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4.1 Language Services

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4.1.1 Overview and Rationale

While a consistent interface to the operating system is essential for applications portability, the application will have been developed using language and system development tools that, in turn, require to be supported by standards to achieve source code portability.

Those responsible for system or software development will wish to write programs in code supported by an international standard and compile the code using a compiler that has a certificate of conformance issued by an accredited test center. Noncompliant extensions must be avoided if applications portability is to be maintained. Compilers should identify nonstandard-compliant code.

The languages that have been identified in this document are those seen to be in most popular use today for software development. The POSIX.2 shell command D
language is discussed in 4.9. The standards identified are the most widely recog- D
nized today, with significant use in the Information Technology industry on a broad range of processors, or where a large installed base of a particular version is known to exist.

4.1.2 Scope

The services described in this clause cover the most widely used third-generation computer languages in use today for the development of applications; i.e., the languages used to write application programs. Fourth-generation languages are not currently addressed in this guide. In order for a program to address an API to the services described in other clauses of this guide, an appropriate language binding to that interface is required. References to those bindings will be found in the clause describing the relevant service.

4.1.3 Reference Model

This subclause identifies the entities and interfaces supporting language services. The reference model based on the reference model in Figure 3-1 is illustrated in Figure 4-1, but because the language services directly support the binding of the applications to the API, there is no EEI. However, the EEI is shown in Figure 4-1 for consistency.

At the simplistic level, the programmer developing an application that requires only basic operating system services will use a compiler that meets both the fundamental language standard (e.g., ISO 1989: 1985 for COBOL, ISO 1359: 1990 for D
Fortran) and the binding established for the relevant system calls in POSIX.1 {2}.

As identified in 4.10, an application program may also require database services that will be provided by the Database Manager API. The database vendor will

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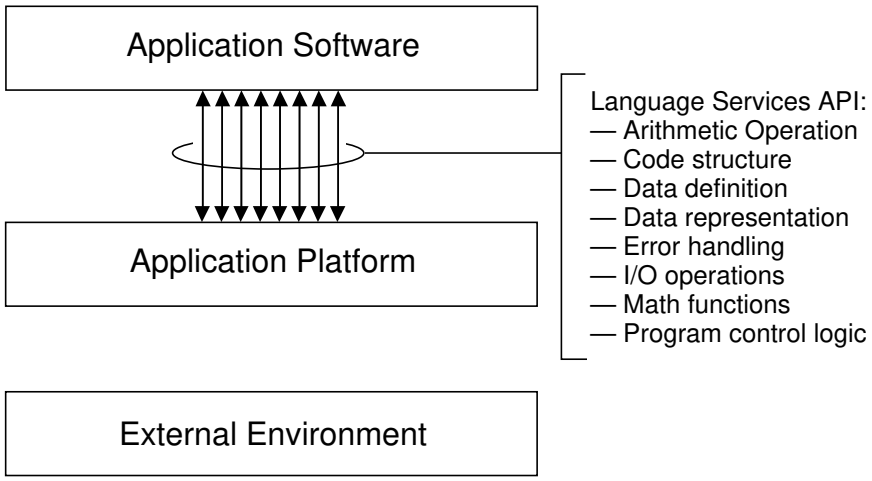

Figure 4-1 – Language Service Reference Model

offer an API to meet the requirements for the popular programming languages.

In a POSIX Open System Environment the intention is that support is provided for all languages identified in 4.1.4.

4.1.4 Service Requirements

Programming language services provide the basic syntax and semantic definition for use by a software developer to describe the desired application software function. While most clauses in this guide provide a comprehensive list of services, in the case of languages many services are a unique function of the language specification. Rather than extend the size of this guide, the detail is more appropriately found in the relevant language manuals and supporting standards.

4.1.4.1 Application Program Services

Programmers require the ability to compile a program in the language of their choice. The selection of a particular programming language for the development of an application may depend on a variety of factors, including the capability to provide some of the functions listed here: D

— Arithmetic operation

— Code structure

— Data definition

— Data representation

— Error handling

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— I/O operations

— Mathematical functions

— Program control logic

The programming languages identified in this clause are:

Ada
APL
BASIC
C
C++
COBOL
Common LISP
FORTRAN
Pascal
PL/1
Prolog

As well as making reference to the relevant language standard, where a programmer requires to call other services, e.g., seeks access to graphics kernel system, it will be necessary to refer to the relevant language binding to those services. Language bindings are identified in the Standards subclause, 4.*n*.10, of each service clause in Chapter 4. D

4.1.4.1.1 Ada

Ada is a procedural language based on the Pascal programming language. It is capable of processing both numerical and textual data, and has the key attributes of:

— Strong data typing

— Data abstraction

— Structured constructs

— Multitasking

— Concurrent processing

Although Ada was developed initially for military purposes, it is considered suitable for a variety of business and industrial applications.

