

Subject: Feature creep – more on disassociated pointers and optional arguments  
From: Van Snyder  
Reference: J3-016

1 **1 Introduction**

2 This paper proposes additional functionality parallel to the capability recently introduced by J3-016 to  
3 consider a disassociated pointer that is associated with a nonpointer optional dummy argument to be  
4 not present. Briefly, it proposes that a dummy argument that is not present can be the target of a  
5 pointer assignment, in which case the pointer becomes disassociated.

6 Admittedly, this solves a linear-complexity problem, while the functionality in J3-016 solves an exponen-  
7 tial-complexity problem. This proposal merely completes the symmetry of that proposal.

8 **2 Edits**

9 Edits refer to 04-007. Page and line numbers are displayed in the margin. Absent other instructions, a  
10 page and line number or line number range implies all of the indicated text is to be replaced by associated  
11 text, while a page and line number followed by + (-) indicates that associated text is to be inserted after  
12 (before) the indicated line. Remarks are noted in the margin, or appear between [ and ] in the text.

13 [Editor: Within the edit proposed in 06-155, insert “or a nonpointer dummy argument that is not 18:24-27  
14 present” after “disassociated pointer”.]

15 [Editor: Replace “If” by “If *data-target* is a nonpointer dummy argument that is not present the pointer 144:12  
16 association status of *data-pointer-object* becomes disassociated. Otherwise if”.]

17 [Editor: After “disassociated pointer” insert “or a nonpointer dummy argument that is not present”.] 144:19

18 [Editor: After “status” insert “or a nonpointer dummy argument that is not present”.] 144:25

19 [Editor: Replace “If” by “If *proc-target* is a nonpointer dummy argument that is not present the pointer 144:36  
20 association status of *proc-pointer-object* becomes disassociated. Otherwise if”.]

21 [Editor: Delete item (3) from the second list in 12.4.1.6.] 272:34

22 [Editor: Insert “or a nonpointer dummy argument that is not present” after “disassociated pointer”.] 414:23