

The Package Man

Original song by Billy Joel
Lyrical adaptation by Lucian Smith

When I came to this group,
I knew none of you,
But I wasn't shy on the list
And soon you all voted me editor,
An offer I couldn't resist.

<harmonica>

The problem that I had to deal with
Was to make nested models with ease
It may seem like malarkey,
but comp hierarchy
Is how I gained my expertise
[la la-la diddy da.. la la diddy da.. da
dum]

Write us a spec, you're the package man,
Write us a spec this year
We'll all argue the choices you make for
us
Nonetheless: you must persevere.

<harmonica, piano 2x>

Mike Hucka from Caltech's a boss of mine,
Who thought it wouldn't be out of place
If I helped out with groups,
and could marshal the troops
Of req, distributions, and space

[higher:]

All the best conversations are late at
night,

But God knows I never drink beer,
I hold forth 'bout Github
while I sit in the pub

And think, “Man, what am I doing here?”

[la la-la diddy da.. la la diddy da.. da
dum]

[low]

Now Jim Schaff is following Ion again,
As he travels the streets of Paris
If you ask him 'bout spatial,
the look on his face'll
Say "Why did you have to ask me?"

<harmonica>

[higher:]

And Nicolas started the Multi spec,
But it died, withered out on the vine.

But there's no need to cry,
'cause a man named Fengkai
Brought it to life one more time.

[piano interlude—no la's]

[high:]

Write us a spec, you're the package man

Write us a spec by May

'Cause we think that COMBINE'd be a
really good time

When we meet again in LA

[harmonica; piano x2; low:]

Frank Bergman and Brett worked out FBC,
Which started life as FBA
They both spent their time on
that COBRA and Python
And forced both those snakes to obey.

[high:]

And Claudine organized all the qual folks
And worked out what they had to extend

‘Twas our own Sara Keating,
not here at this meeting

Who carried the torch to the end.

[la la-la diddy da.. la la diddy da.. da
dum]

[high:]

We all wrote you specs; we're the package
folks

Now released to the public domain.

Got two implementations;

with luck, publications,

But we'll laugh if you ask us again.