

1. Identification of the proposed change

1.1. Title

Duplicate Keywords Clarified

1.2. MDC Proposer and Sponsor

This proposal originates from Ed de Moel.

Motions regarding the status of this document will be made by Taskgroup 9 (General Device Issues) of Subcommittee 12 (Environment).

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1.3. Motion

No motion.

1.4. History of MDC actions

Date	Document	Action
September 1998	X11/1998-24	Final print-out
June 1998	X11/SC12/1998-8	Presented for elevation to MDC Type A, accepted 16:0:3.
March 1998	X11/SC12/TG9/1998-3	Presented for elevation to SC#12 Type A; accepted 15:0:2.
September 1997	X11/SC12/TG9/97-4	Presented for elevation to SC#12 Type B, accepted 13:0:4. Renamed from "More of the Same" to "Duplicate Keywords Clarified".

1.5. Dependencies

None.

2. Justification of Proposed Change

2.1. Needs

In the context of the commands TSTART, RLOAD, RSAVE, OPEN, USE and CLOSE, keywords can be specified as parts of sub-arguments. The standard currently does not clearly specify what happens when the same keyword is contained multiple times in the same (sub)argument.

2.2. Existing Practice in Area of the Proposed Change

All implementations known to the author behave in the manner suggested by this proposal.

In the case of OPEN, USE and CLOSE, this behavior is already described in the context of the CLOSE command, because this command is first in alphabetic order. However, the questions that have reached the author of this document indicate that it is not intuitive to the average reader of the ANSI standard that, as a matter of style, specifications are not re-iterated.

3. Description of the proposed change

3.1. General Description of the Proposed Change

This proposal makes explicit that sub-arguments are examined in strict left-to-right order, and that the "last occurrence found" of any specification prevails.

3.2. Annotated Examples of Use

CLOSE MAGTAPE: (UNLOAD: NOUNLOAD) or

CLOSE MAGTAPE : (UNLOAD=1 : UNLOAD=0)

The parameter NOUNLOAD is the last one that will be parsed before the command is executed, so that the parameter that would cause the unload to happen would be effectively ignored.

TSTART : (T="First" : SERIAL : T="Second")

The transaction-identifier (T=) parameter will be "Second".

3.3. Formalization

(Section numbers refer to X11/TG6/97-1, Draft Standard, version 12)

In Section I, clause 8.2.15, OPEN command, add the following immediately between the metalanguage and the first descriptive paragraph:

There is a large overlap in specification between the commands OPEN, USE and CLOSE. As a side-effect of the alphabetical ordering of the commands, many features are described in clause 8.2.2, the CLOSE command. As a matter of style in this document, these features are not repeated in this clause.

In Section I, clause 8.2.18, definition of RLOAD command, add after the paragraph starting with "All values of routinekeyword..."

routinekeywords are processed in strict left-to-right order. When multiple equivalent routinekeywords are encountered, the last occurrence processed will define the action(s) to be taken.

In Section I, clause 8.2.19, definition of RSAVE command, add after the paragraph starting with "All values of routinekeyword..."

routinekeywords are processed in strict left-to-right order. When multiple equivalent routinekeywords are encountered, the last occurrence processed will define the action(s) to be taken.

In Section I, clause 8.2.24, definition of TSTART command, add after the paragraph starting with "Unused keywords other than..."

tstartkeywords are processed in strict left-to-right order. When multiple equivalent tstartkeywords are encountered, the last occurrence processed will define the action(s) to be taken.

In Section I, clause 8.2.25, USE command, add the following immediately between the metalanguage and the first descriptive paragraph:

There is a large overlap in specification between the commands OPEN, USE and CLOSE. As a side-effect of the alphabetical ordering of the commands, many features are described in clause 8.2.2, the CLOSE command. As a matter of style in this document, these features are not repeated in this clause.

4. Implementation impacts

4.1. Impact on Existing User Practices and Investments

None, this proposal only makes explicit what is already current practice.

4.2. Impact on Existing Vendor Practices and Investments

None, this proposal only makes explicit what is already current practice.

4.3. Techniques and Costs for Compliance Verification

None.

4.4. Legal considerations

None.

5. Closely related standards activities

5.1. Other X11 Proposals (Type A or Type B) Under Consideration

None.

5.2. Other Related Standards Efforts

None.

5.3. Recommendations for Co-ordinating Liaison

None.

6. List of Associated Documents

None.

7. Issues, Pros and Cons, and Discussion

7.1. September 1997, Chicago, Illinois

Initial presentation. A concern was raised that the part related to the TSTART command would be outside of the scope of work of Subcommittee 12, and should be discussed in Subcommittee 15.

In liaison with Subcommittee 15, it was decided that it was better to maintain one complete proposal containing all parts, than to separate out the part related to the TSTART command, and make that a separate proposal.

Subcommittee 15 asked that any similar issues pertaining to the commands RLOAD and RSAVE also be included in this proposal.

Pro: 1. Clarifies a situation that is as yet unspecified

2. Standardizes current behavior

7.2. 21 March 1998, Buckhead, Georgia

Minor typographical errors corrected. No cons were raised.

Pro: 1. Clarifies a situation that is as yet unspecified

2. Standardizes current behavior

3. Resolves possible ambiguity.

7.3. 28 June 1998, Waltham, Massachusetts

Accepted as MDC Type A (16:0:3), no cons raised.