

Forth and IDEs

M. Anton Ertl, TU Wien

Integrated Development Environment (IDE)

- Editor (aka IDE) is the hub
 - Invokes compiler
 - Processes error messages
 - Runs program
 - Debugging interface
 - Crossreferencing
- Language-specific: Smalltalk-80, Turbo Pascal (1983), HolonForth (1989)
- No choice of editor
- Cross-language: Eclipse, IntelliJ IDEA, Visual Studio Code
- Gforth supports Emacs (and vi) as IDE

Language Server Protocol (LSP)

- Interface between language systems and IDEs
- Traditional development: $O(|\text{languages}| \times |\text{IDEs}|)$
- LSP development: $O(|\text{languages}| + |\text{IDEs}|)$
- Editor choice: any editor that supports LSP
- Future work: Add LSP support to Forth systems

Traditional Forth approach

- Forth command line is the hub
- Show source code of word
or edit it with *your favourite* editor
Load program
Run program
Debugging
Crossreferencing
Documentation
Show generated code
Show other system state

Demo

Implementation Cost

64-bit Gforth right after startup

	size (KB)
dictionary	548
native code	751
locate	32
where	619
backtrace	548

Conclusion

- Many languages: editor as hub
- Forth: command line as hub
 - works with your favourite editor
- `locate`
`where`
`backtrace`
`help`
`see`
- also covers system code