

Dyalog North America Meetup, 11 April 2024

Migrating to Dyalog

Morten Kromberg, CTO

A New Wave of Migrants

- Dyalog APL was created by Dyadic Systems Ltd, when the mainframe business faltered (1981)
- Almost all users of Dyalog APL migrated at some point, from SHARP APL, IBM APL2, APL+Win, or APLX (or DEC APLSF, or ...)
- Waves of migrants
 - Death of mainframes and minicomputers (1980's)
 - Superior support for Windows GUI (1990's)
 - Now, "the cloud" (& a few more mainframes being shut down)

- Dyalog re-invests 90-95% of revenues in
 - Enhancing APL core technology
 - Creating tools for APL developers
 - Marketing APL outside the current APL community
- Headcount now 26, up from 4 before the acquisition in 2005
 - Next generation of developers and toolsmiths has been hired
- Combined revenues of products and services based on Dyalog APL exceeds \$1Bn per year – and is growing

The largest sustained investment in APL technology in the history of the language.

Morten Kromberg





Home >> Business >> Products >> Dyalog

The Dyalog Language Engine

At the heart of Dyalog is an <u>ISO/IEC 13751</u>-compliant APL language engine that has been tuned and optimised for more than 30 years. The current Dyalog language has evolved from a classical APL2-style interpreter into a modern, multi-paradigm programming language. The most important extensions to the original APL language include:

1983: Nested arrays: Any element of an array can be another array (APL2)

1990: Namespaces

- 1995: Control structures (If/Then/Else, Repeat/Until, exception handling, and so on)
- 1996: Functional programming: dfns provide lexical scope and lambda-style expressions
- 2006: Object orientated programming, allowing integration with OO frameworks and Microsoft .NET
- 2014: Point-free or "tacit" syntax similar to that in the J programming language
- 2014: Futures and isolates for parallel programming

New versions of Dyalog are released approximately annually.

Dyalog language engines provide the same language features on <u>all platforms</u> and enable extreme inter-operability; binary workspace images and component files can be shared in real time without conversion between all platforms and TCP sockets can be used to exchange binary data between the platforms.



Selected Features 2006-2024

- Web Server and Web Service Frameworks
- Run APL as a Windows Service
- Public Docker Containers
- Remote IDE for debugging service processes
- Health Monitor for monitoring collections of processes
- Parallel and Asynchronous Execution
- New Data Types:
 - 128-bit Decimal Floating Point
 - Complex Numbers
- Functional Programming (dfns)
- New primitives: Key, Stencil, Where, ...
- Significant steps towards an APL compiler
- Many speed-ups of interpreter algorithms

- Object Orientation
- Microsoft.Net Integration
- HTMLRenderer object embeds Chromium
 Web Browser engine
- 64-bit: *NO* workspace or component file size limits
- Unicode Support incl APL Source in Text Files
- Secure TCP Sockets w/ IPv6 Support
- Encryption Toolkit
- Regular Expressions (PCRE) built-in to APL
- XML and JSON parsers for fast conversion to (and from) APL structures

Vast majority of features are identical across all platforms



Selected Features 2006-2024

- Web Server and Web Service Frameworks **Object Orientation** Run APL as a Windows Service Microsoft.Net Integration Public Docker Containers HTMLRenderer object embeds Chromium Remote IDE for debugging service processes 64-bit: *NO* workspace or component file size limits Health Monitor for monitoring of processes ("Legacy" 32-bit system still available) Parallel and Asynchronous Exe UNICODE SUPPORTINCTAPE SOURCE IN TEXT New Data Types: Files 128-bit Decimal Floating Point Secure TCP Sockets w/ IPv6 Support **Complex Numbers** Functional Programming (dfns) **Encryption Toolkit**
 - New primitives: Key, Stencil, Where, ...
 Significant store towards on ADL correction
 - Significant steps towards an APL compiler
 - Many speed-ups of interpreter algorithms

- Regular Expressions (PCRE) built-in to APL
- XML and JSON parsers for fast conversion to (and from) APL structures