4.1.4.1.2 APL

APL is a language and interactive programming environment oriented around multidimensional arrays of characters and numbers. It uses an extremely compact notation based on powerful primitive functions and function-combining operators. Revisions to the language are in preparation to permit single array elements to contain arrays.

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4.1.4.1.3 BASIC

BASIC is an interactive and procedural language with some similarity to FORTRAN. It is readily learned by non-computer-literate individuals. Commonly used for educational purposes, it has also been adopted in a variety of business and commercial applications running on small business systems. BASIC offers:

— Conversational statements

— Free style input

— Segmentation of complex statements

— Six significant digits of accuracy

— Mathematical functions

4.1.4.1.4 C

C is a general purpose procedural language that was developed for the UNIX operating system. It offers the control and data structure of a high-level language and the efficiency of primitive operators that have made it very suitable for system programming.

4.1.4.1.5 C++

C++ has evolved as a superset of C and may be viewed as a procedural language, while at the same time offering the capability for object-oriented programming. The concept of an object-oriented language is to define data objects that include sets of operations to manipulate the data, and so direct these objects to apply the necessary operations which comprise the application.

4.1.4.1.6 COBOL

COBOL is a procedural language designed originally to meet the needs of business. It permits use of natural words and phrases, enabling the language to be adopted by non-technical writers with a basic appreciation of information processing. The language offers file organization features, variable data length, input/output procedures, and report generation.

4.1.4.1.7 Common LISP

LISP is an interactive nonprocedural language. The basic entity is the symbolic expression which is either an atomic symbol or a list structure. A list is a set of items in a specific order. Lists can be variable length and dynamically adjusted; the items can be of different type.

4.1.4.1.8 FORTRAN

Though originally developed for processing scientific problems the language is widely used in commercial and educational applications. It is a procedural language whose grammar, symbols, rules, and syntax are simple mathematical and English-language conventions. Its focus is on numerical computation, using

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simple concise statements, operating on small amounts of input data and little text.

4.1.4.1.9 Pascal

This is a procedural language that is particularly effective in structured programming and was designed to help programmers in rapid error detection. It is highly efficient, handling both numerical and textual data. It is considered very suitable for small system applications such as typesetting, editorial work, computer aided design (CAD), and manufacturing processes. D D

4.1.4.1.10 PL/1

This is a procedural language introduced to offer in one language the strengths of both COBOL and FORTRAN ; i.e., serving both the business and scientific communities. It has the FORTRAN strength of simple statements, coupled with the ability, as in COBOL , to manipulate data and organize files. It is block structured, facilitating good programming techniques.

4.1.4.1.11 Prolog

This language, like LISP , is nonprocedural and has an emphasis on description rather than on action. It is described as pattern-directed role-based programming using definitions of conditions established within the program to satisfy a query. It is of particular value in applications of artificial intelligence, for constructing expert or knowledge-based systems.

4.1.4.2 External Environment Interface Services

Not applicable.

4.1.4.3 Interapplication Software Entity Services

Not applicable.

4.1.4.4 Language Resource Management Services

Not applicable.

4.1.5 Standards, Specifications, and Gaps

4.1.5.1 Current Standards in the POSIX OSE

Most of the languages referenced in this clause are supported by International Standards; Table 4-1 provides a summary.

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Table 4-1 – Language Standards Activities

Service	Specification	Subclause
Ada	ISO 8652	4.1.5.1.1
APL	ISO 8485	4.1.5.1.1
BASIC	ISO 6373	4.1.5.1.1
C	ISO/IEC 9899	4.1.5.1.1
C++	n/a	4.1.5.3.2
COBOL	ISO 1989	4.1.5.1.1
Common LISP	n/a	4.1.5.3.2
FORTRAN	ISO 1539	4.1.5.1.1
Pascal	ISO 7185	4.1.5.1.1
PL/1	ISO 6160	4.1.5.1.1
	ISO 6522	4.1.5.1.1
PROLOG	n/a	4.1.5.3.2

4.1.5.1.1 International Standards

Ada

ISO 8652: 1987 is the current version of the international standard for Ada, which was an endorsement of the ANSI standard 1815A-1983.

APL

ISO 8485 is the current version of the international standard for APL.

BASIC

ISO 6373: 1984 is the current version of the international standard for minimal BASIC.

C

ISO/IEC 9899 is the current version of the international standard for the C language.

COBOL

ISO 1989: 1985 is the latest version of the international standard for COBOL, which was an endorsement of the ANSI standard X3.23-1985. An Addendum is in process at present entitled ‘‘Intrinsic function module.’’

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Fortran D

ISO 1539: 1990 is the latest revision of the international standard for Fortran. D

Pascal

ISO 7185: 1983 is the current version of the international standard for Pascal, which was an endorsement of the British standard BS 6192-1982.

PL /1

ISO 6160: 1979 is the current version of the international standard for