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Subject: Re: Arg\_Present, XSurface, and Other Assorted Blunders

Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 08 Aug 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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Kirt Schaper writes in response to my longish article:

> I might be missing something here, but it seems to me that 'arg\_present'  
> is doing precisely what it is supposed to do, report whether the  
> variable passed to it is (1) an argument to the current routine AND  
> (2) a variable into which a value will be copied when the current  
> routine exits. If the user called the routine w/o specifying the a  
> value for "data", then there is NO way that any value assigned to a  
> variable "data" w/in the routine. (This is assuming that they did not  
> pass in an unassigned variable as a keyword parameter.)  
>  
> 'Arg\_present' is intended to allow avoiding computation of output  
> variables if the calling routine has no way of retrieving those values.

Yes, I am pretty clear now about its rather limited usefulness.  
My point is exactly this: its \*name\* implies things about it that  
are not true. Hence, it is likely to be misused by unwary programmers  
like me.

Cheers,

David

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