Proposal for C2x
WG14 N3102

Title: US30-115 on declarators
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Proposal category: Proposed NB Comment Response
Abstract: Clarifies what declarators actually do.
US30-115 on declarators

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Summary of Changes
N3102
  • Original proposal

Introduction and Rationale
From US30-115:
“… and asserts that when an operand of the same form as the declarator appears in an expression, it designates a function or object with the scope, storage duration, and type indicated by the declaration specifiers.” Consider:

static int *g;
void f() {
    int x;
    g=&x;
    // ...
}

How does the object `g` designate a scope indicated by the declaration specifiers? Declaration specifiers don’t indicate a scope – the lexical location of the declarator indicates the scope.

Also, the declarator is *g and not g; *g does not have static storage duration, g does.

I think we can find a more clear way to specify that a declarator declares one identifier and that identifier has properties from the declaration specifiers associated with it.

Proposed Straw Poll
Does WG14 want to resolve US30-115 by adopting the proposed wording from N3102?

Proposed Wording
All proposed wording in this document is a diff from WG14 N3054. Green text is new text, while red text is deleted text.

Modify 6.7.6p2:

Each declarator declares an identifier for a single variable, function, or type, within a declaration. The preceding specifiers indicate the type, storage class, or other properties of the identifier or identifiers being declared. Each declarator specifies one declaration and names it and/or modifies the type of the specifiers with operators such as * (pointer to) and () (function returning). One identifier, and asserts that when an operand of the same form as the declarator appears in an expression, it designates a function or object with the scope, storage duration, and type indicated by the declaration specifiers.