

8th Jan. 1997

Evaluation of Miscellaneous Requirements for Fortran2000

(by Christian Weber)

1. Overview

The opinion poll concerning the priority of miscellaneous requirements for Fortran2000 was held within the "misc. subgroup" between Dec. 10th and Dec 24th after some quite lively email discussion. The main technical contents of this email discussion (as far as relevant for the estimate of work to be done by X3J3) has been collected in the latest version of the document "Miscellaneous Requirements for Fortran2000" which is distributed separately.

Fourteen members of the misc subgroup handed in their individual votes concerning the priority of requirements (C. Dedo, W. Clodius, S. Whitlock, M. Cohen, A.C. Marshall, S. Morgan, P. Lignelet, M. v. Waveren, D. Schmitt, C. Weber, M. Hennecke, M. Zuern, U. Kuester, J. Reid), one has sent comments without specific votes (D. Muxworthy), and two countries / member bodies (USA and France) gave their opinion.

The following sections state the results of this opinion poll:

- section 2 contains a summary of the recommendations to WG5 which can be drawn from the results,
- section 3 contains a tabular evaluation (summary) of the individual votes,
- section 4 contains a tabular evaluation of the country votes,
- section 5 contains a full (tabular) display of all the individual voting results.

The individual comments which accompanied the votes were combined and distributed as a separate document.

I hope that these results will help to focus WG5's work for Fortran2000.

2. Recommendations to WG5 (+X3J3)

2.1 Major Requirements

Within the group of major requirements, i.e. requirements likely to cause a medium to high amount of work to the development body, the following items got the highest vote for inclusion into Fortran2000 (with the numbering indicating the priority sequence):

- (1) Exception Handling (item 5.1 in the misc. req. list document, repository entry # 5);
- (2) Asynchronous I/O (item 9.10, repository entry # 52)
 - note that this topic is already handled by X3J3 as R.2;
- (3) Binary Stream I/O (item 9.1, repository entry # 63, 63a);
- (4) Bit Data Type / String (item 4.1, repository entry # 21)

- note that this requirement might possibly also be satisfied by some storage-optimized LOGICAL kind together with additional operations / intrinsics for LOGICAL arrays: the priority vote included all possible solutions so far;
- note further that C. Dedo indicates that there might already be a champion for this topic;

(5) Unsigned INTEGER Data Type (item 4.3, repository entry # 37)

- note that C. Dedo volunteers to champion this topic;

C. section 3 for the ranking of the other requirements.

2.2 Minor Technical Enhancements to be added

The following minor technical enhancements (MTE's) should be added as work items for Fortran2000 (with the numbering indicating the priority sequence):

- (1) Non-advancing I/O combined with free format (item 9.2, repository entry # 63b/65);
- (2) Command Line arguments & Environmental Variables (item 10.1, repository entry # 20)

- note that C. Dedo volunteers to champion this topic;

(3) Any Kind of Integer for I/O Specifiers (item 9.3, repository entry # 68)

- note that C. Dedo volunteers to champion this topic;

(4) Intrinsic "size" function for derived types (item 11.4, repository entry # 80).

C. section 3 for the ranking of the other requirements.

Furthermore, there are various minor technical enhancements which have gained considerable support (though less priority weight than the MTE's mentioned above): if a champion should be found for these MTE's, they should be included in F2000 as well.

Candidates for such MTE's could be:

- Variable Repeat Specifiers in Format (item 8.1, repos. # 48):
C. Dedo volunteers to champion this topic, and he believes that it is only a MTE ;
- Operating System Support (item 10.3, repos. # 86):
C. Dedo volunteers to champion this topic.

2.3 Minor Technical Enhancements possibly to be removed from X3J3's Work Plan

Some MTE's which are already handled by X3J3 (i.e. are already part of X3J3's Work Plan) received a considerable opposition within WG5: there should be a separate vote at the Las Vegas meeting if these topics are really supported by the majority of WG5.

These items are:

- Lower Case Syntax Elements (item 2.2, repos.#67, J3/M3),
- Permit BOZ constants (item 3.2, repos. #69, J3/M8),
- Specifying Default Precisions (item 4.4, repos. #49, J3/M12),
- Named Scratch Files (item 9.4, repos. #73, J3/M10),

- Remove limitation on statement length (item 12.2, repos. #50, J3/M1).

