

The New C Standard (Excerpted material)

An Economic and Cultural Commentary

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3.13

implementation
limit

implementation limit

restriction imposed upon programs by the implementation

68

environ-
mental
limits

Commentary

The Committee recognized that there are limits in the real world. The intent of calling them out is to highlight to the developer where they might occur and, by specifying values to give a base to work from.

Common Implementations

All implementations have limits of various kinds. Even if very large amounts of memory and swap space are available, given a sufficiently large program, it will not be sufficient. Implementations also place limits on the range and precision of representable values. In this case there are efficiency issues; it would be possible to provide arbitrary ranges and precision. The greater the range and precision that must be handled, the longer it takes to perform an operation.

translation
limits

Coding Guidelines

Having a program keep within all implementation limits increases its portability. However, the extent to which portability to hosts is likely to impose limits, that a program exceeds, is an issue that needs to be decided by management. Specific implementation issues are discussed, in these coding guidelines, where they occur in the C Standard.

References