

Re: Header files with enums instead of defines?

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/arch/2004-12/01113.html>

From: Peter Pentchev (*roam_at_ringlet.net*)

Date: 12/22/04

Date: Wed, 22 Dec 2004 12:38:44 +0200

To: Peter Jeremy <PeterJeremy@optushome.com.au>

On Wed, Dec 22, 2004 at 08:08:55PM +1100, Peter Jeremy wrote:

> *On Wed, 2004-Dec-22 11:31:43 +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,*
> ...
> *> xerrno = EEXIST,*
>
> *K&R2 states that errno is an "integer expression" and that the error*
> *values are "macros". I suspect POSIX and newer C standards say something*
> *similar.*

The Single Unix Specification goes to great pains to repeat over and over again that the error codes are 'symbolic constants', which IMHO may be taken to mean either a #define'd macro or an enum value. I, too, went to check with more than half a hunch that it would mandate that the error codes be macros, but it turned out it doesn't :)

Still, all the other objections about enums not really being ints are quite valid :)

G'luck,
Peter

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Key fingerprint FDBA FD79 C26F 3C51 C95E DF9E ED18 B68D 1619 4553
If you think this sentence is confusing, then change one pig.

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