2.4 New Requirements

The following new requirements received considerable support (though not very high priority) and should therefore be added to the requirement repository:

- Parallelized SELECT CASE (item 5.4),
- Interfaces to internal & module procedures (item 6.4),
- Initialization programs in modules (item 6.5).

9.1	63, 63a	STREAM I/O, Binary stream I/O	lrg	11:1	1	1.5	6.5	5	15.5	24	3/1	
9.2	63b, 65	Non-advancing I/O combined with free format, Extend non-advancing I/O to List-Directed I/O	sma	9:3		1	7	5	17			1
9.3	68	Any Kind of Integer for I/O Specifiers	sma	5:9	4	3	3	4	7			3
9.4	73	Named Scratch Files	sma	Yes (M10)	7	3	2		-5			
9.5	76	Default I/O mode	med	3:9	6	2.5	4.5		-1.5	2	14	
9.6	79	Recognition of TAB characters in Fortran input	sma	No	6.5	3.5	2	2	-0.5			
9.7	93	New keywords READ_EOR, READ_EOF, WRITE_EOR, WRITE_EOF in INQUIRE statements	sma	3:10	3	5	2	3	5			6
9.8	94	New keywords IS_EOR and IS_EOF in INQUIRE, READ and WRITE statements	sma	3:10	3.5	5.5	1	3	3.5			10
9.9	95	New keywords DEFAULT_READ and DEFAULT_WRITE in INQUIRE statement	sma	4:7	6	6	1		-5			
9.10	52	Asynchronous I/O	med	Yes (R.2)	1		2	7	15	29	2/2	
10.		Access to Features of the Environment										
10.1	20	Command Line Arguments and Environmental Variables	sma	7:7	1	3	4	6	15			2
10.2	47	POSIX Binding to Fortran 90	lrg	2:11	5	5	2	1	-1	10	10	
10.3	86	Operation System Support	sma	4:10	6	1.5	2.5	3	2.5			12
10.4	99	Handling of error messages	med	No	8	5	1		-7	3	12	
10.5	102	Primitive graphic facilities in Fortran	lrg	No	12	1	1		-11	2	14	
11.		New / better Intrinsic functions										
11.1	55	Regularize RANDOM_SEED functionality	sma	2:11	2.5	7.5	1	3	4.5			8
11.2	61	Generic COUNT_RATE Argument for SYSTEM_CLOCK	sma	Yes (M3)		7	2	2	6			5
11.3	64	Extend MAX, MIN, etc. to CHARACTER Data Type	sma	Yes (M5)	2	7	1	1	1			14
11.4	80	Intrinsic 'size' function for derived types	sma	No	5	2	3	4	6			4
11.5	81	Intrinsic 'sort' for arrays of intrinsic type	sma	No	10	2		2	-6			
11.6	82	Intrinsic function 'fft' - Fast Fourier Transformation	sma	No	10	2		2	-6			
11.7	90	Four new elemental intrinsic functions: TRUNCATE, ROUND, IBCHNG, ICOUNT	sma	No	6.5	4.5	1		-5.5			
11.8	91	PATTERN= in bit manipulation functions such as IBCLR, IBSET, IBCHNG	sma	No	6	5	1		-5			
11.9	97	New transformational functions: POSITION and LOCATION	sma	No	6	4	1		-5			
11.10	98	New functions to handle arrays: SCRIPT and SCALAR	sma	No	6	3	2		-4			
12.		Relaxation of Restrictions										
12.1	24, 24a	Remove the restriction on the maximum rank of arrays, Greater than 7 Array Dimensions	sma	Yes (M14)	3.5	5.5	1	2	-1.5			13
12.2	50	Remove limitation on statement length	sma	Yes (M1)	5.5	3.5	1	1	-2.5			

13.		Global changes of the Fortran language											
13.1	new	Creation of a subset language	lrg		11	3				-11			
13.2	new	Review implementation-defined/undefined constructs	med		6	2.5	2.5	1	-1.5	2	14		

3. Country votes concerning the miscellaneous requirements

Three countries (Germany, USA, France) have distributed some discussion results about priorities of requirements between the Dresden meeting and now. Unfortunately, none of these country votes fits exactly into the OLMH or point pattern of the individual votes (shown above):

