

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

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Python/comp.lang.python/2004-04/0938.html>

From: Mike Nishizawa (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 (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 is 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.*
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>> *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.*
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>
> *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.