

## Re: Header files with enums instead of defines?

**Source:** <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/arch/2004-12/0106.html>

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**From:** Greg 'groggy' Lehey ([grog\\_at\\_FreeBSD.org](mailto:grog_at_FreeBSD.org))

**Date:** 12/22/04

Date: Wed, 22 Dec 2004 12:33:08 +1030

To: Brian Fundakowski Feldman <[green@FreeBSD.org](mailto:green@FreeBSD.org)>

On Tuesday, 21 December 2004 at 20:43:14 -0500, Brian Fundakowski Feldman wrote:

> *On Wed, Dec 22, 2004 at 11:31:43AM +1030, Greg 'groggy' Lehey wrote:*

>> *Has anybody thought about replacing #defines with enums in header*

>> *files? It would make debugging a whole lot easier. For example, I'm*

>> *currently looking at a debug printout which contains:*

>>

>> *xerrno = 17,*

>>

>> *To find out what that means, I need to go to*

>> */usr/src/include/sys/errno.h and look for 17. I find:*

>>

>> *#define EEXIST 17 /\* File exists \*/*

>>

>> *If we were to change this to*

>>

>> *enum EEXIST = 17; /\* File exists \*/*

>>

>> *I'd then be able to see:*

>>

>> *xerrno = EEXIST,*

>>

>> *That makes debugging a whole lot easier. About the only down side I*

>> *can see is that you can't #undef an enum. Is this a big deal?*

>

> *I think you'll screw up an awful lot of people that #ifdef based upon*

> *the errno names.*

*\*sigh\** Yes, I didn't think about that. Never mind.

Greg

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See complete headers for address and phone numbers.

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- application/pgp-signature attachment: [stored](#)