Article
Robert Cemper · Mar 8, 2022 2m read

ePython - mixed or pure ?

You may have seen my series of articles on GlobalToJSON closing with **Embedded Python**.
And to me, Embedded means inside a Class and not PEX or other external variants.
The first variants showed that ePy is not an ultimate requirement. ISOS/COS may do it as well.
Here I try to position ePy inside IRIS.

I'll start with ePy pure.

Based on my previous positive experience with AoC2021-rcc and other excellent examples
this looked like a fast and simple exercise. And of course, calculations and communications
at Object Level (Classes) or using SQL work perfectly.
This is not a big surprise since Objects and SQL are standards in Python.

But Globals and $List() structures are unique to IRIS (and Caché).
There is the access module **iris.grep** that covers some basic access.
Besides some required improvements its use is not really intuitive and requires some exercising.
Also, no surprise as this is a different data storing culture.
You might compare it to a different character set that has no Accents, Trema, Cedilla, or Tilde.
More drastic: 7bitASCII vs. UTF-8

The experience with ePy mixed is much more motivating.
The whole organization is split into the components where the language fits best.
A few ClassMethods in ISOS/COS do what they are best at:
- scanning, retrieving and writing globals.
- composing and decomposing $LIST() structures.

My recommendation to you:
Let every language do what it is best at [sounds a bit like LUKE 20:25]
My examples have shown that solutions are possible in the 2 extreme pure versions.
But the most attractive to me is the **mixed** one accepting the natural limits.

Or would you consider writing a disk or network driver in Python?

#Embedded Python #Globals #ObjectScript #InterSystems IRIS