

SNOBOL4 Information Bulletin

The big news in this Bulletin concerns new implementations. In particular, there is, at last, an answer for the many persons who have wanted SNOBOL4 for a personal computer. In fact, there is not just one answer, but two!

SNOBOL4 for the IBMPC

Viktors Berstis has completed an implementation of SNOBOL4 for the IBM Personal Computer. This is a complete SNOBOL4, based on the original SIL implementation, and is called the Minnesota SNOBOL4 Language. A description of features, configuration requirements, and ordering information are contained in a flyer at the end of this Bulletin.

Robert B. K. Dewar and David Shields have implemented Macro Spitbol for the PC. This is a highly efficient implementation of a SNOBOL4 dialect that includes a number of language extensions. More information and a flyer containing ordering information is attached to the end of this Bulletin.

Editor's note: I have copies of both of these implementations. While I have not had enough time yet to make a definitive evaluation, both appear to work as advertised. It is worth noting that Minnesota SNOBOL4 supports the large memory model, while Macro Spitbol is designed to run as efficiently as possible. One of the consequences of this is that 32,767 is the largest integer that can be represented in Macro Spitbol and its data region is limited to 64K bytes. On the other hand, Macro Spitbol runs much faster than Minnesota SNOBOL4—a factor of 20 to 40 seems to be typical. R. E. G.

Other Macro Spitbol News

There has been quite a bit of other activity on the Macro Spitbol front recently. Tony McCann reports an implementation for the PRIME computer range and progress on a version for the BBC micro-processor (not for the 6502 8-bit processor but for the 16-bit second processor). Inquiries should be directed to

A. P. McCann
Department of Computer Studies
University of Leeds
Leeds LS2 9JT
England
telephone: 0542 431751, ext. 6112/6119

The Honeywell GCOS version of Macro Spitbol is now available for distribution from

Peter Fraser
Software Development Group
University of Waterloo
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1
Canada

Macro Spitbol has been implemented for the PRIME 50-Series of computers at Fairleigh Dickinson University. For information, contact

Peter Falley
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Madison, New Jersey 07940
telephone: (201) 377-4700, ext. 406

New SIL Implementations

An implementation of SNOBOL4 for the VAX running under Berkeley UNIX* has been completed at the University of California, Santa Cruz. For information, contact

Denis Severson
Board of Studies in Computer
and Information Sciences
Division of Natural Sciences
Applied Sciences Building
University of California,
Santa Cruz, California 95064

Peter Falley at Fairleigh Dickinson University has completed an implementation of SNOBOL4 for the PRIME 450/550/650 ... This implementation is distributed by PULSE, the PRIME User Group Library. Inquiries should be directed to

PRIME Computer Inc.
Prime Park, MS 15-45
Natick, Massachusetts 01760
Attn: User Group Coordinator

Viktors Berstis has implemented SNOBOL4 for the IBM System/38. Requests for information about this implementation should be addressed to

SNOBOL4
P.O. Box 441
Millwood, New York 10546

Revision of the SNOBOL Bibliography

The SNOBOL4 bibliography, last revised in 1979, is currently being updated. The new version will include the related programming languages SL5 and Icon. Publication is scheduled for later this year and will be announced in a subsequent Bulletin.

In the meantime, contributions of material for this bibliography will be greatly appreciated. User manuals, research reports, theses, and dissertations related to these languages are particularly helpful. Send material to

SNOBOL4 Project
Department of Computer Science
The University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona 85721

Ralph E. Griswold

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