Vast majority of features are identical across all platforms



Dyalog is 100% Cross Platform

- Born under UNIX (Solaris, AIX, ...)
 - Ported to DOS, Windows, Linux (ARM, Intel), MacOS (Intel, Mx)
- Single source for all platforms
 - Workspaces and component files compatible across all platforms
- All tools are tested on all platforms
 - Exceptions where O/S does not provide a feature
 - .NET not under AIX, many Windows features like DDE, COM/OLE, GUI

Remote IDE (RIDE)

- From Windows, Linux or MacOS
- Connect to and debug Dyalog APL running on any platform



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v18.2, Classic	via SSH			~
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Remote IDE (RIDE)

- Connect to and debug Dyalog APL running on any platform
- From Windows, Linux or MacOS
- Or indeed a browser running anywhere...
 - "Zero Footprint RIDE"

RIDE running in a browser

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13 Migrating to Dyalog – DYNA 2024		YN	Λ

Dyalog is "Cloud Ready"

- ARM and Intel Linux versions
- Public Docker containers
- Did I mention the "Remote IDF"?
- Text-based source supports "Continuous Integration"
 - Build & deploy containers on commit or push
- User community starting to gain significant experience
- Working on tools to port Windows GUI to HTML/JS

- Multiple published licencing models
 - Custom contracts available
- Free basic licence for commercial use up to annual revenues of GBP 5,000
- Free download without providing personal details
- Unlimited support (within reason ⁽ⁱ⁾) for users with any type of license



Developer tools are free, cross-platform and mostly open source:

Name	Description	Name	Description			
SQAPL	ODBC Interface (also ADO and ADO.NET)	RConnect	Interface to R			
Jarvis	HTTP/JSON and REST service	MiServer / DUI	Web Application Framework			
	framework	Docker Containers	Published examples			
HttpCommand	HTTP client	Link	Interface to source code management			
SAWS	SOAP service framework					
Conga	TCP and UDP layer	APLProcess	And isolates			
SharpPlot	Business and Technical graphics					
□XML, □JSON, □CSV	Built in to intepreter					



Emerging Tools

Separately Licensed Tools

Name	Description
Link	Interface to source code management
Cider	Project Management
Tatin	Package Manager
NuGet	Interface to .NET Packages
Selenium	Automated GUI testing
Jupyter	Jupyter notebooks containing APL
eWC	JavaScript emulation of Win32 GUI
Arrow & Parquet	Data Science data formats

Name	Description
DFS	Dyalog File Server ("SHAREFILE")
Static Analysis	Static Analyisis of APL Code (code linting and vulnerability detection) Planned for 2025









Contributors to Dyalog/HttpCor × 🥹	HttpCommand × +		- 0)
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Dyalog APL is carefully designed to last. For example:

- Dyalog APL is tightly integrated with .NET
 - ... and still supports the old .NET Framework
 - However, Dyalog APL does not and WILL NOT depend on .NET
 - It also runs under IBM AIX, where .NET does not exist
- Dyalog *will* remain very portable and independent of "temporary" frameworks



- Dyalog APL is fast!
- Core algorithms regularly updated to take advantage of new hardware and new theory
- Research into a compiler continues

The Real Reason to Pick Dyalog APL





HOW to Migrate to Dyalog APL

- 1. From IBM / Logon APL2
- 2. From APL+Win or MicroAPL APLX

From APL2

Relatively straightforward

- A few language differences
- User Interfaces and file I/O are usually handled by cover-functions and possible to emulate automatically
- Linux or Windows apps may be making external calls which will require "tweaking"
- We are considering implementing "format by example" but so far it has not been necessary



Recent / Active APL2 Migrations

Insurance company

- No UI, manipulates text and Excel files
- Handled by European Consulting Partner
- Sandvik (Sweden) in progress: Mainframe APL2 direct to Docker Containers and HTML/svg
 - Handled by Tiamatica in Malmö (Gilgamesh Athoraya)
- BIG Jewellers: Windows
 - Handled by Mark Wolfson himself "with a little help"
- Two more under discussion
 - (Germany, Canada)



Migrated APL2 Mainframe UI

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Migrating to Dyalog – DYNA 2024

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Migrated APL2 Mainframe UI



Migrating to Dyalog – DYNA 2024

From APL+Win or MicroAPL APLX

Same language differences as APL2, plus:

