Subject: Unnecessary irregularity: ADVANCE= cannot be specified in OPEN statements
From: Van Snyder

1 Background

Most of the behavior specifiers for formatted data transfer, e.g. DECIMAL= and ROUND=, can be specified both in OPEN and data transfer statements. ADVANCE= is an exception. This irregularity appears to serve no purpose. On the contrary, it gets in the way:

In cases when one uses non-advancing I/O, there is usually a long sequence of non-advancing statements, followed by one advancing statement. `Since ADVANCE="yes"` is the default, one is required to put `ADVANCE="no"` for the most frequent case. If an ADVANCE= specifier were allowed in OPEN (as one of the changeable specifiers) this would be simplified.

2 Edits

Edits refer to 99-007r1. Page and line numbers are displayed in the margin. Absent other instructions, a page and line number or line number range implies all of the indicated text is to be replaced by immediately following text, while a page and line number followed by + indicates that immediately following text is to be inserted after the indicated line. Remarks for the editor are noted in the margin, or appear between [and] in the text.

[Editor: Add "ADVANCE=," before "BLANK=".] 194:31, 37

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or ADVANCE = *scalar-default-char-expr* 195:14+

[Editor: Add a new section after 9.4.4.5.] 196:40+

9.4.4.5$\frac{1}{2}$ ADVANCE = specifier in the OPEN statement

The *scalar-default-char-expr* shall evaluate to YES or NO. The ADVANCE = specifier is permitted only for a file being connected for formatted sequential input/output. If YES is specified, the default for formatted sequential input/output statements is advancing input/output. If NO is specified, the default for formatted sequential input/output statements is nonadvancing input/output. If this specifier is omitted, the default is YES.

[Editor: Replace the phrase "the default is YES" by the following (c.f. 9.5.1.9):] 202:35

the default is that established by the OPEN statement; a preconnected file that has not been opened is treated as if the file had been opened with ADVANCE = 'YES'.