

*This 5-minute lightning talk
was given by Tim Bunce
at OSCON 2007*

Database interfaces for open source languages suck

Database interfaces for Java, C#, VB etc also suck, but are much more functional
Perl has its own database drivers, as do Python, Ruby, PHP, tcl etc etc
Just about every open source language has its own database drivers
Some even have more than one set of database interfaces and drivers

They're all limited

They're all different

They're all duplicating
development effort

They're All limited

Most provide access to a fraction of database client functionality

They're All different

Even the ones modelled on the DBI differ in significant ways

They're All duplicating development effort

So much more could be achieved if the same effort was focussed on fewer drivers that could be shared across languages

Diversity is good, but this is madness.

We need a common database driver
API for Parrot and Perl 6

All drivers can implement the common API,
then any parrot language can use any driver

Mature, Stable, Functional,
Object Oriented

Well documented,
ideally with a test suite

Well known to a wide user base

Well known to driver developers

We need an API that is...

JDBC

No, not Java, just the JDBC API

The class and method names,
the semantics
the documentation

The only good fit is the Java JDBC API

“JDBC is the new ODBC”

So I'm proposing that the JDBC API specification be the common database driver API for Parrot

The goal being to be able to use the official JDBC docs as the primary docs for the API

Actually, not plain JDBC

Sanitize the worst influences of Java

Easier to use for dynamic languages

Language interface layer adapts the JDBC API to the particular needs of that language

DBI2 for Perl 6

JDBC as DBI \leftrightarrow DBD API

Language interface layer adapts the JDBC API to the particular needs of that language

What's already happened

JDBC.pm for perl5 using Inline::Java

What's happening currently
“plumbing”

java2perl6 API translator
Java SE 6: Java Scripting API

I'm working on a PDBC module now, in Perl 5
that's kind-of-a subclass of JDBC that adds DBI-like methods.
I'm mentoring a Summer of Code project by Bálint Szilakszi
to explore a perl6 pugs implementation of the DBI v1 API with perl5 PDBC as the
backend.

Next steps?

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Interested?

Tim.Bunce@pobox.com