



Mainz, April 30th 2024

Migrating to Dyalog

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A New Wave of Migrants

- Dyalog APL was created by Dyadic Systems Ltd in 1981
 - To replace mainframe APL systems
- Almost all users of Dyalog APL are migrants
 - from SHARP APL, IBM APL2, APL+Win, APLX, or DEC APLSF, or ...
- Waves of migrants
 - Death of mainframes and minicomputers (1980's)
 - Superior support for Windows GUI (1990's)
 - Now, "the cloud" (& a few more mainframes being shut down)

- Dyalog re-invests 90-95% of revenues in
 - Enhancing APL core technology
 - Creating tools for APL developers
 - Marketing APL outside the current APL community
- Combined revenues of products and services based on Dyalog APL exceeds \$1Bn per year – and is growing

Selected Features added 2006-2024

- Web Server and Web Service Frameworks
- Run APL as a Windows Service
- Public Docker Containers
- Remote IDE for debugging service processes
- Health Monitor for monitoring multiple processes
- Parallel and Asynchronous Execution
- New Data Types:
 - 128-bit Decimal Floating Point
 - Complex Numbers
- Functional Programming (dfns)
- New primitives: Key, Stencil, Where, ...
- Significant steps towards an APL compiler
- Many speed-ups of interpreter algorithms

- Object Orientation
- Microsoft.Net Integration
- HTMLRenderer object embeds Chromium
 Web Browser engine
- 64-bit: *NO* workspace or component file size limits
- Unicode Support, APL Source in Text Files
- Secure TCP Sockets w/ IPv6 Support
- Encryption Toolkit
- Regular Expressions (PCRE) built-in to APL
- XML and JSON parsers for fast conversion to (and from) APL structures

Most features identical across all platforms



Developer tools are free, cross-platform and mostly open source:

Name	Description
SQAPL	ODBC Interface (also ADO and ADO.NET)
Jarvis	HTTP/JSON and REST service framework
HttpCommand	HTTP client
SAWS	SOAP service framework
Conga	TCP and UDP layer
SharpPlot	Business and Technical graphics
□XML, □JSON, □CSV	Built in to interpreter

Name	Description
RConnect	Interface to R
MiServer / DUI	Web Application Framework
Docker Containers	Published examples
Link	Interface to source code management
APLProcess	And isolates



Emerging Tools

Name	Description
Cider	Project Management
Tatin	Package Manager
NuGet	Interface to .NET Packages
Selenium	Automated GUI testing
Jupyter	Jupyter notebooks containing APL
eWC	JavaScript emulation of Win32 GUI
Arrow & Parquet	Data Science data formats

Separately Licensed Tools

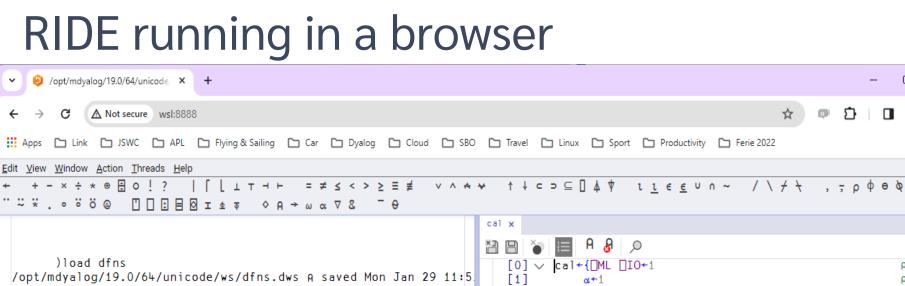
Name	Description
DFS	Dyalog File Server ("SHAREFILE")
Static Analysis	Static Analyisis of APL Code (code linting and vulnerability detection) Planned for 2025

