

Re: Multiple assignment

Source: <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/VB/microsoft.public.vb.syntax/2004-07/0133.html>

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Russ Holsclaw wrote:

>
>> *I don't think it's overstating it at all--if anything I think it's*
>> *understating the level of abomination... :)*
>
>>
>> *I think much of C is a close approximation of an abomination, too. :)*
>>
>> *...snip discourse on C assignments...*
>>
>> *I don't really have any argument there but my opinion is that using the*
>> *same operator for both equality and assignment simply leads to buggy*
>> *code that is hard to peruse.*
>
> *Well, abomination is in the eye of the beholder, I guess. I don't really*
> *disagree with you, but obviously I don't feel as strongly about it as you*
> *do.*
>
> *Strictly speaking, the "=", in the context of assignment, as in the "Let"*
> *statement (implied or explicit) and the "For" statement is not really being*
> *used as an operator, per se, but as a syntactic token ... a delimiter. In*
> *all other contexts, it's treated as an operator. I guess that's why I don't*
> *consider it to be the "abomination" that you do.*

Strictly speaking, that's true (but I didn't know we were trying to be pedantic here, I thought we were exaggerating our opinions for the fun of it... :))

> *In any case, it's part of the Basic language spec, not just Microsoft's*
> *extensions, so changing it at this point would be an abomination of another*
> *sort. ...*

Yes, as many things as are MS-specific in VB, the "core" of the language is pretty well based on BASIC, agreed.

My point still is that to use "=" in the two contexts is simply error prone and difficult to catch visually if one does make the mistake. I'll also grant that if one writes much BASIC, it's not a very likely

mistake, but then, mistakes <do> happen...

- > *C stems from some pretty old stuff, but it took a long time before it*
- > *really emerged as a "mainstream" programming language. That didn't really*
- > *happen to any great extent until sometime in the '80s. Speaking for myself,*
- > *I wasn't aware of it until the late '70s at the earliest ...*

I couldn't tell you when I first became aware of it any longer...I moved from mainframe (CDC and/or Cray machines almost exclusively) to another company and began robotics and smaller realtime systems in '78--I recall some hardware drivers not too long after that although I couldn't tell you the year any more within +/-3, probably. All the development was in Forth at the time...

...

> *But, I digress...*

Interesting, as noted above I only ran some code (virtually all FORTRAN IV) on IBM machines a very limited amount while in Oak Ridge--ORNL had some IBMs but my heavy computing was at B&W on CDC and contracted time on Crays before getting into the micros...