ForTranease

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What exactly does IMPLICIT NONE mean?

We are taught to use IMPLICIT NONE in our programs. But, how does it help? Let's find out.
 We declare our variables in the programs in a declaration statement such as:

real x,y,imag, angle, temp
integer a,b,matmul (10,10), Nfact, Binom

Earlier, there was no not required. This was an attempt to save memory.

All the variable names were automatically assigned a 'type' based on initials. Those that began with **I,J,K,L,M,N** were assigned the type 'integer' and the rest were assigned 'real'. (Imagine working with just two types of variables!. Now, we have a lot more flexibility.)

This meant that **imag** would automatically be used as an integer and **a,b** and **Binom** would become real. The explicit declaration statement simply did not exit. Now suppose we typed **umag** instead of **imag.** Since there was no way to tell if we wanted *umag* in the program or if it was a mere typo, the program would run with a whole new variable *umag* that was of the type real. Imagine the errors this could lead to!

This is why we now have an **implicit none** statement. The program immediately 'catches' anything that is not declared. This was the program would warn you that **you have used a variable** (*umag*) **but not declared it**. You can immediately correct this error by correcting the spelling or declaring this variable with the type you desire(if that is what you wanted). It can be handy as a little spell check in your Fortran compiler's dictionary. Here is how you can declare this.

program what_you_may_call_it
implicit none

Notice that *implicit none* is used immediately after the program name, unless of course, you used a **USE** statement. It is also used in subroutines.

subroutine abc
implicit none

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