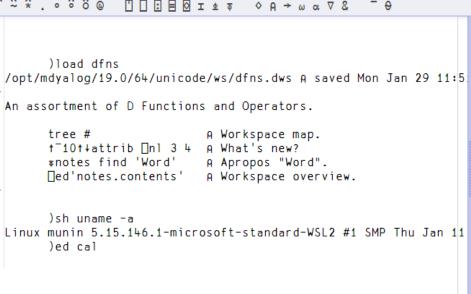
Dyalog is 100% Cross Platform

- Born under UNIX (Solaris, AIX, ...)
 - Ported to DOS, Windows, Linux (ARM, Intel), MacOS (Intel, Mx)
- Single source for all platforms
 - Workspaces and component files compatible across all platforms
- All tools are tested on all platforms
 - Exceptions where O/S does not provide a feature
 - .NET not under AIX, many Windows-only features like DDE, COM/OLE

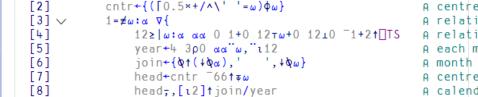
Remote IDE (RIDE)

- Connect to and debug Dyalog APL running on any platform
- From Windows, Linux or MacOS
- Or indeed a browser running anywhere...
 - Interpreter can serve up RIDE as a web app





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```



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months + Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4

day+days vvvv mm 1

&: 1 DQ: 0 TRAP SI: 0 TO: 1 ML: 1 Pos: 0/25,1

yyyy mm+ω



Q2+'April ' 'May ' 'June Q3+'July ' 'August ' 'September'~"' ' Q4+'October' 'November' 'December '~"' '

A 1st qu A 2nd A 3rd A 4th

A month

A year a A epoch mms dds+2+1↓↓bdate dav+-1+131 a 31 mon

Dyalog is "Cloud Ready"

- ARM and Intel Linux versions
- Public Docker containers
- Remote IDE
- Text-based source supports "Continuous Integration"
 - Build & deploy containers on commit or push
- User community starting to gain significant experience
- Working on tools to port Windows GUI to HTML/JS



- Dyalog APL is fast!
- Core algorithms regularly updated to take advantage of new hardware and new theory
- Research into a compiler continues



Dyalog APL is carefully designed to last. For example:

- Dyalog APL is tightly integrated with .NET
 - ... and still supports the old .NET Framework
 - However, Dyalog APL does not and WILL NOT depend on .NET

Migrating to Dyalog

It also runs under IBM AIX, where .NET does not exist

Dyalog *will* remain very portable and independent of "temporary" frameworks

The Real Reason to Pick Dyalog APL



































HOW to Migrate to Dyalog APL

- 1. From IBM / Logon APL2
- From APL+Win or MicroAPL APLX

From APL2

Relatively straightforward

- A few language differences
- User Interfaces and file I/O are usually handled by simple cover-functions and possible to emulate automatically
- Linux or Windows apps may be making external calls which will require "tweaking"
- Considering implementing "format by example" but so far it has not been necessary

- '555-5555' \(\pi\nums\)
- Easy to model in APL if necessary



Recent / Active APL2 Migrations

- Insurance company
 - No UI, manipulates text and Excel files
 - Handled by European Consulting Partner
- Sandvik (Sweden) in progress: Mainframe APL2 direct to Docker Containers and HTML/svg

- Handled by Tiamatica in Malmö (Gilgamesh Athoraya)
- **BIG Jewellers: Windows**
 - Handled by customer "with a little help"
- Two more under discussion
 - (Germany, Canada)