- Germany has had a general discussion on requirements in September, i.e. before the three subgroups had been established properly; therefore only a few of the misc. requirements have been judged, and the judgment does not match fully the OLMH scheme (there will be another DIN meeting in January - so we might have better results then, but I try to map the DIN opinion as best as I can);
- USA (i.e. ANSI X3J3) has made a Yes/No vote only (with count of individual votes), disallowing "Undecided"; I considered items which are (as minor technical enhancements) already included in X3J3's work plan as "Yes";
- France has voted with Yes/No rather than for OLMH priorities (without showing the individual votes), but has distributed 8 "weight points".

I have tried to display these country results in some tabular format:

item	rep. #	Description	USA: status, Y:N vote	France Y/N + # pts	Germany: gener. opinion
2.		General Syntax Enhancements			
2.1	7	Block Comments	No	No	
2.2	67	Lower Case Syntax Elements	Yes (M3)	Yes	
2.3	92	Reserved words	No	Yes	
2.4	new	IMPLICIT NONE by default			
3.		Constants and Expressions			
3.1	66	Extend Initialization of COMPLEX Variables	Yes (M17)		
3.2	69	Permit BOZ constants in the TRANSFER function	Yes (M8)	No	
3.3	71	Allow MERGE in constant expressions	Yes (M9)	Yes, 1 pt	
3.4	77	New Special Character designations	No	No	
3.5	new	Definable evaluation sequence for logical operations			
4.		Data Types			

4.1	21	Bit Data Type, String	4:9	module	Low
4.2	34	Varying length character with declared maximum	5:9	Yes, 1 pt	No
4.3	37	Unsigned INTEGER Data Type	6:4	No	Med
4.4	49	Specifying Default Precisions	Yes (M12)	No	No
5.		Control Flow Constructs			
5.1	5,5a 5b,5c	Exception Handling	6:8	Yes, 3 pts	High
5.2	25	Extend the semantics of the EXIT statement	5:7	No	
5.3	new	Real arguments in CASE/FORALL/WHERE			
5.4	new	Parallelized SELECT CASE			
6.		Procedures			
6.1	33	Nesting of internal procedures	4:8	Yes	
6.2	42	Allow internal procedures as actual arguments	2:11	Yes, 3 pts	No
6.3	100	New INTENT attribute: COPY_IN	No	Yes	
6.4	new	Interfaces to internal & module procedures			
6.5	new	Initialization programs in modules			
7.		Executable Statements			
7.1	2	Controlling Pointer Bounds	Yes (M4)		
7.2	26	Selecting subarrays of non-rectangular form	No	No	
8.		FORMAT processing			
8.1	48	Variable Repeat Specifiers in Formats	3:10	Yes	Low, only conversion
9.		I/O enhancements			
9.1	63, 63a	STREAM I/O, Binary stream I/O	11:1	Yes	
9.2	63b, 65	Non-advancing I/O combined with free format, Extend non-advancing I/O to List-Directed I/O	9:3	Yes	Med/High
9.3	68	Any Kind of Integer for I/O Specifiers	5:9	No	
9.4	73	Named Scratch Files	Yes (M10)	No	
9.5	76	Default I/O mode	3:9	Yes	
9.6	79	Recognition of TAB characters in Fortran input	No	No	Med/High

