

SCC Project Idea: LISP

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Two weeks ago I started
talking to people

LISP 1.5

IBM 704/709/7090/7094



John McCarthy

▶ “I have nothing.”

Dan Edwards

- ▶ “LISP 1.5 was programmed in assembly language and lived in 4 (or more) long trays of punched cards. It took the best part of case of punched cards to reproduce the system. Getting the system back together after someone dumped a tray of cards was a real chore. We didn't store the source code on the 7 track mag tapes of that era since there was no good way to edit data on mag tapes.

The only other choice would be coming up with a listing of the system. The listings where 3 to 4 inches thick, even on relatively thin paper. Expecting one of those listings to survive 40 years in storage in someones basement or attic is possible but somewhat unlikely.”

Robert Brayton

- ▶ “Unfortunately, I do not have anything left from that era.

Thanks for reminding me of that interesting time.”

Marvin Minsky

► “Wow.”

Joel Moses

- ▶ “I used to have the 7094 source code, similar to the 704 code, which I modified for CTSS in 1965. It had handwritten annotations by some of the original group, possibly including Evans and Hart. I have moved within MIT so many times that I think the code is lost. Although I am a pack rat, and have a historical perspective, my assistants who helped me move usually did not have a similar perspective. Some of the other authors of the LISP 1.5 manual might still have their own versions. Evans and Hart have a small firm in Lexington. I'd ask them.

Good luck. It is a very worthy effort.”

Timothy P. Hart

- ▶ "I gave an early listing of Lisp 1.5 to the MIT Museum. I think it is either there or in the MIT library system.

Good hunting!"

Richard Greenblatt

- ▶ He says there probably are no definitive listings for the 7090 Lisp system because they did most of their work by inserting binary patches into the system. He says the first CTSS port was done this way; that's probably why Joel Moses's listing "had handwritten annotations by some of the original group".

BBNLisp

PDP-1, SDS 940, PDP-6/10

Danny Bobrow

- ▶ “What a great idea. I never had any of the source code for Lisp 1.5 from MIT. The system level for BBNLisp, that eventually became Lisp, was all done initially by Dan Murphy. ... There were of course a number of implementations, from the initial one on the PDP-1 with a drum that Murphy and I described in our CACM paper, to the SDS 940 version, to the PDP-6/10 version that was used for some time, and became the basis for the byte-coded version done at PARC in the early 70's ...

The only material I have from the old days is different Lisp manuals. ”

Dan Murphy

- ▶ “I had a growing collections of old sources up to around 1987. These included things from my years at BBN such as TENEX, BBN-LISP, TELCOMP (!), and many versions of TECO going back to my original PDP-1 version. Unfortunately, I foolishly chose to collect everything from various old media (magtapes, dectapes, paper tapes even) on one large (for the time) removable disk. More unfortunately, the sysadmins at DEC chose to recycle that disk after noticing that no one had used it for a long time. Then even sent the pack to a scrubbing service to make sure no corporate data remained before junking it. I missed heading off this destruction by only a day or so.
...
...”

Interlisp

PDP-10, Alto, D*

L. Peter Deutsch

- ▶ “I'm afraid I have no idea where to look for the Lisp 1.5 sources.

As you know, the complete source code of my tiny little (but functional) Lisp implementation for the PDP-1, dating from ca. 1961-62, was published in the Berkeley & Bobrow book. It was only a few hundred lines of assembler. Someone from DEC whose name has slipped my mind had a project to write emulators for old machines, and I think he said he actually got PDP-1 Lisp running.”

Larry Masinter

- ▶ “I don't have any early Lisp source code (actually, I have very little source code).

I have manuals for little-known variants of Lisp: a Swedish Lisp/370, T, Le Lisp, Kyoto Common Lisp.”

Still waiting to hear from:

- ▶ Michael Levin (MIT Press supplied address)
- ▶ Warren Teitelman
- ▶ Robert Fenichel
- ▶ Henry Baker
- ▶ Richard P. Gabriel
- ▶ Jack Harper

Still planning to contact:

- ▶ Herbert Stoyan
- ▶ Klim Maling
- ▶ Steve Russell
- ▶ Paul Abrahams
- ▶ Jack Holloway
- ▶ Guy Steele
- ▶ Franz Incorporated
- ▶ Richard Fateman