

Comment on: "Implementing True Delegation in VisualWorks

Smalltalk is so open that after learning its principles nobody resists the temptation to attempt enhancing its abilities. Multiple inheritance, optional arguments, implicit self, classless objects, are some of the recurrent themes that come to mind. This is a very good sign, an indication that Smalltalk is inspirational and encourages experimentation.

Notwithstanding, having new features accepted as convenient is not that simple because smalltalkers know that the balance between functionality and complexity is critical. If a sophisticated new feature will degrade the existing simplicity, then it is quickly discarded and forgotten.

There are brilliant exceptions though and since every smalltalker knows their favorites there is no need here to name some of them.

In this scenario, there are also some pending issues. For instance, nobody was still able to implement an efficient and accurate type inference system. In this case however, the problem is really hard and a simple and elegant solution is not expected.

However, how about delegation? Smalltalkers would love to have the delegation problem solved once and forever simple and elegantly. This talk claims to have the right solution and we are all eager to learn more.

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