

## Re: OFF-TOPIC:: Why Lisp is not my favorite programming language

**Source:** [http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/C\\_CPP/comp.lang.c/2004-04/0666.html](http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/C_CPP/comp.lang.c/2004-04/0666.html)

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**From:** Mike Nishizawa ([nish20\\_at\\_netzero.net](mailto:nish20_at_netzero.net))

**Date:** 04/06/04

Date: 6 Apr 2004 13:58:45 -0700

mintiSPAMBLOCK@yahoo.com (Minti) wrote in message  
news:<e87fc4b0.0403221114.254b7ee5@posting.google.com>...  
> [nish20@netzero.net](mailto:nish20@netzero.net) (Mike Nishizawa) wrote in message  
news:<d771b842.0403040735.3b5200ae@posting.google.com>...  
> > *These posts are like big huge neon signs that say, "I'm IGNORANT." If  
> > you hold that 1 language is better than all other languages, then you  
> > ARE ignorant. LISP is a parsing language. It's obviously not made to  
> > do the same things that C is. LISP is extremely fast for processing  
> > data files.*  
> >  
> > *C in not an end-all be-all of programming languages, even though it is  
> > quite robust. For instance, C is great if you are going to develop  
> > software for 1 platform. However, if you are developing software for  
> > multiple platforms, Java is a better choice.*  
> >  
> > *Really these discussions boil down to the programmer him/herself, who  
> > is usually the one at fault for poor performance. I'm not quite sure  
> > when this happened, but at some point programmers started relying on  
> > hardware for fast, efficient software and from that point on, the  
> > quality and emphasis placed on writing efficient programs has  
> > diminished. If you want your code to run faster, make it more  
> > efficient... make it use less resources... and use the right language  
> > for the job. Don't try to fit all things under one umbrella because  
> > that language has not been developed yet.*  
> >  
>  
>  
> *Quite valid arguments. However I have one question to ask, I am quite  
> naive with LISP { just couple of weekends } but I think the OP did  
> raise some doubts in my mind. I mean to me LISP looks right now to be  
> just OK. Some people said that with all the () it is difficult to code  
> in but I think that with proper indentation that is absolutely  
> ludicrous. However when some one says that the code might be 31.?  
> times slower as compared to C, kinda of scares me. Could assert such  
> figures. I know speed is not the one and only goal but just wondering  
> if these figures are correct.*

>  
>  
> *Thanks*

I would ask what the C program is doing. If it beats LISP at it's own game which is, list processing, then that would be different. I don't think I would choose to write an enterprise application in it, but I think it's as good a choice as anything for any type of parsing applications. And to the smart guy who feels like he can take a stab at me for calling lisp a parsing language... consider: a parser is, by definition, something that analyzes or separates (input, for example) into more easily processed components. Let's take a document, for instance. If I wanted to parse the document and separate it into words, I would write a parser to do so. What is a document but a list of words separated by spaces... an especially good application for a LISt Processing language.