

## Re: Help from fellow Fortran Users

*Source:* <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Fortran/comp.lang.fortran/2004-01/1005.html>

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*From:* Richard Maine (*nospam\_at\_see.signature*)

*Date:* 01/27/04

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Pierre Asselin wrote:

> *I know I'm not making a good case, it's a bit frustrating...*

So why do you care? Nobody here is telling you that you shouldn't use whatever tools you find best for your applications, whether that includes Fortran or not. You don't really have to justify to us that there is something uniquely peculiar about Fortran in order for us to think it reasonable for you to use other tools. I already think it reasonable...a lot more reasonable than the attempts to overgeneralize.

> *the big difference between Fortran and other compilable languages is that Fortran is truly a high-level language.*

So are some others. My viewpoint is more that C is the "peculiar" one here, though in a way that can be useful. I find C peculiar in that it isn't a very high-level language, but more of a semiportable assembler. But then, that's just as broad a generalization as the ones you have made. Neither yours or mine are really accurate.

> *For whatever historical reasons, C is the portable language today, and Fortran just ain't.*

Now that's just baloney. As Walter said:

Walter Spector <w6ws\_xthisoutx@earthlink.net> writes:

> *Both Fortran and C can be very portable...*

We could trade all variants of portable/nonportable C/Fortran. Many examples of all 4 combinations exist. I won't bother.

This thread doesn't seem to be getting any more useful. Though it is staying polite, it isn't being constructive. I'm going to stick with my position that all the statements about one language being inherently better/worse/peculiar/whatever compared to all other languages are just unjustified generalizations.

comp.lang.fortran: Re: Help from fellow Fortran Users

I haven't seen anything close to a justification here and I don't expect to because I don't think they exist.

Go ahead and use whatever you think appropriate – just don't think that you have to find global justifications for your choice as abstract properties of the language.

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| Good judgment comes from experience;

| experience comes from bad judgment.

| -- Mark Twain