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Subject: Re: variables in common blocks

Posted by [Maarten\[1\]](#) on Fri, 04 May 2007 15:07:12 GMT

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On May 4, 2:42 pm, Lasse Clausen <...@lbnc.de> wrote:

> If you have an easy solution on how to avoid common blocks, shoot. And  
> why are common blocks bad? Is it the same reason "goto" statements are  
> bad?

Common variables are really global variables. They allow a function to have side effects, and make it hard to debug a program. For sanity's sake try to avoid common blocks, unless you really have a good reason to use them, and clearly label the variables in them as such, so that you have a clear warning when dealing with them.

In general is it easier to pass variables as formal parameters.

The book I learnt C from started out with local variables, and only mentioned that global variables even existed in chapter 6. By that time I was accustomed to pass variables as function arguments, and hardly ever used globals, except perhaps as a global program kill switch in GUI applications. The Mac way of things infected me with another (pseudo)Hungarian notation: all my globals have a name starting with 'g', all constant start with 'k'. If you use a common block, make sure you do something similar.

Maarten

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