- Many system functions & control structures not found in Dyalog APL
- Double quotes ("Don't do this!")
- More advanced Graphical User Interfaces
- Calls to external libraries







APLX Migrations

- MicroAPL stopped developing APLX in 2016
 - Dyalog hosts a download of the last free version
- Dyalog developed migration tools in 2016
- A handful of users migrated using these tools



→ C 25 github.com/Dyalog/aplx/blob/master/Differences.md

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Differences between APLX and Dyalog APL

Both APL systems are variations on IBM APL2, and most computational code will work unchanged, with automatic translation, or minor manual changes. This repository contains tools to perform automated translation and provide emulations of frequently-used features that are missing from Dyalog APL.

This document lists the emulations provided, the limitations that we are currently aware of, and a discussion of differences that we are unlikely to address unless someone explains why we should. It is very much work in progress; and if you find that there are features that you desperately need, please get in touch to discuss. Contributions of enhancements or additions to the emulations, or simply failing test cases, are all very welcome.

Important Differences

In addition to the emulated features, and language constructs which can be automatically transformed, there are a number of features of APLX which are not supported at all in Dyalog APL, and which we are not currently planning to emulate:

- The wi user interface tool is not provided. Under Microsoft Windows, Dyalog APL provides a similar tool called wc. An emulator for wi, based on wc, is available from Joachim Hoffman; an example of an application converted this tool can be found at https://condim.at/downloads.
 - Dyalog is developing a cross-platform emulator for which will work on all platforms and also run as a web server, expected to

▼ O aplx/Differences.md at master × +

←

C github.com/Dyalog/aplx/blob/master/Differences.md

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Differences.md	 Brackets bind differently: A[2]B[1] is equivalent to (A[2])(B[1]) in APLX, but ((A[2])B)[1] in Dyalog APL. It is difficult to cases of this by searching source code; Dyalog is experimenting with tools which will be able to detect the issue at runtime. 	o detect all
FixCovers.dyalog	• Slashes (/ and \neq) are strictly operators in APLX, but in Dyalog APL they are functions when there is an array on the left. 7	This gives
LICENSE	different results when slashes are combined with other operators. For example $1 \ 0 \ 1/^{-1}$ returns $(1 \ 1)(2 \ 2)(3 \ 3)$ in APLY	< and
README.md	(,1) θ (,3) in Dyalog APL. The equivalent expression in Dyalog APL would be 1.9 16/15.	optly from APLY
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🗋 tools.dyalog	functionality but will need recoding. In this particular case, just delete the code - Dyalog APL has a dynamic Symbol Table a	nd you do not
🗋 xfrcode.dws	need to worry about how big it is.	
🗋 xfrdefs.txt	 Monadic Left Tack (-) returns a shy result of 0 0p0 in APLX, in Dyalog it returns the right argument unchanged. {} can b a result. 	e used to "sink"
xfrpc.aws	• Dyalog APL does not support α picture formatting, and $\Box FC$ cannot be used to control formatting.	
🗋 xfrpcV5.aws	 works differently: In APLX the prompt (if any) is replaced according to PR 	
	 □RL is richer in Dyalog APL, allowing the selection of several different random number generators. In Dyalog APL, □RL+0 "truly" random seed. APLX code should work unchanged but seed-setting functions should be examined and random seque different 	generates a ences may be
	 Note that the default comparison tolerance in (<u>CT</u>) in APLX is 1E⁻13, but 1E⁻14 in Dyalog APL; this could conceivably cau computational differences; you may need to set it explicitly. 	.se
	 APLX variable names can contain a high minus (⁻), this not allowed in Dyalog APL 	

• Dyalog APL does not have 64-bit integers, even in the 64-bit versions.