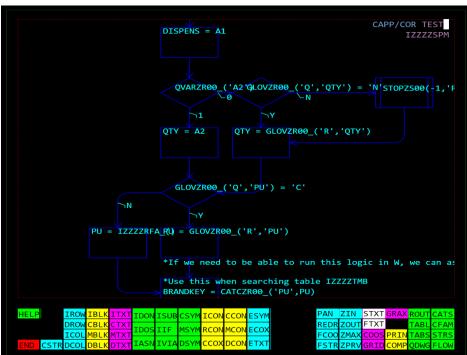
Migrated APL2 Mainframe UI

```
Locate Sort
CAPP/COR TEST ----- Routine definition - variables -----
Routine....: X802WM
                                             Saved: 23-10-05 12:04 by: STC
Description...: TEST AV SOAP GETLANGS WEBSERVICE
Open for enhanced dialog: Y Yes/No
Prompt variable that contains the information "grade":
        Cha
Var.
        Num Length Type Send Explanation
                                                               Line 20
                                                                         of 99
Name
                             ARTICLE
BART
                             ARTICLE
                             DUMMY
                             CHARACTER DUMMY
CA1
                             DUMMY
CA<sub>2</sub>
                             DUMMY
CA3
                             DUMMY
CA4
                             DUMMY
CA5
                             DUMMY
CA6
                             DUMMY
CB
                             CHARACTER DUMMY
                             CHARACTER DUMMY
CD
                             CHARACTER DUMMY
                             CHARACTER DUMMY
CF
                             CHARACTER DUMMY
                             CHARACTER DUMMY
                            CHARACTER DUMMY
CHA
                             CHARACTER DUMMY
CHA1
CHA2
                             DUMMY
F1=Help
             F3=End
                         F6=Prompt
                                        F7=Up
                                                    F8=Down
```

```
<u>Loc</u>ate <u>S</u>ort
CAPP/COR TEST ----- Routine definition - variables -----
                                                                 23-11-10 13:04
Routine....: X802WM
                                             Saved: 23-10-05 12:04 by: STC
Description...: TEST AV SOAP GETLANGS WEBSERVICE
Open for enhanced dialog: Y Yes/No
Prompt variable that contains the information "grade":
       Num Length Type Send Explanation
                                                              Line 20
                                                                        of 99
                             CHARACTER DUMMY
                             CHARACTER DUMMY
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                             CHARACTER DUMMY
                             CHARACTER DUMMY
                             CHARACTER DUMMY
                            CHARACTER DUMMY
                             CHARACTER DUMMY
             F3=End
F1=Help
                         F6=Prompt
                                        F7=Up
                                                   F8=Down
```

Migrated APL2 Mainframe UI





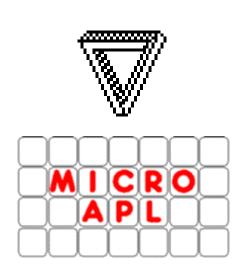


From APL+Win or MicroAPL APLX

Migrating to Dyalog

Same language differences as APL2, plus:

- Many system functions & control structures not found in Dyalog APL
- Double quotes ("Don't do this!")
- Advanced Graphical User Interfaces
- Calls to external libraries



APLX Migrations

- MicroAPL stopped developing APLX in 2016
 - Dyalog hosts a download of the last free version
- Dyalog developed migration tools in 2016

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Recent / Active APL+Win Migrations

- Two European Insurance companies
 - One with GUI, completely rewritten in Dyalog APL, the other a pure service converted to Jarvis in Linux containers
 - Handled by a European consulting partner
- METSIM® in progress
 - Dyalog engaged to perform this migration
 - Will be used to develop tools to automate migration, including the Graphical User Interface
- Met one more potential migrant last week



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Differences which are "easy"

```
/ is sometimes a function in Dyalog APL
1 0 1/"'ABC' 'DEF' 'GHI'
                                      'AC' 'DF' 'GI'
                                      'ABC' 'GHI'
      Translate /" to •/"
←Υ
                                      Not supported in Dyalog
      Translate + to {}
```

Other "Easy" Differences

DXLIB

System function not in Dyalog

```
R←∆XLIB X
X, \leftarrow ' * ' \downarrow \sim \not\equiv X
:If O∈ρR←↑⊃□NINFO⊡1⊢X
     :If v/'?*' \ X
          R←0 0p' '
     :Else
          'XFHOST ERROR FindFirstFile 1 0 3 The system cannot find the path specified.'
                                                                                                       ΠSIGNAL 22
     : FndTf
:Else
     R \leftarrow R[AR;]
:EndIf
```

Tricky Differences

A B[I]

f.g when f or g are not scalar functions

Fortunately, these are very rare in practice

:LeaveIf

A (B[I]) or (A B)[I] ?

