Forth user's manual

AIM 65

advanced interactive microcomputer

Rockwell International

...where science gets down to business

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SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

FORTH is a unique programming system that is well suited to a variety of applications. Because it was originally developed for real-time control applications, FORTH has features that make it ideal for machine and process control, data acquisition, energy and environmental management, automatic testing, and other similar applications. The speed performance of assembly language is required in many of these applications, however a high-level language is often desired to improve program development productivity and program reliability. FORTH is designed to satisfy both speed and programming efficiency requirements.

FORTH can be called a computer language, an operating system, an interactive compiler, a data structure, or an interpreter, depending upon your point of view. It was designed to combine the strengths of both compilers and interpreters. The result is a unique language based on pre-defined operations that minimizes software development time and costs, supports structured programming and program modularity, compiles interactively to ease debugging and to reduce programming errors, compacts into small object code, and executes extremely fast. Additional words may be defined to allow usage by non-programmers.

AIM 65 FORTH in ROM combines the benefits of FORTH and the features of the AIM 65 Microcomputer with its resident printer, display, keyboard, and interactive Monitor and Text Editor firmware, to produce a standalone development and run-time system.