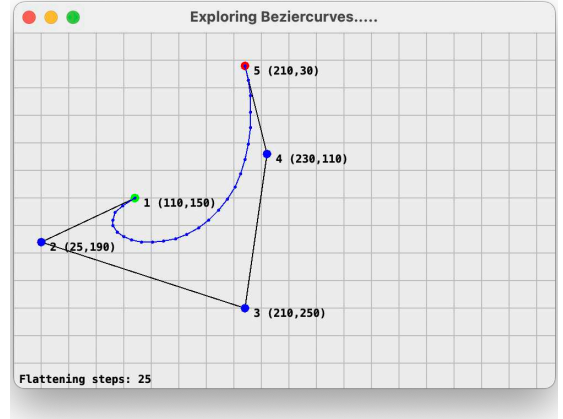
  METHOD DrawCanvas(STEPS)
  -- CREATE THE INITIAL START-, END- AND CONTROL-POINTS
  POINTS.ADD(110 150)
  POINTS.ADD(25 190)
  POINTS.ADD(210 250)
  POINTS.ADD(230 110)
  POINTS.ADD(210 30)
  -- SET THE NUMBER OF FLATTENING STEPS
  FLATTENINGSTEPS = STEPS
  -- SET THE MOUSE LISTENERS WE NEED AND IMPLEMENT
  ADDMOUSELISTENER(THIS)
  ADDMOUSEMOTIONLISTENER(THIS)

  METHOD MOUSEDRAGGED(EVENT=MOUSEEVENT)
  MOVECURVEPOINT(EVENT)

  METHOD MOUSERELEASED(EVENT=MOUSEEVENT)
  MOVECURVEPOINT(EVENT)

  METHOD MOVECURVEPOINT(EVENT = MOUSEEVENT)
  EX = EVENT.GETX()

```



No 6

Recap of the 4.03 changes

(4.03 was released after the 2021 Symposium)

NetRexx 4.03 changes

- - ADDRESS WITH implemented (Marc Remes)
- - a fix for NETREXX-24 (was 148): ITERATE without label is not inside LOOP construct message (Marc Remes)
- - a small fix for the MOD option (Jason Martin)
- - correct slightly erroneous DataIO2.nrx example from NrxRedBk (René Vincent Jansen) (Thank you Terry Fuller)
- - a fix for JavaFX usage with the JPMS (and any other imported module) (Marc Remes) (Thank you Terry Fuller)
- - a new sample how to address https by Ruurd J. Idenburg
- - A Classic Rexx inspired Stream I/O implementation (René V. Jansen)
- (Thank you Leslie Turiff for testing and issue reports)
- - A new example of how to use a Swing Gui by Ruurd J. Idenburg
- - Start of a new organisation of the examples directory by function
- - a 'scripting mode' application adds 'uses RexxDate, RexxStream' to the generated class definition
- - RxJrt now compiles under Java 8 and RxJrtApi.nrx under Java >=9 (Marc Remes)
- - The java2nrx tool has been upgraded to v1.05
- - The distribution package now also contains java2nrx (previously only in source package)
- - in scripting mode, 'parse pull' can be used as an equivalent of 'parse ask'

Nº **7** Next: 4.05

NetRexx 4.05

◆ Your suggestions, please

- ◆ Documentation check and update

- ◆ Might contain
 - ◆ Closer integration of Rexx and String types
 - ◆ Calling natively implemented Rexx libraries

- ◆ Thank you for your attention!

Rexx, Python and Flutter experiences from an EU project – Michael Beer

Date and Time

12 Sep 2022, 18:15:00 CET

Presenter

Michael Beer

Presenter Details

CEO and Founder of mindcoa.ch. Focus on providing psychological online help with AI and validated scientific procedures. Experience in IT, TelCo, Pharma/Health, Media, Tourism, Automotive, Finance. Previous roles include global sales and marketing functions (e.g. IBM). Decades of application development projects with several programming languages including REXX and APL. Large parts of the mindcoa.ch framework are written in Regina, using services of IBM Watson, Microsoft Azure and other providers.

Session Abstract

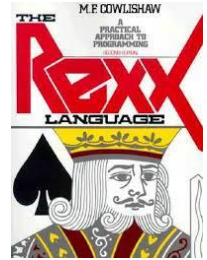
Within the EU AAL framework a stress management solution solution for employees 50+ was developed. The user works with an android-based app, VR-glasses and a device measuring physical stress parameters (HRV). Several programming languages/environments and different backend systems were involved. The presentation covers the system design and special challenges for REXX.

REXX, Python and Flutter

Experiences from an EU Project

M. Beer, 2022

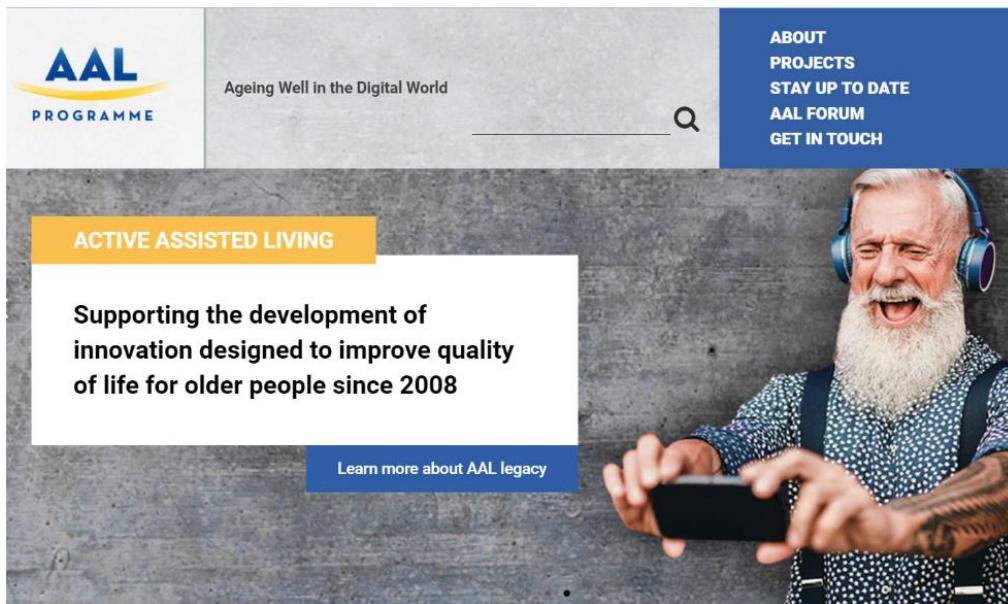
mike@mindcoa.ch



Agenda

- Project Context
- Components
- Functional Overview
- Development Process & Tools
- Challenges

Project Context



AAL is a European programme funding innovation that keeps us connected, healthy, active and happy into our old age.

AAL Programme supports the development of products and services that make a real difference to people's lives – for those facing some of the challenges of ageing and for those who care for older people if they need help.

<http://www.aal-europe.eu>