Medley Interlisp

March 2023

Interlisp.org

- DEMO-OVERVIEW (this file)
- DEMO-FEATURES (maybe other DEMO-FEATURE-XXX)
- DEMO-PROJECT (what have we been doing/demos)

What is Medley Interlisp?

- The software for the Xerox Lisp machines, developed from 1960's (BBN), thru 1970's and 80's (Xerox), and 90's (Envos, Venue)

- ACM Software System Award 1992

   *The features of **structure editing**, **source code management**, **code analysis** and **cross-referencing** combined to support **rapid incremental development**. The 1992 ACM Software System Award was awarded to the Interlisp system for pioneering work in programming environments.*

- Then: expensive, slow, unwieldy, and ... unavailable

- Now: on modern hardware of all sizes, 1000 times faster

Medley Interlisp is an IDE

In Interlisp, you could refer to a function you hadn't written yet, run your code until it broke, and from the break have it pop open an editor with the signature of your function. You could also inspect the values of the arguments passed. You could then write the function and continue the computation.

Similarly if your code broke with an error, you could edit the function on the stack to correct the error, and continue the computation. ...

When demonstrating this capability in Interlisp.the response was along the lines of "why would I ever want that?" ... If you've never used an environment focused on programmer productivity you have no idea how to even think along those lines. -- Simon Brooke