9.7	93	New keywords READ_EOR, READ_EOF, WRITE_EOR, WRITE_EOF in INQUIRE statements	3:10	Yes	
9.8	94	New keywords IS_EOR and IS_EOF in INQUIRE, READ and WRITE statements	3:10	Yes	
9.9	95	New keywords DEFAULT_READ and DEFAULT_WRITE in INQUIRE statement	4:7	Yes	
9.10	52	Asynchronous I/O	Yes (R.2)		
10.		Access to Features of the Environment			
10.1	20	Command Line Arguments and Environmental Variables	7:7	Yes	Med
10.2	47	POSIX Binding to Fortran 90	2:11	module or C-Interoperable	C-Interoperable only
10.3	86	Operation System Support	4:10	?	No
10.4	99	Handling of error messages	No	Yes	
10.5	102	Primitive graphic facilities in Fortran	No	No	
11.		New / better Intrinsic functions			
11.1	55	Regularize RANDOM_SEED functionality	2:11		
11.2	61	Generic COUNT_RATE Argument for SYSTEM_CLOCK	Yes (M3)	Yes	
11.3	64	Extend MAX, MIN, etc. to CHARACTER Data Type	Yes (M5)	No	
11.4	80	Intrinsic 'size' function for derived types	No		Low
11.5	81	Intrinsic 'sort' for arrays of intrinsic type	No	No	Low
11.6	82	Intrinsic function 'fft' - Fast Fourier Transformation	No	No	No
11.7	90	Four new elemental intrinsic functions: TRUNCATE, ROUND, IBCHNG, ICOUNT	No	Yes	
11.8	91	PATTERN= in bit manipulation functions such as IBCLR, IBSET, IBCHNG	No	Yes	
11.9	97	New transformational functions: POSITION and LOCATION	No	Yes	
11.10	98	New functions to handle arrays: SCRIPT and SCALAR	No	Yes	
12.		Relaxation of Restrictions			
12.1	24, 24a	Remove the restriction on the maximum rank of arrays, Greater than 7 Array Dimensions	Yes (M14)	No	

12.2	50	Remove limitation on statement length	Yes (M1)	No	
13.		Global changes of the Fortran language			
13.1	new	Creation of a subset language			
13.2	new	Review implementation-defined/undefined constructs			

5. Detailed Results of the individual votes

This section contains the results of the individual votes in detail. The columns indicate the names of the misc. subgroup members:

5.1 Individual votes concerning the priority class (O, L, M, H):

item	re- pos #	Description	X3J3 work	De do (1)	Cl odi us	We ber	Co he n	W hitl ock	W av ere n	He nn ec ke	Zu er n	Ku es ter	Ma rsh all	Sc h mit t	Lig nel et	M org an	Rei d
2.		General Syntax Enhancements															
2.1	7	Block Comments	sma	O	O	O	O	O	M	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
2.2	67	Lower Case Syntax Elements	sma	X	O	L	L	-	O	M	L	L	O	L	H	O	O
2.3	92	Reserved words	sma	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	L	L	O	M	M	O	L
2.4	new	IMPLICIT NONE by default	sma	L	L	O		O	O	O	L	L	H	H	O	L	O
3.		Constants and Expressions															
3.1	66	Extend Initialization of COMPLEX Variables	sma	X	H	L	OL	-	O	L	M	M	M	L	-	L	L
3.2	69	Permit BOZ constants in the TRANSFER function	sma	X	M	M	L	-	O	L	O	O	L	-	O		L
3.3	71	Allow MERGE in constant expressions	sma	X	O	H	M	-	O	L	L	L	L	M	H	O	M
3.4	77	New Special Character designations	med	O	O	O	O	O	O	L	L	L	L	O	L	O	O
3.5	new	Definable evaluation sequence for logical operations	sma	O	M	L	OL	O	O	-	M	M	O	M	-	L	O
4.		Data Types															
4.1	21	Bit Data Type, String	lrg	H	M	M	M	O	M	M	M	M	H	M	L	H	O
4.2	34	Varying length character with declared maximum	lrg		O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	L	M	O	O
4.3	37	Unsigned INTEGER Data Type	med	H	M	M	L	O	M	M	M	M	M	M	L	M	O
4.4	49	Specifying Default Precisions	sma	X	L	O	O	-	M	O	L	L	L	L	L	L	O
5.		Control Flow Constructs															
5.1	5.5a 5b..	Exception Handling	lrg	H	M H	H	O	O	H	M	M	M	H	L	H	H	O
5.2	25	Extend the semantics of the EXIT statement	sma	M	OL	L	O	O	O	-	M	M	O	OL	O	O	O
5.3	new	Real arguments in CASE/FORALL/WHERE	sma		OL	O	O	O	O	O	M	M	O	O	O	O	O
5.4	new	Parallelized SELECT CASE	med		M	L	O	O	H	O	M	M	O	L M	-	M	O
6.		Procedures															
6.1	33	Nesting of internal procedures	med/ lrg	O	L	L	L	O	M	O	O	O	M	-	M	L	O
6.2	42	Allow internal procedures as actual arguments	med/ lrg	H	M	O	H	O	L	O	L	L	M	-	H	M	H
6.3	100	New INTENT attribute: COPY_IN	med	O	O	O	O	O	O	M	M	M	M	O	M	O	O
6.4	new	Interfaces to internal & module procedures	sma	H	M	L	O	M	O	M	L	L	O	H	L	L	O
6.5	new	Initialization programs in modules	med	L	M	H	OL	O	O	-	M	M	O	L	M	O	O
7.		Executable Statements															
7.1	2	Controlling Pointer Bounds	sma	X	L	M	L	-	L	H	O	O	O	L	O	L	M
7.2	26	Selecting subarrays of non-rectangular form	med	O	O	L	O	O	L	O	O	O	O	O	O	L	O
8.		FORMAT processing															
8.1	48	Variable Repeat Specifiers in Formats	med/ sma	H	O	M	O	O	H	O	L	L	H	-	M		O
9.		I/O enhancements															
9.1	63, 63a	STREAM I/O, Binary stream I/O	lrg	H	H	H	L M	M	L	M	H	H	M	O	M	M	M
9.2	63b, 65	Non-advancing I/O combined with free format, Extend non-advancing I/O to List-Directed I/O	sma	H	M	H	M	M	M	-	H	H	H	M	M	L	M
9.3	68	Any Kind of Integer for I/O Specifiers	sma	H	O	O	L	O	M	H	H	H	M	M	O	L	L
9.4	73	Named Scratch Files	sma	X	O	L	L	-	L	O	M	M	O	O	O	O	O