Detect and rewrite

Enhance Interpreter



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The Hard Parts

- Component Files
- User Interfaces (especially Graphical)
- Other I/O (e.g. SQL Databases)
- External Library Calls

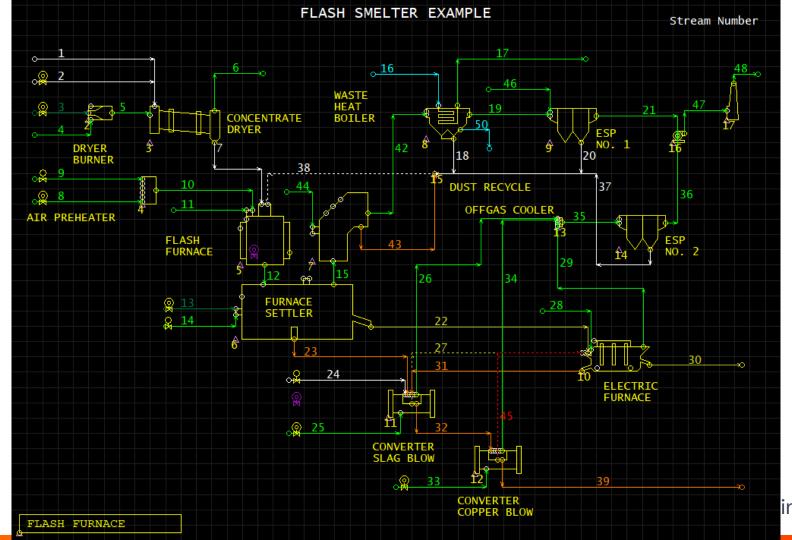
Component Files

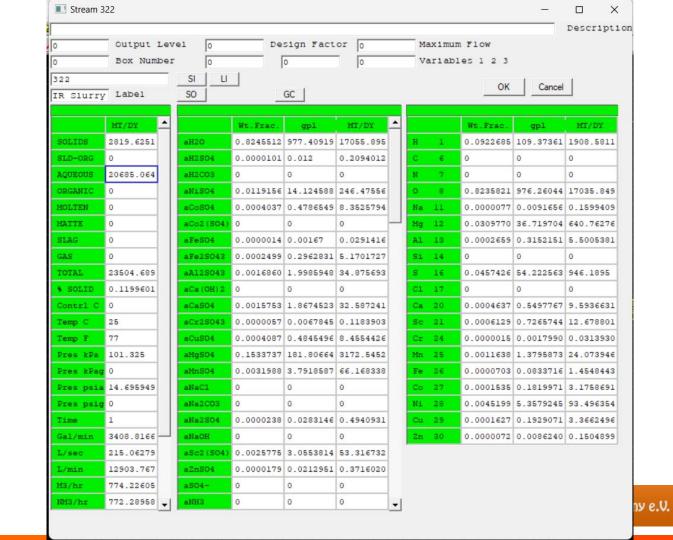
- We will develop an APL+Win COM server to read/write APL+Win component files directly from Dyalog APL
- Avoid the need for "big bang" data migrations
 - Component files can be migrated over time

The Elephant in the Room: **WI**?

Dyalog is building an emulator to support the METSIM® migration

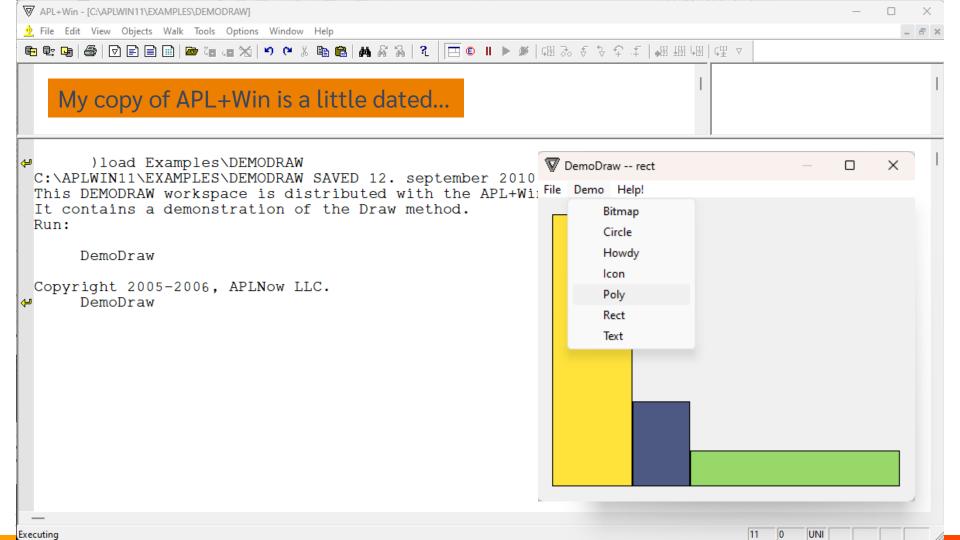
- Our goal is that no significant changes to application code will be required
- METSIM® screen shots follow
 - Many thanks to Alex Holtzapple, CEO of MSI

