

WINREXX: PERSONAL REXX FOR WINDOWS

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QUERCUS SYSTEMS

WinREXX

Personal REXX for Windows

- . Background**
- . Current Product and Capabilities**
- . Market Needs and Opportunities**

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The REXX Language

Created by Michael Cowlshaw.

Originally for IBM mainframe timesharing users
(VM/CMS replacement for EXEC II).

Conceived as a "Command Language" running in a
hosted environment (embedded).

Not an IBM product development - grass roots.

Easy to learn and use, designed to be *extensible*.

Keep it Small and Simple philosophy.

Becoming a Standard Language

IBM Systems *had* disparate Command Languages:

Mainframe - MVS/TSO and VM/CMS.

Mini - OS/400.

Desktop - OS/2 (CMD/BAT).

Quercus (Mansfield) delivers Personal REXX.

IBM Chose REXX for *all* their platforms.

ANSI chose REXX as its *newest* standard language.

Commodore embedded AREXX into AMIGA DOS.

The Workstation Group publishes UNIREXX.

Quercus publishes WinREXX.

Personal REXX (DOS and OS/2)

Originally developed as a macro language for
KEDIT, an IBM VM XEDIT compatible editor.

A REXX 4.0 compliant language for DOS & OS/2 -
the REXX for PC's.

A powerful alternative to DOS BAT files and OS/2
CMD files.

A good language for developing simple utility
applications - some useful extensions.

Comprehensive extensions for DOS disk and file
manipulations, e.g. file attributes, free space.

WinREXX 1.x

A REXX 4.0 compliant language processor in a Windows DLL.

**A comprehensive API -
(compatible with the IBM OS/2 REXX API).**

A window for editing and running REXX programs.

A window for REXX program Input and Output.

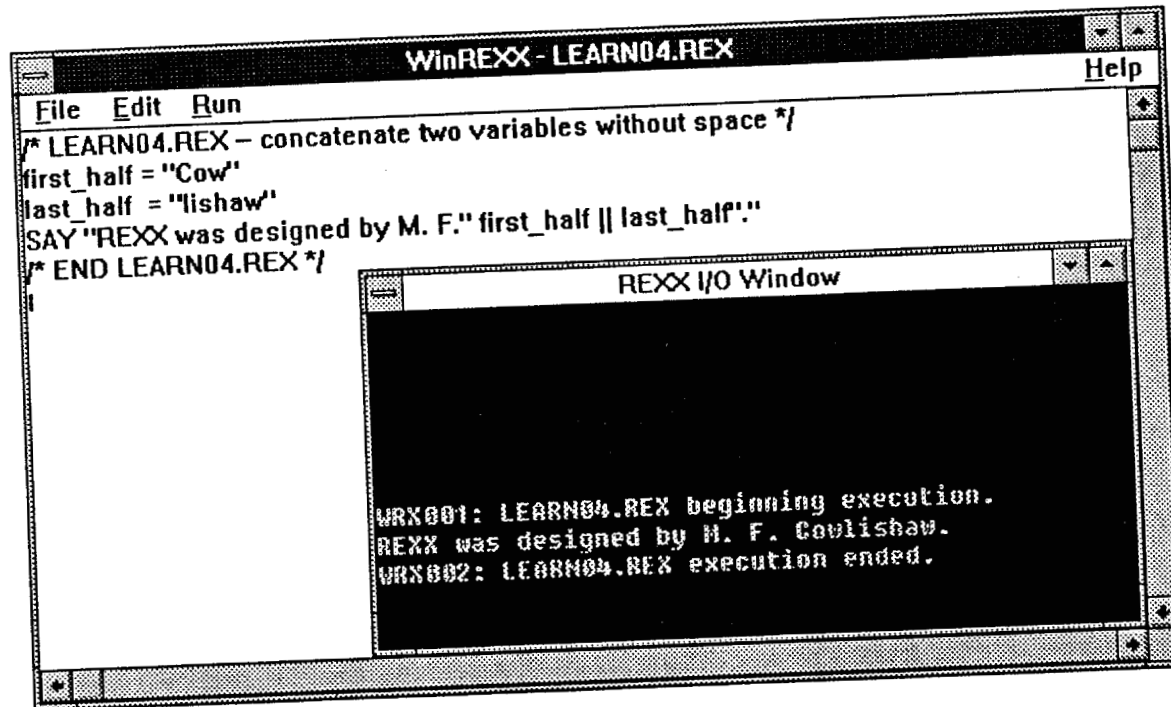
The DOS REXX extensions, e.g. file management.

Windows REXX extensions, e.g. MessageBox.

The heart of a command language for Windows.