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###Language Differences There are a handful of core language differences which are difficult to translate automatically and will probably require manual recoding:

- Brackets bind differently: A[2]B[1] is equivalent to (A[2])(B[1]) in APLX, but ((A[2])B)[1] in Dyalog APL. It is difficult to detect all cases of this by searching source code; Dyalog is experimenting with tools which will be able to detect the issue at runtime.
- Slashes (/ and /) are strictly operators in APLX, but in Dyalog APL they are functions when there is an array on the left. This gives different results when slashes are combined with other operators. For example 1 0 1/"i3 returns (1 1)(2 2)(3 3) in APLX and (,1)θ(,3) in Dyalog APL. The equivalent expression in Dyalog APL would be 1 0 10/"i3.
- In Dyalog APL, with the default Migration Level (_ML←1), monadic ↑ is mix, ⊃ is first, and = (depth) works slightly differently from APLX.
- <u>accepts system commands (X+<u>+</u>')SYMBOLS') in APLX but not in Dyalog APL. System functions and I-Beams can provide the same functionality but will need recoding. In this particular case, just delete the code Dyalog APL has a dynamic Symbol Table and you do not need to worry about how big it is.

 </u>
- Monadic Left Tack (⊣) returns a shy result of 0 0p0 in APLX, in Dyalog it returns the right argument unchanged. {} can be used to "sink" a result.
- Dyalog APL does not support α picture formatting, and \Box FC cannot be used to control formatting.
- 📋 works differently: In APLX the prompt (if any) is replaced according to $\square PR$
- Note that the default comparison tolerance in (<u>CT</u>) in APLX is 1E⁻13, but 1E⁻14 in Dyalog APL; this could conceivably cause computational differences; you may need to set it explicitly.
- APLX variable names can contain a high minus (⁻), this not allowed in Dyalog APL
- Dyalog APL does not have 64-bit integers, even in the 64-bit versions.

Recent / Active APL+Win Migrations

- Two European Insurance companies
 - One with GUI, completely rewritten in Dyalog APL, the other a pure service converted to Jarvis in Linux containers
 - Handled by a European consulting partner
- METSIM[®] in progress
 - Migration being handled by Dyalog
 - Will be used to develop tools to automate migration, including the Graphical User Interface
- Meeting one more potential migrant next week

Differences which are "easy"

1 0 1/ ABC' 'DEF' 'GHI'

'ABC' 'DEF' 'GHI' vs 'ABC' 'GHI'

Not supported in Dyalog

Convert to {}Y



Migrating to Dyalog – DYNA 2024

←Υ

Other "Easy" Differences

XLIB

System function not in Dyalog

```
R+∆XLIB X
X,+'*'↓<sup>~</sup>≠X
:If 0∈pR+t⊃[NINFOE]1+X
:If v/'?*'∈X
R+0 0p''
:Else
'XFHOST ERROR FindFirstFile 1 0 3 The system cannot find the path specified.'
[SIGNAL 22
:EndIf
:Else
R+R[↓R;]
:EndIf
```

Difficult Differences

A B[I]

f.g when f or g are not scalar functions

:LeaveIf

A (B[I]) or (A B)[I] ?

Detect and rewrite

Enhance Interpreter

The Hard Parts

- User Interfaces (especially Graphical)
- Component Files
- Other I/O (e.g. SQL Databases)
- External Library Calls

The Elephant in the Room: **UVI**?

- Austrian APL consultant Joachim Hoffman has an emulator for sale as part of consulting projects
- Dyalog is building a new emulator for the METSIM® migration
 - Our goal is that no significant changes to application code will be required
 - METSIM[®] screen shots follow
 - Many thanks to Alex Holtzapple, CEO of MSI



