

## Re: Upgrading an OLD (Fortran Powerstation 4.0) compiler

*Source:* <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Fortran/comp.lang.fortran/2005-03/0659.html>

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*Date:* 03/13/05

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"NO ONE uses dos/text"

I face a similar problem: wanting to work with familiar, stable, text-oriented, highly-portable tools, but also to be able to provide a nice interface when useful or necessary without having to learn and hassle with MS-Windows and X-windows programming and constantly upgrade software. One idea that I had was to use HTML forms to provide the interface, text-based Fortran or C/C++ for the calculation engine, and some kind of "Local CGI" to link the text-based code to the HTML forms.

Such a nice, modular approach would yield both portability and simplicity for all: everyone has a web browser capable of handling basic forms (and is used to the web look-and-feel), and text-based programming is simple and fairly uniform across all platforms (e.g., Unix and Windows). You only need to learn standard HTML forms (useful in many contexts) and can continue using your stable, older, text-based tools.

Currently, TCL/TK is a popular way to place gui front-end on text-based, command-line software. You might want to consider that approach. The idea is similar to using HTML forms. TCL/TK is available on Windows and Unix/X-Windows, and is highly portable.

I like the HTML approach better, though, because you do not need to learn a new language when you want to distribute your application across a network---learn once, use again and again! The only issue I have run into is how to do "Local" CGI simply, without installing something like the Apache server on the user's machine. If you are going to place your Fortran stuff on one machine, and the front end(s) on other machines, then there is no issue since you will want to install an http server with CGI capability on the server machine anyhow.

Hopefully my musings will be of some help, or at least get a

discussion going.

Jeffrey Owen Katz, Ph.D.

"Elton" <newsuser@dataforpros.com> wrote in message news:<42322242\$1\_1@127.0.0.1>...

> *Our office has an extensive project that needs to be upgraded badly. It's*  
> *currently in Fortran 77 format using MS Fortran PowerStation 4.0 as the*  
> *complier. I'd keep working with this arrangement except for the need of a*  
> *nice user interface and it seems NO ONE uses a dos/text interface anymore.*  
> *I've found a file from my predecessor with a note that Microsoft turned into*  
> *digital that turned into Compaq, but that's where the trail goes silent.*

>  
> *I'm looking for suggestions / information on upgrading FPS 4.0.*  
> *Alternatively is it possible to integrate FPS with Visual Basic or C++ as*  
> *the frontend interface?*

>  
> *Thanks in advance,*  
> *E.T.*

>  
>  
>

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