9.5	76	Default I/O mode	med	O	O	O	L	O	M	-	M	M	L	O	M	O	L
9.6	79	Recognition of TAB characters in Fortran input	sma	M	O	M	OL	O	O	L	H	H	O	L	O	O	L
9.7	93	New keywords READ_EOR, READ_EOF, WRITE_EOR, WRITE_EOF in INQUIRE statements	sma	L	O	M	M	O	L	L	H	H		L	H	O	L
9.8	94	New keywords IS_EOR and IS_EOF in INQUIRE, READ and WRITE statements	sma	L	O	M	OL	O	L	L	H	H		L	H	O	L
9.9	95	New keywords DEFAULT_READ and DEFAULT_WRITE in INQUIRE statement	sma	O	O	O	L	O	L	O	L	L		L	M	O	L
9.10	52	Asynchronous I/O	med	H	H	M		-	H	H	H	H	H	-	-	O	M
10.		Access to Features of the Environment															
10.1	20	Command Line Arguments and Environmental Variables	sma	H	L	H	L	M	M	M	H	H	H	L	H	O	M
10.2	47	POSIX Binding to Fortran 90	lrg	H	O	O	M	O	L	O	L	L	L	-	M	L	O
10.3	86	Operation System Support	sma	H	O	O	M	O	L	M	H	H	O	L	M	-	O
10.4	99	Handling of error messages	med	O	O	O	L	O	O	L	L	L	O	L	M	O	O
10.5	102	Primitive graphic facilities in Fortran	lrg	O	O	M	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	L	O	O	O
11.		New / better Intrinsic functions															
11.1	55	Regularize RANDOM_SEED functionality	sma	L	O	H	OL	O	L	H	L	L	M	L	L	L	H
11.2	61	Generic COUNT_RATE Argument for SYSTEM_CLOCK	sma	X	L	M	L	-	H	-	L	L	M	L	L	L	H
11.3	64	Extend MAX, MIN, etc. to CHARACTER Data Type	sma	X	L	L	L	-	L	L	L	L	H	-	O	O	M
11.4	80	Intrinsic 'size' function for derived types	sma	H	O	H	O	O	M	L	H	H	M	L	M	O	O
11.5	81	Intrinsic 'sort' for arrays of intrinsic type	sma	O	O	L	O	O	O	L	H	H	O	O	O	O	O
11.6	82	Intrinsic function 'fft' - Fast Fourier Transformation	sma	O	O	L	O	O	O	L	H	H	O	O	O	O	O
11.7	90	Four new elemental intrinsic functions: TRUNCATE, ROUND, IBCHNG, ICOUNT	sma	O	O	L	OL	O	L	-	L	L		O	M	O	O
11.8	91	PATTERN= in bit manipulation functions such as IBCLR, IBSET, IBCHNG	sma	O	O	L	L	O	L	-	L	L		O	M	O	O
11.9	97	New transformational functions: POSITION and LOCATION	sma	O	O	L	O	O	L	-	L	L		-	M	O	O
11.10	98	New functions to handle arrays: SCRIPT and SCALAR	sma	O	O	L	O	O	M	-	L	L		-	M	O	O
12.		Relaxation of Restrictions															
12.1	24, 24a	Remove the restriction on the maximum rank of arrays, Greater than 7 Array Dimensions	sma	X	L	O	L	-	M	O	L	L	H	OL	O	L	H
12.2	50	Remove limitation on statement length	sma	X	O	O	OL	-	M	-	L	L	H	L	O	O	O
13.		Global changes of the Fortran language															
13.1	ne w	Creation of a subset language	lrg	O	L	O	O	O	O	O	L	L	O	O	O	O	O
13.2	ne w	Review implementation-defined/undefined constructs	med	M	O	-	-	M	O	O	L	L	O	L	M	H	O

