Subject: Get an unused input/output unit number
From: Van Snyder
Reference: 03-258r1, section 2.4.4.7

1 Number

2 TBD

3 Title

4 Get an unused input/output unit number.

5 Submitted By

6 J3

7 Status

8 For consideration.

9 Basic Functionality

10 Get an unused input/output unit number.

11 Rationale

12 In a large program, developed by a team, it is difficult to keep track of which unit numbers are in use,
13 and for what purpose. In many cases, the number of units needed for each purpose is not a constant.
14 People who work on such programs eventually get around to writing a "get an unused unit number"
15 procedure. It would aid portabiity and reduce labor costs if such a procedure were a standard intrinsic
16 subroutine.

17 Estimated Impact

18 Minor. One intrinsic subroutine.

19 Detailed Specification

20 Provide an intrinsic subroutine that returns an unused unit number, i.e., one not connected to a file,
21 but that could be connected to a file by executing an OPEN statement.

22 History