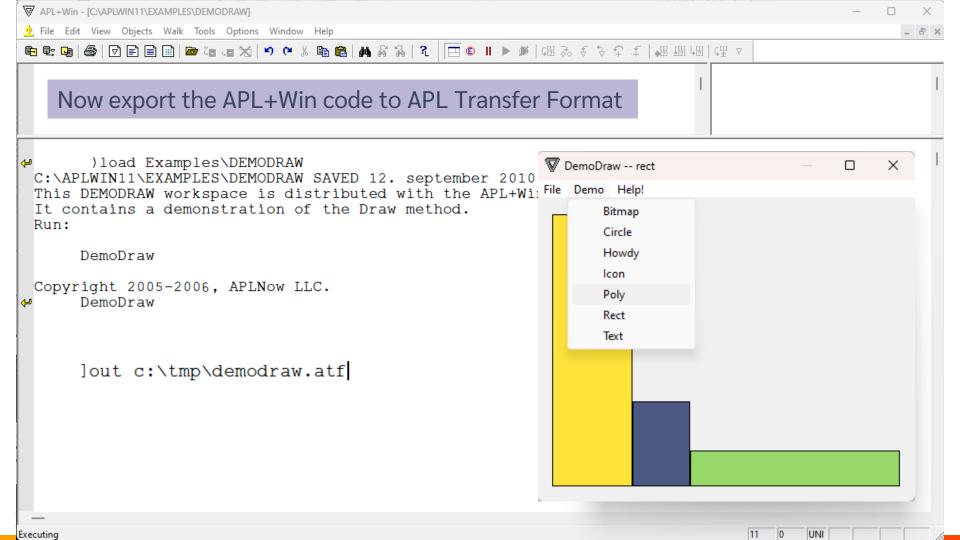




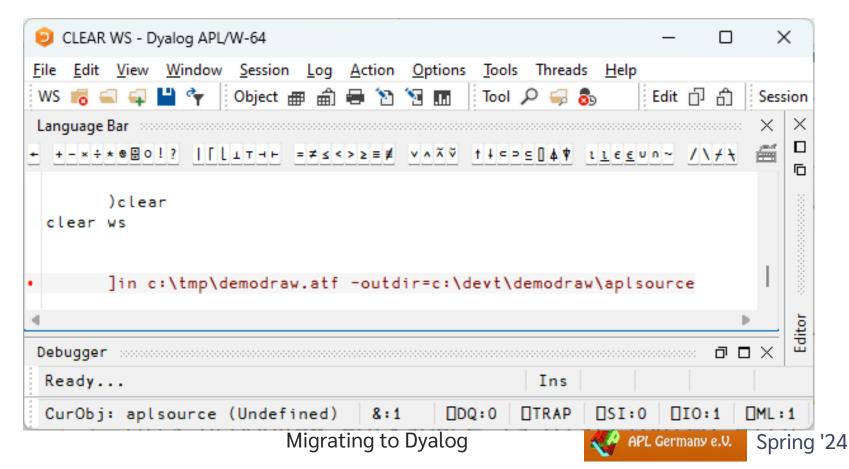
Practicing

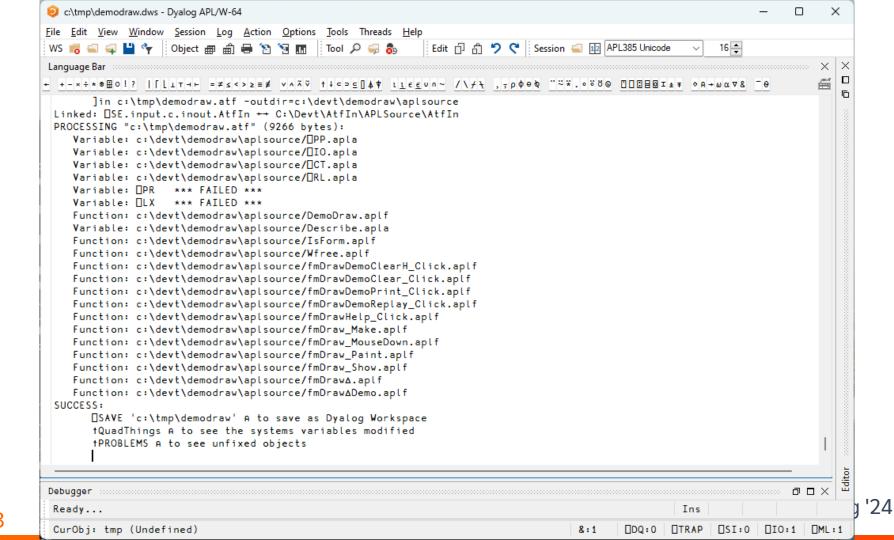
APL+WIN comes with a handful of GUI demonstration applications

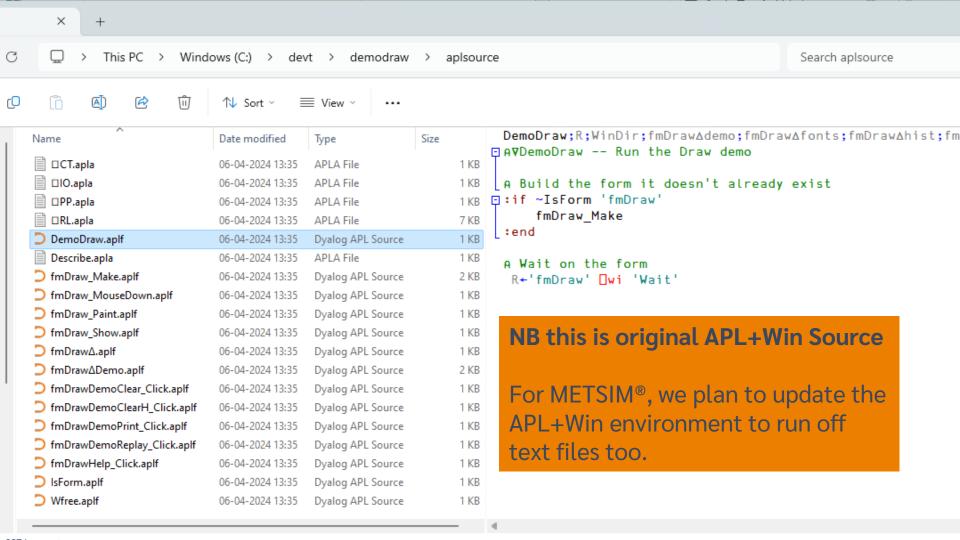