(1) C. Dedo did not vote for items which are already in the X3J3 Plan (I placed "X" there)

5.2 Individual votes concerning the "priority points" for the major requirements:

item	rep os #	Description	X3J3 work	De do	Cl odi us	We ber	W hit loc k	Wa ven	He nn ecke	Zu ern	Ku ester	Ma rs hal l ¹	Sc hm itt	Lig nel et	Mo rga n	Rei d	su m
3.		Constants and Expressions															
3.4	77	New Special Character designations	med						1	2	2		1				6
4.		Data Types															
4.1	21	Bit Data Type, String	lrg	4	2	2		4	1	2	2	4			2		23
4.2	34	Varying length character with declared maximum	lrg										1				1
4.3	37	Unsigned INTEGER Data Type	med	3	1	2		2	3	2	2		3		1		19
5.		Control Flow Constructs															
5.1	5,5a 5b..	Exception Handling	lrg	3	4	4		4	3	2	2	4	2	4	3		35
5.4	new	Parallelized SELECT CASE	med		1			4		2	2		2		2		13
6.		Procedures															
6.1	33	Nesting of internal procedures	med/ lrg									2	1				3
6.2	42	Allow internal procedures as actual arguments	med/ lrg		3							2	1	4	3	4 ³	13
6.3	100	New INTENT attribute: COPY_IN	med						3	2	2	2		2			11
6.5	new	Initialization programs in modules	med		2	3				2	2		1	4			14
7.		Executable Statements															
7.2	26	Selecting subarrays of non-rectangular form	med												2		2
8.1 ²	48	Variable Repeat Specifiers in Formats	sma	2 ²													(2)
9.		I/O enhancements															
9.1	63, 63a	STREAM I/O, Binary stream I/O	lrg		3	3	4		4	2	2	2		1	3		24
9.5	76	Default I/O mode	med										1	1			2
9.10	52	Asynchronous I/O	med		3	2	4	4	4	2	2	4			4		29
10.		Access to Features of the Environment															
10.1 ²	20	Command Line Arguments and Environmental Variables	sma	3 ²													(3)
10.2	47	POSIX Binding to Fortran 90	lrg	3	1					2	2		2				10
10.3 ²	86	Operation System Support	sma	2 ²													(2)
10.4	99	Handling of error messages	med						1				1	1			3
10.5	102	Primitive graphic facilities in Fortran	lrg										2				2
11.		New / better Intrinsic functions															
13.		Global changes of the Fortran language															
13.1	new	Creation of a subset language	lrg														
13.2	new	Review implementation-defined/undefined constructs	med				1						1				2

(1) A.C. Marshall did not assign points, but HMLO classifications also in the second table; I mapped these to points as follows: H = 4 pts, M = 2 pts, L/O = 0 pts, which yielded 20 pts altogether.

(2) Craig Dedo assigned some points to items which were - because of the small work effort estimated - not on the list of the "medium to large" requirements.

- (3) John Reid gave all 20 points to this item, but since only a maximum of 4 points was admitted, I inserted this maximum.