

The New C Standard (Excerpted material)

An Economic and Cultural Commentary

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implementation

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particular set of software, running in a particular translation environment under particular control options, that performs translation of programs for, and supports execution of functions in, a particular execution environment

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Commentary

The Committee tried to be as general as possible. They did not want to tie down how C programs might be processed to obtain the output required by the abstract machine.

It is not necessary to move to a different O/S or processor to use a different implementation. Each new release of a translator is a different implementation, even each invocation of a translator with different options enabled, or use of a different set of libraries, is a different implementation.

C++

The C++ Standard does not provide a definition of what an implementation might be.

Common Implementations

The software running in the translation environment is usually called a compiler. The software running in the execution environment is usually called the runtime system; it may also include an interpreter for the code generated by the compiler.

References