
Subject: Re: Optional parameters

Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Tue, 24 Feb 2004 22:03:00 GMT

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On Tue, 24 Feb 2004 14:45:09 -0700, Pavel Romashkin wrote:

- > And what exactly would be the purpose of such sequence of calls, other
- > than actually trying to **define** foo in the first function call? If I
- > didn't need foo re-defined, I'd not even mention it on the first line.
- > So this **is** the case for 3 copy-paste calls, I guess :-)
- > I never tried to use keywords for this sort of creative purposes. If I
- > have a large dataset I don't want to re-compute, I keep it in a pointer
- > (or object, allright, David? :-) and I try to always know when it gets
- > passed into a function to avoid redefinition and other mishaps.
- > After all, how is this behavior different than simply
- >
- > foo = 100 ; foo is now defined, too...

It's different because I'm overloading a keyword to do two things: 1) take as input a value for foo to override any internal value, and 2) return the value of foo used (default or otherwise). Admittedly, this is bad form, but it's actually very convenient when you want to bring some variable out "over the head" of your function calls, but still need to be able to set the variable via a parameter. This is typically for interactive usage, not for real production code, but the problem still exists.

JD
