

The New C Standard (Excerpted material)

An Economic and Cultural Commentary

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3.15

parameter

parameter

formal parameter

formal argument (deprecated)

object declared as part of a function declaration or definition that acquires a value on entry to the function, or an identifier from the comma-separated list bounded by the parentheses immediately following the macro name in a function-like macro definition

Commentary

The term *formal argument* is rarely used. The term *formal parameter* is sometimes seen in documents written by people with a mathematically oriented computer science education.

Coding Guidelines

argument

The terms *argument* and *parameter* are sometimes incorrectly interchanged in discussions between developers. The context can often be used by the listener to deduce the intended meaning.

Example

```
1  #define FUNC_MACRO(x, y) /* Two parameters. */
2
3  void f(int param_1)      /* One parameter. */
4  { /* ... */ }
5
6  int g(param_2)          /* One parameter. */
7  int param_2;
8  { /* ... */ }
```

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References