Why did IBM develop still another computer language?

Why did we develop PL/I—Programming Language/One?

Why didn't we let well enough alone?

You have FORTRAN for the bulk of your present computing.

You have IBM Assembler Language to provide direct entry to every SYSTEM/360 feature.

So why PL/I?

Basically, to have one language that will provide the ease of programming you have long associated with FORTRAN, plus the increased machine efficiency you realize through the use of the Assembler.

Truly, PL/I reflects the better features of each of these languages.

And PL/I is user-oriented—developed in cooperation with many of our customers who suggested many of its features.

Use only what you need

You use PL/I according to your immediate needs.

If you're less familiar with computers and programming or your computing problems are less demanding, you learn and use only portions of PL/I—learning more only as your needs grow.

If you're more experienced in programming techniques or your computing problems demand maximum effort, then you can use the full power of PL/I immediately.

PL/I makes it easier to integrate data communications in your system. It complements the computing power of SYSTEM/360.

PL/I doesn't obsolete FORTRAN. FORTRAN will still be used and IBM will continue to fully support its growth.

PL/I is not the perfect solution to every problem. But it is better and quicker in solving many advanced applications like computer-aided experimentation, and simulation of continuous systems.

Once you start using PL/I, you'll be glad we didn't let well enough alone.

SYSTEM/360—The Computer with a Future.

IBM.

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