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INVITED-TALK

Virtual Machines: Should We Keep Doing Them? (Invited Talk)

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University of Buenos Aires

Published: 11 March 2024

[Citation in BibTeX format](#)

«Programming'24: 8th International
Conference on the Art, Science, and
Engineering of Programming
March 11 - 15, 2024
Lund, Sweden

Virtual Machines: Should We Keep Doing Them? (Invited Talk)

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ABSTRACT

Virtual machines are software components that require high development efforts in order to obtain efficient implementations. In the past decade, the GraalVM has made it possible to cut the costs of language implementation through the use of Java as the mother of all VMs. However, a pressing question remains: Can we replicate this success in a platform that is truly open, widely available and without requiring special support from the host environment? This talk delves into the Powerlang experiment, which explores a runtime system enabling languages to operate atop JavaScript. The aim is to get the most out the JIT and GC capabilities that JS implementations provide. Rather than striving to develop the fastest VM, we investigate strategies to optimize the performance of our language within engines like V8, and explore the benefits and disadvantages of this approach.

ACM Reference Format:

Javier Primás. 2024. Virtual Machines: Should We Keep Doing Them? (Invited Talk). In *Companion Proceedings of the 8th International Conference on the Art, Science, and Engineering of Programming (Programming Companion '24)*, March 11–15, 2024, Lund, Sweden. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 1 page. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3660829.3661029>

BIOGRAPHY

A fan of high-level programming, specially high-level low-level programming. Have been mixing Smalltalk and assembly code for more than a decade. Spent the last decade working on Smalltalk VMs with particular interest in self-hosted metacircular ones. Working on Egg Smalltalk, before that on Bee DMR project, and previously in Squeak No-Operating-System project for my MSc. At the university, I teach about computer architectures, compilers, assembly and operating system programming.

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Programming Companion '24, March 11–15, 2024, Lund, Sweden

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ACM ISBN 979-8-4007-0634-9/24/03

<https://doi.org/10.1145/3660829.3661029>