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Scientific Computing in the 1990ies - An Astronomical Perspective

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The compute performance, storage capability, degree of networking and usability of modern computer hardware have enormously progressed in the past decade. These hardware advances are not paralleled by an equivalent increase in software productivity. Among astronomers the need is gradually perceived to discuss questions such as whether we are prepared to meet the pending challenge of vector and massively parallel computers. Therefore a moderated, time-limited and access-restricted, wide-area network discussion forum is proposed for having a first, broad-minded go at the question whether our current software efforts are heading in the right direction. The main topics, goals, means and form of the proposed discussion process is being laid out.

“One Mbyte of RAM now costs less than two lines of source code.” - N. Plant 1992

References

Plant, N.: 1992, “Software in Crisis”, Physics World 5, No. 9, 43-47.