

Clarify the meaning of obsolescent

Motivation:

The author considers the meaning perfectly clear, but in previous WG14 meetings it has been stated by at least one other member that obsolescent means the feature must either be removed from the standard or the term obsolescent removed. This paper attempts to change the wording to avoid that misinterpretation.

Rationale:

Important features to the C language have been voted to be removed because they were marked obsolescent. It was requested in the WG14 August 2021 meeting that a paper be brought forward to remove the term obsolescent from the standard in cases where the feature should stay in the C standard. This paper offers what was requested above, but also, alternatively, proposes clarifying the wording of the definition of the term "obsolescent" so it is not misinterpreted.

Proposed changes:

Alternative 1 (preferred):

Change Introduction #2 from:

Certain features are obsolescent, which means that they could be considered for withdrawal in future revisions of this document. They are retained because of their widespread use, but their use in new implementations (for implementation features) or new programs (for language [6.11] or library features [7.31]) is discouraged.

to:

Certain features are obsolescent. This means that they are retained because of their widespread use, but their use in new implementations (for implementation features) or new programs (for language [6.11] or library features [7.31]) is discouraged.

Alternative 2 (requested):

Delete 6.11.3.

Delete 6.11.6.