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New File Features in FSNAP

Some new macro commands have been added to the FSNAP language to make it easier for the user to manipulate I/O to and from files. The RESTORE macro has been improved so that it may now deal with files being written into as well as files being read from. For READ files the RESTORE command will still restore the user's input pointer to the beginning of the file. For WRITE files the RESTORE command will actually truncate the user's file to zero length and any writing done thereafter will commence at the beginning of the file. This enables the user to deal with scratch files.

The new macro commands which have been added are RFILE and WFILE. These commands permit the user to give the names of files at run time. No run-time questions need to be answered to give the names of files to be read or written. The use of these commands is best explained by some examples:

(1) RFILE(9) "ABC"

- ABC is the file which will be read by subsequent READ(9) commands.

(2) WFILE(6) "OFILE"

- OFILE is the file which will be written on

by subsequent WRITE(6) commands.

(3) RFILE(7) "ABCD,10,30"

- The first READ(7) will initiate reading of file ABCD starting at line number 10.
- Reading of the file will terminate at line 30.

(4) RFILE(4) ""

- READ(4) commands will read data from DATA(4) statements in the program, if they exist, or else input will be taken from the input terminal.

(5) WFILE(20) ""

- WRITE(20) commands will output on the user's terminal.

(6) WFILE or WFILE ""

- Subsequent WRITE commands will output on the user's terminal.

One restriction is that RFILE and WFILE commands cannot be preceded by a RESTORE command. These new commands give one the capability of creating scratch files at run-time and then truncating them to zero length at the end of the program.