

## Re: Decimal Arith in DCL was(RE: Floating point arithmetic support in DCL) in DCL) in DCL)

**Source:** <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.os.vms/2004-01/0108.html>

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**From:** Richard B. Gilbert (*rgilbert88\_at\_comcast.net*)

**Date:** 01/03/04

Date: Fri, 02 Jan 2004 20:26:42 -0500

Yes, commercial calculations involve money and accountants care about the pennies, no matter how many billions are involved. I wouldn't use Fortran, C, or DCL for money calculations. If I wanted to convert one binary floating point format to another, I don't think I'd want to use Ada for the job. :-)

For DCL, I think I'd be happy with the equivalent of the little four function promotional giveaway calculators.

Larry Kilgallen wrote:

>In article <NDEMLKKEBOIFBMJLCECIIEGGCJAA.tom@kednos.com>, "Tom Linden"  
<tom@kednos.com> writes:

>

>

>>< -----Original Message-----

>>< From: Richard B. Gilbert [mailto:rgilbert88@comcast.net]

>>< Sent: Thursday, January 01, 2004 5:42 PM

>>< To: Info-VAX@Mvb.Saic.Com

>>< Subject: Re: Decimal Arith in DCL was(RE: Floating point arithmetic  
>>< support in DCL) in DCL) in DCL)

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>><

>>< all right, decimal arithmetic instead of floating. With the possible  
>>< exception of a COBOL course I took thirty years ago, I don't think I've  
>>< ever used decimal arithmetic!! Neither Fortran nor C support the data  
>>< type or the operations.

>>

>>That is true, but the world of commerce uses exclusively decimal arithmetic,  
>>which is why they use cobol and PL/I to such an extent.

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>>

>

>And why, when Ada was specified leading up to 1983 (quite recently as  
>languages go) fixed point arithmetic was part of the definition.

>

comp.os.vms: Re: Decimal Arith in DCL was(RE: Floating point arithmetic support in DCL) in DCL) in DCL)

>When Fortran was developed, there was not a long history of Cobol to  
>consider. By the time Ada came along, there were both Cobol and PL/I.  
>I shall refrain from commenting regarding C (this time :-).  
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