From Bubble to Quick: A Forth Comparison of Sorting Algorithms

John Rible
Miller Microcomputer Services
Natick, MA

ABSTRACT

This paper compares generalized implementations of half a dozen sort algorithms in FORTH.

Examples of sorting integers and strings are used to illustrate the different methods. Even the faster sorts are coded compactly in FORTH.

The sorting algorithms take item numbers as arguments, allowing users to define their own EXCHANGE and COMPARE words. Informal guidelines are given for choosing an appropriate algorithm for your application.