

Re: GoTo in Java

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Cobol/comp.lang.cobol/2006-01/msg00459.html>

- *From:* "Pete Dashwood" <dashwood@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 28 Jan 2006 12:35:21 +1300
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"Richard" <riplin@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:1138390683.396793.322920@xx

>> Someone else then translates it to
>> C++. Then I come back, and notice there's a C++ version now. I tell my
>> IDE
>> to translate it to Java, and get something not too bad. I can clean it up
>> a
>> bit, and add it to the docs too.
>
> While that mechanism may be a nice toy for learning different languages
> it would be useless for production code. Who is going to ensure that
> your 'cleaned up' Java now works the same as the Fortran code. If a
> change is made to the C++ how does the Java get the same change.
>
> In may examples what is the Java equivalent of 'for record in file:' ?
> It is several lines of class methods and a while loop. If the Java is
> modified then how could it ever get back to being just the one line ?
>
> Source code translations have been tried for several decades and they
> just don't work. For example you cannot translate C code into Java and
> expect it to magically become object orientated.

>
I've been following this thread with some interest and I understand what Oliver is trying to do. It is a noble idea, but I think Richard has hit the nail on the head in this (and previous) posts.

The effort involved in source translation, and the risks, do not match the rewards.

The point that is being missed entirely here is that the real solution is to NOT maintain source code. (In any language...)

Because of its COBOL and procedural programming roots, this forum is excited by language discussions and the problems attached to source languages. Yet I see people every day, with no knowledge of ANY programming language (apart from scripting, which is not maintained in the traditional sense of code maintenance) producing really impressive applications that run on the web, access databases, share information, and produce reports.

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Component based development means you write code once and do NOT maintain it. (I know there are many places that don't adhere to this and they try and