Convert the ATF file to Dyalog Source files







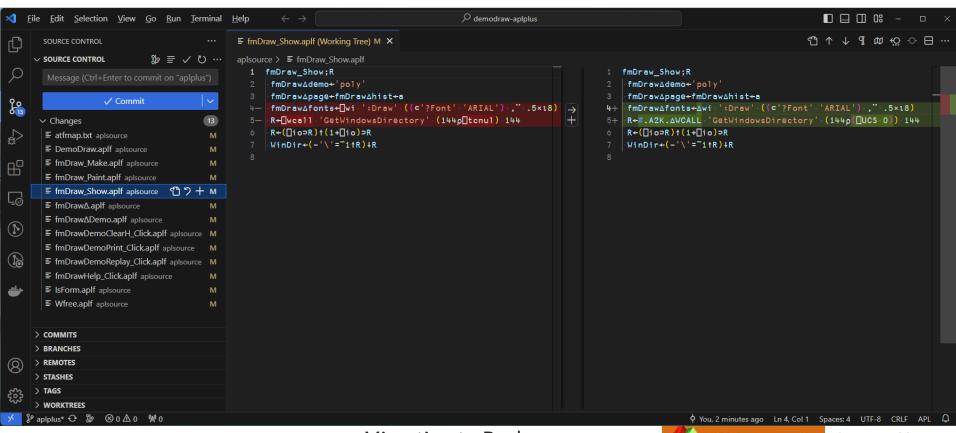
Next, map code from APL+Win to Dyalog

```
]todyalog aplsource c:\devt\demodraw\dyalog a2k
Using c:\devt\demodraw\aplsource\atfmap.txt
20 files processed
```