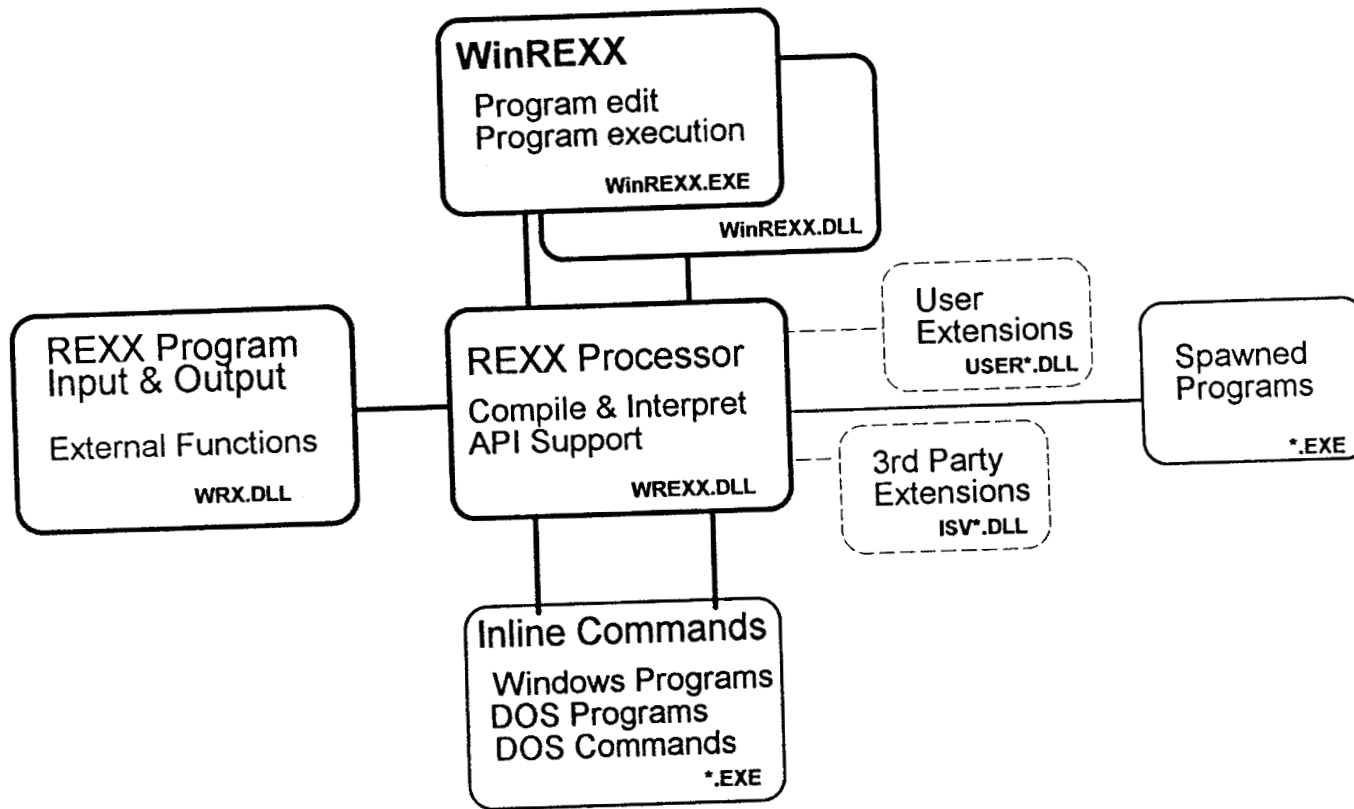
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The WinREXX Windows



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WinREXX's Executable Structure



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Only WREXX.DLL is *needed* for embedded REXX.

Some WinREXX Features

Several sets of Windows HELP

Using WinREXX

Learning REXX

Messages Explanations

The WinREXX API

User Input Alternatives to SAY/PULL

Message/Question/CancelBox

PromptBox

ChoiceBox

Automatic PARSE ARG prompting

Get/Set "INI" file strings

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WinREXX API Capabilities

Run REXX programs.

Create Subcommand environments.

Add External Functions.

Interrogate & Change REXX variables.

REXX Processing Exits, e.g. I/O or Trace.

**Support *multiple concurrent threads* of execution
(from multiple windows tasks)!**

A Command Language for Windows Applications

Windows does not have *any* command language.

Each vendor must write its *own* command language processor.

Each Windows product has its own *proprietary* command language.

The user must learn *many* languages, each different in structure, syntax and commands.

User still can't do what can easily be done in DOS, e.g. directory traversal and file manipulation.

The User Market Need

Users need a single consistent command language:

Macros.

Scripting.

DDE control.

OLE control.

Vendors need a standard embedded language -
without writing their own language processor.

The market needs a central point of control - not a
macro in *every* applications.

There needs to be one powerful "glue" to bind
applications together!

REXX Based Possibilities

REXX extensions for generic DDE and OLE.

A window that "knows" DDE and OLE to popular Windows applications, so users can "link" applications from one "REXX" place.

REXX based control of multi-application OLE - a "cross-application" command language.

WinREXX as a generic OLE Server, with REXX program created Objects (embedded output).

Cross-network support for applications on other platforms, e.g. UNIX, MAC?

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Command Language Competition

Microsoft is variously promoting "System Basic"

Will this be part of NT?

Is Word Basic a prototype for all MS apps.?

(BASIC has a special place in the heart of Bill Gates).

REXX vs. BASIC was part of the IBM - Microsoft
"divorce".

IBM could be an ally, and may be important
depending on the success of OS/2 version 2.

Bridge Batch is a probable competitor
Softbridge promoting as a "common language".

SoftSCRIPT?, WinBatch?

WinREXX

Positioned to become *the* industry
standard embedded command
language for Windows!

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