

Re: Next Generation of Language

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Lisp/comp.lang.lisp/2007-11/msg00565.html>

- *From:* rem642b@xxxxxxxxxx (Robert Maas, see <http://tinyurl.com/uh3t>)
 - *Date:* Fri, 09 Nov 2007 18:17:37 -0800
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From: Pascal Bourguignon <p...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
You've probably already seen this pyramid with the registers in the top corner, above layers of memories, L1, L2 and now L3, the RAM, the HD, the tapes, etc. We could also add layers for the Internet and the physical world.

RAM is used as cache for the HD. HD is used as cache for the big storage repositories on tapes or CD, or for the Internet. The Internet is used as a cache for the real world. Our computers don't need robotic extensions to access information in the real world, because the real world is cached into the Internet. (Well, it may be useful to have these robotic extensions to allow the computer access the real world itself, instead of having armies of human filling wikipedia and other pages indexed by google).

Hey, I wish I had seen this back when you wrote it, so that I could have nominated it for POTM (Post Of The Month). It's almost like Kent Pittman's great philosophical essays about software.

As for WikiPedia: This is just proper division/specialization of labor. For raw data I agree robots should collect it automatically, and indeed for most astronomy nowadays that is almost exactly what is being done. But for cogitating, humans are at present better skilled than computer algorithms, so humans are still best in those roles. So WikiPedia will continue to be a human work (aided by groupware) in the foreseeable future.

It's only a matter of OS to hide all these details. Use mmap instead of open/read/write/close. Add an imap(2) and call `imap(address, "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raven");`

Or encapsulate it all inside a higher level of abstraction, and call the highlevel method instead directly calling mmap or imap.

Of course, it helps to have a big addressing space.

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We already have it: URLs/URIs etc.

(Hmm, the following visual pun occurred to me just now: URl,
which is a lower-case "el" but looks like an upper-case "eye" in some fonts.
Maybe in the future when I'm not sure whether I am talking about
a URL or URI, I can say "URl" deliberately? If I do, will you spank me??)

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