atfmap.txt

```
\Box TCBEL\%(\Box UCS 7)
:catch%:else
                                   ∏FSTIE%#.A2K.ΔFSTIE
:catchall%:else
                                   ΠFTIE%#.A2K.ΔFTIE
                                                                      TTCBS%(Tucs 8)
:endtry%:endtrap
                                                                      ☐TCESC%(☐UCS 27)
                                   □HTOPIC%#.A2K.∆HTOPIC
:returnif%→0/~
                                                                      \Box TCFF\%(\Box UCS 12)
                                   □IDLIST%#.A2K.∆IDLIST
:try *%:trap 0
                                   ΠIDLOC%#.A2K.ΔIDLOC
                                                                      □TCHT%(□UCS 9)
:try%:trap 0
                                   ∏INT%#.A2K.ΔINT
                                                                      □TCLF%(□UCS 10)
; □ALX%; △QALX
                                   □KEYLOG%#.A2K.ΔKEYLOG
                                                                      □TCNL%(□UCS 13)
;□ELX%;∆QELX
                                   ΠKEYW%#.A2K.ΔKEYW
                                                                      \Box TCNUL\%(\Box UCS 0)
; □SA%; △QSA
                                   ∏LIB%#.A2K.ΔLIB
                                                                      ☐TYPE%#.A2K.ΔTYPE
;□WSELF%; △WSELF
                                   □LIBD%#.A2K.∆LIBD
                                                                      □UCMD%#.A2K.∆UCMD
□ALX%∆QALX
                                   □LIBS%#.A2K.∆LIBS
                                                                      □UCS%#.A2K.∆UCS
                                                                      □USERID%□AN
ΠALX+%#.A2K.ΔSetALX
                                   ΠLOG%#.A2K.ΔLOG
□AV%#.A2K.ΔAV
                                   □MF%□MONITOR
                                                                      ΠVI%#.A2K.ΔVI
ΠCHDIR%#.A2K.ΔCHDIR
                                   ΠMIX%#.A2K.ΔMIX
                                                                      ΠWCALL%#.A2K.ΔWCALL
                                   □NA%#.A2K.ΔNA
□CHDIR%#.A2K.∆CHDIR
                                                                      □WGIVE%#.A2K.ΔWGIVE
□CN*%□N
                                   □PEEK%#.A2K.ΔPEEK
                                                                      ΠWI%#.A2K.ΔWI
□CRLF%(□UCS 13 10)
                                   □PENCLOSE%⊆
                                                                      ΠWIN%#.A2K.ΔWIN
□CURSOR%#.A2K.∆CURSOR
                                   □PFKEYS%#.A2K.∆PFKEYS
                                                                      ΠWINDOW%#.A2K.ΔWINDOW
□DEF%□FX
                                   □POKE%#.A2K.ΔPOKE
                                                                      □WKEYS%#.A2K.ΔWKEYS
ΠDR%#.A2K.ΔDR
                                   ΠPOKES%#.A2K.ΔPOKES
                                                                      ∏WSELF%∆WSELF
□ELX%∆QELX
                                   ∏REPL%/
                                                                       □WSSIZE%(2000±0)
\BoxENLIST%{\Boxml\leftarrow1\leftrightarrow\epsilon\omega}
                                   ∏SA%∆QSA
                                                                       □XFDUP%#.A2K.∆XFDUP
                                    Migrating to Dyalog
                                                                      APL Germany e.U.
                                                                                   Spring '24
```

