Diplomat

Polyglot tool to use rust from other languages

Jan Cristina

2025 April 1

About me

Day Job: Head of AI at Starmind. Mostly work in Scala and Python. Some Typescript. Have been able toinject some rust code. More to come.

Rust experience: Started learning in 2020, been programming on the side since then.

What I like about rust: Speed is nice, but correctness is better, e.g. resources are cleaned up when they go out of scope. No accidental mutation. Other things are things I like in Scala too: ADTs, exhaustive matches, functional patterns for collections/iterators.

github: @jcrist1

mastodon: @gigapixel@mathstodon.xyz

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@manishearth is the primary maintainer, but several other active contributors. I'm quite far down on the list, with main contribution being the Kotlin backend

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Language specific tools: PyO3, Napi

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What do we get on the other side?

For an opaque type we generate a class. This generated class will wrap the Wrapper> returned from the native code, i.e. it holds onto a pointer:

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internal interface WrapperLib: Library {
    fun Wrapper destroy(handle: Pointer)
    fun Wrapper new(): Pointer
class Wrapper internal constructor (
    internal val handle: Pointer,
   // These ensure that anything that is borrowed is kept alive and not cleaned
   // up by the garbage collector.
   internal val selfEdges: List<Any>,
   internal class WrapperCleaner(val handle: Pointer, val lib: WrapperLib) : Runnable {
       override fun run() {
            lib.Wrapper destroy(handle)
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companion object {
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   internal val lib: WrapperLib = Native.load("somelib", libClass)
   fun new (): Opaque {
       val returnVal = lib.Opaque new();
       val selfEdges: List<Any> = listOf()
       val handle = returnVal
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