AXIOM – Open Source Computer Algebra System

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Axiom Developer**

Abstract. Axiom has been in development since 1971. Originally called Scratchpad II, it was developed by IBM under the direction of Richard Jenks[1]. The project evolved over a period of 20 years as a research platform for developing new ideas in computational mathematics. Scratch-Pad also attracked the interest and contributions of a large number of mathematicians and computer scientists outside of IBM. In the 1990s, the Scratchpad project was renamed to Axiom, and sold to the Numerical Algorithms Group (NAG) in England who marketed it as a commercial system. NAG withdrew Axiom from the market in October 2001 and agreed to release Axiom as free software, under an open source license. Tim Daly (a former ScratchPad developer at IBM) setup a pubic open source Axiom project[2] in October 2002 with a primary goal to improve the documentation of Axiom through the extensive use of literate programming[3]. The first free open source version of Axiom was released in 2003. Since that time the project has attracted a small but very active group of developers and a growing number of users.

This exhibit includes a laptop computer running a recent version of Axiom, Internet access (if available) to the Axiom Wiki website[4], and CDs containing Axiom software for free distribution[5].

References

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