

To: X3J16  
From: Mark Langley  
Subject: Position Paper on Parameterized Types

Given that part of the intent of X3J16 is to codify existing industry practice, and since C++ casts its lot with object oriented programming languages, I think we should establish a working group for the purpose of studying parameterized types.

In particular this working group should study parameterized types and generic programming techniques. It should examine the present contributions of existing languages, and their implementations. This group and its completed study could then be more competent to steer the development of parameterized types, evaluate tradeoffs (or at least state them) and anticipate problems and criticisms.

In other words, I think we should review existing technology in the area of generic type handling, polymorphic operators and parameterized types. Prominent examples include Ada, Eiffel, Modula 3, and others. To implement PT in the spirit of C++ it is necessary to understand and consider the alternatives.

-mll