

Here's the long-awaited translation of your "group interview" in Super ASCII. Bear any resemblance to things you said?

What parts of the development of Interleaf 5 required the most effort?

English: Because Interleaf 5 uses both C and Lisp, we worked hard to maintain the conformity, namely consistency in the architecture of each module written by C with the parts actively linked in Lisp.

Slaney: We already support Interleaf 5 in 14 languages, so we really worked hard on the overall consistency. I might also mention Graphics, because it was an effort to integrate them as frames rather than as a separate element.

Dionne: In the Japanese composition, I worked hard on the kerning of mixed text with Japanese characters and English letters.

English: We are developing the software for more than 12 platforms at the same time. We also feedback Q&A from about as many beta-sites as we have staff engineers, and we test that on all these platforms.

Dionne: I can say with pride that we constantly perform extremely rigorous quality checks.

--What is the development language for Interleaf 5?

Slaney: All internal code is in C, and the expanded part which customizes an Active Document is in Lisp.

English: We are implementing dynamic links for code written in C, C++, and other languages. Other languages are a lot harder to debug than Lisp. It's very effective as a DDL.

--What language do you like best as a programmer?

Everyone: Lisp! After using C and C++, you really appreciate the performance. And Lisp is relatively easy to learn.

-- What is the most superior characteristic of Interleaf 5 from an engineer's point of view?

English: The fact that its is so thoroughly object-oriented.

Mark S. Dionne

Development manager. Has been in charge of Interleaf development since 1983. Worked mainly on the tables package and on composition, both English and Japanese. Key member of Japanese product development. Studying Japanese language hard in order to develop Japanese composition.

Patrick Slaney

Interleaf fellow. In charge of Interleaf 5 development since 1985. Primarily responsible for graphics and pagination.

Paul English

Interleaf fellow. Joined 1989. Responsible for Active Document, access from Lisp, and the User Interface.

Thanks to nozomi for translation. Any errors are mine.