Take advantage of Git and VS Code



Original APL+Win code

```
    fmDraw_Show.aplf (Working Tree) M X

aplsource > ≡ fmDraw_Show.aplf

1    fmDraw_Show; R

2    fmDrawΔdemo+'poly'
3    fmDrawΔpage+fmDrawΔhist+a
4-    fmDrawΔfonts+□wi-':Draw'-((c'?Font'-'ARIAL')-,"-.5×18)
5-    R+□wcall-'GetWindowsDirectory'-(144p□tcnul)-144
6    R+(□io¬R)+(1+□io)¬R
7    WinDir+(-'\'=-1+R)+R
8
```

```
Converted to Dyalog
```

```
So what is #.A2K. \( \Delta WCALL ?\)
```

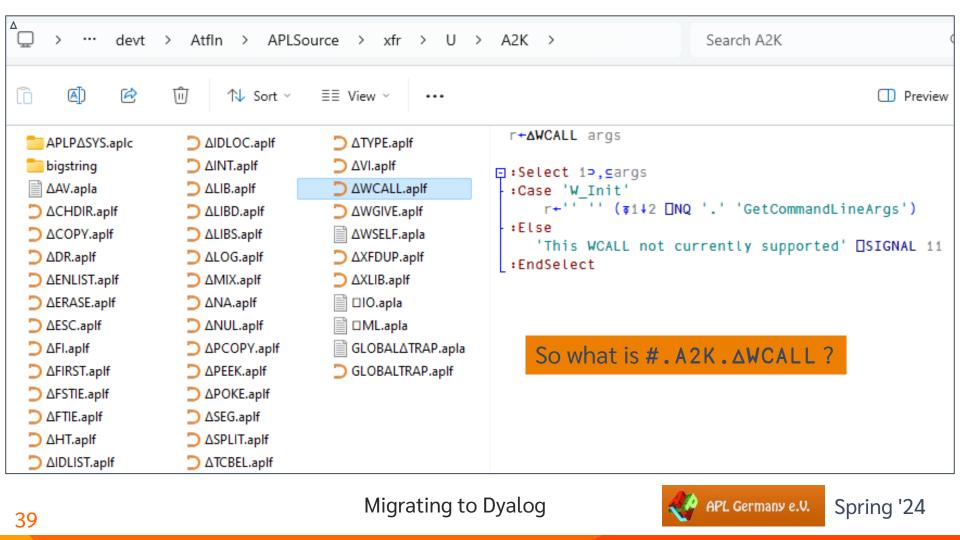
```
fmDraw_Show;R
fmDrawΔdemo+'poly'
fmDrawΔpage+fmDrawΔhist+a

++ fmDrawΔfonts+Δwi ':Draw' ((⊂'?Font' 'ARIAL') ," .5×18)

R+#.A2K.ΔWCALL 'GetWindowsDirectory' (144ρ(□UCS 0)) 144

R+(□io⊃R)†(1+□io)⊃R

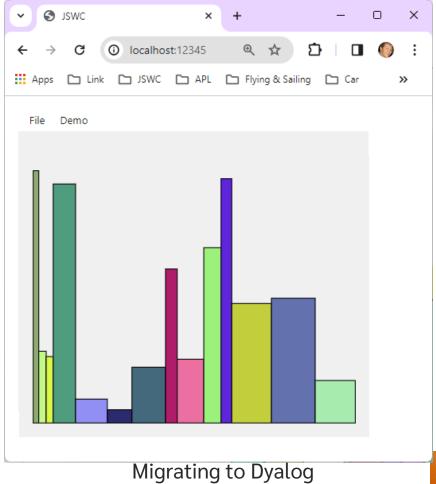
WinDir+(-'\'=-1†R)↓R
8
```





Migrating to Dyalog





Status

- We are reworking and enhancing the tools developed for APLX migrations
- Will enumerate differences between APL+Win and Dyalog
- Will create emulation functions as required
- We *may* also decide to add new features to Dyalog v20 (which should start user testing in late 2024)
 - For example : LeaveIf

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Status

- Dyalog has been contracted to port the METSIM® application
- Hired one new APL developer in January, aiming for 1 more
- We will have ~1.5-2 full time equivalent resources working on migration tools until further notice

 All the resulting tools and documentation will be free and open source

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