Subject: Get an unused input/output unit number
From: Van Snyder
Reference: 03-258r1, section 2.4.4.7

Number

TBD

Title

Get an unused input/output unit number.

Submitted By

J3

Status

For consideration.

Basic Functionality

Get an unused input/output unit number.

Rationale

In a large program, developed by a team, it is difficult to keep track of which unit numbers are in use, and for what purpose. In many cases, the number of units needed for each purpose is not a constant. People who work on such programs eventually get around to writing a "get an unused unit number" procedure. It would aid portabiity and reduce labor costs if such a procedure were a standard intrinsic subroutine.

Estimated Impact

Minor. One intrinsic subroutine.

Detailed Specification

Provide an intrinsic subroutine that returns an unused unit number, i.e., one not connected to a file, but that could be connected to a file by executing an OPEN statement.

History