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Suggestion for introductory text outlining scope limitations of first edition

Date 19 April 2009 Contributed by James W. Moore

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Notes Response to Action Item #10-04 and comments from Belgium related to Clause 5 as

recorded in [N0181]

The following text is proposed for addition as the final paragraphs of the Introduction to the next draft of 24772:

It should be noted that this Technical Report is inherently incomplete. It is not possible to provide a complete list of programming language vulnerabilities because new weaknesses are discovered continually. Any such report can only describe those that have been found, characterized, and determined to have sufficient probability and consequence.

Furthermore, in order to focus its limited resources, the working group developing this report decided to defer treatment of several subject areas until future editions of the report. These subject areas include:

- Object-oriented language features
- Concurrency
- Numerical analysis (although some simple items regarding the use of floating point are described in PLP)
- Scripting languages
- Some issues related to inter-language operability

It should also be noted that the first edition of this Technical Report contains few annexes describing language-specific application of its guidance because it was important to create a consensually validated baseline of the report before asking the language-specific committees to invest effort in the creation of language-specific guidance.