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CLU Reference Manual

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History of CLU

The development of CLU began in January 1974. By the summer of 1975, the first version of the language had been completed. Over the next two years, the entire language design was reviewed and two implementations were produced. Based on this review, and on the experience gained in using CLU, a second version of the language was designed in the fall of 1977. Since then two more implementations have been produced.

A preliminary version of this manual appeared in July 1978. Since that time, an additional statement for exception handling, an own variable mechanism, and three new built-in type generators have been added to the language, and a number of minor changes have been made to the I/O facilities. A second version of the manual appeared in October 1979. Since that time, a few operations have been added to some of the built-in types, and more minor changes have been made to the I/O facilities.

Guide to the Manual

This document serves both as an introduction to CLU and as a language reference manual. Sections 1 through 4 present an overview of the language. These sections highlight the essential features of CLU, and discuss how CLU differs from other, more conventional, languages. Sections 5 through 13 form the reference manual proper. These sections describe each aspect of CLU in detail, and discuss the proper use of various features. Appendices I through III provide concise summaries of CLU's syntax, data types, and I/O facilities. Appendix IV contains example programs.

Those readers wanting an introduction to CLU should read Sections 1 through 13 in order, concentrating on Sections 1 through 4, 8, 9, and 13. Appendix IV should also be of interest. After becoming familiar with CLU, specific questions can be answered by consulting Sections 5 through 13 and Appendices I through III.

We would greatly appreciate receiving comments on both the language and this manual. Comments should be sent to Barbara Liskov, Laboratory for Computer Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 545 Technology Square, Cambridge, MA 02139.

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