
Subject: Re: `_EXTRA` KEYWORD

Posted by [ben.bighair](#) on Thu, 12 Nov 2009 00:23:59 GMT

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On Nov 11, 5:47 pm, mankoff <mank...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Nov 9, 1:09 am, Reimar Bauer <R.Ba...@fz-juelich.de> wrote:

>

>> dandan schrieb:

>

>>> Hi, everyone,

>>> Dose `_EXTRA` pass the keywords from the caller to called routine or the

>>> opposite?

>

>> You may be also interested into the `_REF_EXTRA` keyword.

>

>> The presence of a name in the `_REF_EXTRA` value indicates that a keyword

>> of that name was passed, and its value is available to be passed on in a

>> function or procedure call (using either `_EXTRA` or `_STRICT_EXTRA`).

>

>> cheers

>> Reimar

>

> I still have not entirely wrapped my head around `_EXTRA`, `_REF_EXTRA`,

> and `_STRICT_EXTRA` despite numerous readings of discussions on this

> group about these keywords.

>

> Does anyone have a graphical explanation of these? A flow-chart with

> arrows and diamonds and YES/NO keywords perhaps? I have a feeling that

> would get the concept across. If not, perhaps I'll take what I do

> understand of these keywords and try to create such a chart.

>

> -k.

Hi,

I am not sure if this analogy is correct, but it works for my limited use. Assume that `_EXTRA` and `_REF_EXTRA` are fishing lines.

`_REF_EXTRA` has bait and a hook so you can pull things back. A

`_REF_EXTRA` is passed by reference - so you can send in a value but if it is modified (like an output keyword) then the reference will reflect that change. This is how you can land the trout, so to speak.

On the other hand, `_EXTRA` has bait but no hook so you can send things down in but not get them back. That is because `_EXTRA` is passed by value - any modifications the trout makes under water are hidden from you.

`_STRICT_EXTRA` is just like `_EXTRA`, but if you use the wrong kind of bait the trout will complain (or issue an error and stop if they know any IDL).

Even if my analogy is correct, it might be too simplistic to be complete. Hope it helps.

Cheers,
Ben
