Subject: Unnecessary irregularity: PAD= specifier can appear only 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. PAD= is an exception. This irregularity appears to serve no purpose.

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.

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or PAD = *scalar-default-char-expr* 200:25+

Constraint: A PAD= specifier shall not be specified in a WRITE statement, nor in an unformatted READ statement, nor in a formatted READ statement that specifies namelist or list-directed formatting. 201:12+

[Editor: Change "and DECIMAL=" to "DECIMAL=, and PAD="] 201:19

[Editor: Add a new section.] 204:9+

9.5.1.10 PAD= specifier in a READ statement

The *scalar-default-char-expr* shall evaluate to YES or NO. If YES is specified, a formatted input record is padded with blanks (9.5.4.4.2) when an input list is specified and the format specification requires more data from a record than the record contains. If NO is specified, the input list and the format specification shall not require more characters from a record than the record contains. If this specifier is omitted, the default is that established by the OPEN statement; an internal file or a preconnected file that has not been opened is treated as if the file had been opened with PAD='YES'.

Note 9.28$\frac{1}{2}$

For nondefault character types, the blank padding character is processor dependent.