Subject: Effect of some I/O specifiers should be conditional on "present" instead of "appear"
From: Van Snyder
Reference: 03-258r1, section 2.4.3.4

Number

TBD

Title

Effect of some I/O specifiers should be conditional on "present" instead of "appear."

Submitted By

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Status

For consideration.

Basic Functionality

The effect of some I/O specifiers should be conditional on "present" instead of "appear."

Rationale

Suppose you have an optional dummy argument that you wish to use to control some I/O feature that depends on whether an I/O control list specifier appears. Simple: Just put in an IF ... ELSE ... ENDIF construct, with an I/O statement in each branch, one with the specifier and one without.

Now try it with n optional dummy arguments. One needs an IF ... ELSE IF ... ENDIF construct with 2^n branches, in each branch of which the desired subset of specifiers appears.

Estimated Impact

Minor — mostly a change of terminology in Section 9.

Detailed Specification

When an absent optional argument is used with a keyword specifier in an input/output control list or a specifier in an allocate or deallocate statement, the specifier should be considered not to have appeared. The terminology for them ought, in parallel, to be changed to use "present" instead of "appear".

It wouldn't be appropriate to do this for all specifiers — at least not for the FMT= and IOLENGTH= specifiers.

History