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ORGANIC	0	aNiSO4	0.0119156	14.124588	246.47556		0	8	0.8235821	976.26044	17035.849
MOLTEN	0	aCoSO4	0.0004037	0.4786549	8.3525794		Na	11	0.0000077	0.0091656	0.1599409
MATTE	0	aCo2 (SO4)	0	0	0		Mg	12	0.0309770	36.719704	640.76276
SLAG	0	aFeSO4	0.0000014	0.00167	0.0291416		Al	13	0.0002659	0.3152151	5.5005383
GAS	0	aFe2SO43	0.0002499	0.2962831	5.1701727		Si	14	0	0	0
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Contrl C	0	aCaSO4	0.0015753	1.8674523	32.587241		Ca	20	0.0004637	0.5497767	9.5936633
Temp C	25	aCr2SO43	0.0000057	0.0067845	0.1183903		Sc	21	0.0006129	0.7265744	12.678801
Temp F	77	aCuSO4	0.0004087	0.4845496	8.4554426		Cr	24	0.0000015	0.0017990	0.0313930
Pres kPa	101.325	aMgSO4	0.1533737	181.80664	3172.5452		Mn	25	0.0011638	1.3795873	24.073946
Pres kPag	0	aMnSO4	0.0031988	3.7918587	66.168338		Fe	26	0.0000703	0.0833716	1.4548443
Pres psia	14.695949	aNaCl	0	0	0		Co	27	0.0001535	0.1819971	3.1758691
Pres psig	0	aNa2CO3	0	0	0		Ni	28	0.0045199	5.3579245	93.496354
Time	1	aNa2SO4	0.0000238	0.0283146	0.4940931		Cu	29	0.0001627	0.1929071	3.3662496
Gal/min	3408.8166	aNaOH	0	0	0		Zn	30	0.0000072	0.0086240	0.1504899
L/sec	215.06279	aSc2(SO4)	0.0025775	3.0553814	53.316732						
L/min	12903.767	aZnSO4	0.0000179	0.0212951	0.3716020						
M3/hr	774.22605	aS04-	0	0	0						
NM3/hr	772.28958	aNH3	0	0	0	-					

Status

- We just started reworking and enhancing the APLX tools
- Will enumerate differences between APL+Win and Dyalog
- Will create emulation functions as required
- We *may* also decide to add new features to Dyalog v20 (which should start user testing in late 2024)
 - For example :LeaveIf



Status

- Dyalog has been contracted to port the METSIM[®] application
- Hired one new APL developer, thinking about another
- We will have ~1.5-2 full time equivalent resources working on migration tools until further notice
- All the resulting tools and documentation will be free and open source

Limbering Up

 APL+WIN comes with a handful of GUI demonstration applications



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Convert the ATF file to Dyalog Source files

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Migrating to Dyalog – DYNA 2024								

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APL Source in Text Files

- Text files are now the recommended vehicle for Dyalog APL source code
- Workspaces will continue to be supported "forever"
 - For distribution
 - For crash dump analysis
 - For old timers who refuse to change \odot

Extension	Content
.apla	Array
.aplc	Class
.aplf	Function
.apln	Namespace
.aplo	Operator

Benefits of Text Source

- New developers will feel at home immediately
- Apply mainstream Source Code management tools
 - Git, Subversion, Mercurial, ...
- Also use 3rd party frameworks for Continuous Integration, Testing
- Your auditors will be pleased



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Next, map code from APL+Win to Dyalog

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atfmap.txt

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Take advantage of Git and VS Code

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Original APL+Win code

Dyalog



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DVNA

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= :Select 1⊃,⊆args
:Case 'W_Init'
    r+'' '' (₹1↓2 □NQ '.' 'GetCommandLineArgs')
:Else
    'This WCALL not currently supported' □SIGNAL 11
:EndSelect
```









"DeltaWi" status

- We started a few weeks ago, while also training a new APL recruit
- Priorities will be driven by METSIM[®] migration
 - (and any samples that you send us to help us prepare)

Component Files

- We are planning to develop an APL+Win COM server that will allow the use of APL+Win component files from Dyalog APL
- Avoid the need for "big bang" data migrations
 - Component files can be migrated over time
- You may need a runtime license for APL+Win



Planning a Migration

- 1:1 GUI emulation of APL+Win GUI?
 - Grid components may demand some recoding
- Service Orientation
- Cloud Deployment
- Web-based UI
- 64-bit?
- Unicode?

Preparing for a Migration

- Will you need to run the original and migrated versions in parallel?
 - In most cases, this *will* be necessary for some weeks, months or years
- Will the original code continue to change during the period?
 - Consider a compatibility layer to insulate code from platform differences
 - Consider using Git to merge changes from old to new platform

Preparing for a Migration

- While you wait for the migration to start, write regression tests (if you don't already have them)
- The value of this cannot be overstated

 Regression tests will be useful before the migration, of course [©]

Let us know your plans!

- We're actively working on a migration now
- Knowledge about other potential migrations will help us get ready for yours



