Subject: Default initial values for optional dummy arguments
From: Van Snyder
Reference: 03-258r1, section 2.4.3.2

Number

TBD

Title

Default initial values for optional dummy arguments.

Submitted By

J3

Status

For consideration.

Basic Functionality

Default initial values for optional dummy arguments.

Rationale

A frequently requested feature is to be able to specify a default initial value for absent optional dummy arguments.

Estimated Impact

Minor, mostly in Section 12.

Detailed Specification

It would seem to be easy to provide a specification for a default initial value for absent optional nonpointer nonallocatable scalars and explicit-shape arrays, especially if the proposal to provide for reinitialization on every invocation is adopted. If the proposal for non-null initial targets for pointers is adopted, it would be easy to provide a default target for absent optional pointer dummy arguments. For assumed-shape or -size arrays, or arguments with assumed length parameters, the assumed quantities can be taken from the initialization. If an absent optional allocatable dummy argument has a default initial value specified, it is initially allocated and has that value (and shape and length parameters if appropriate). The distfix if-then-else operator proposal would go some distance toward solving the same problems as this proposal, but it would still require an auxiliary named local variable.

History