

Title: Generic Data Structures Without Name Mangling
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Proposal Category: New Feature
Audience: Compiler authors, Linker authors

Abstract:

Allow programmers to create and name generic structures.

Rationale:

C++'s templates are a useful feature in creating generic data structures and in reducing duplication, but the feature doesn't mesh well with C's philosophy or syntax.

Syntax:

```
typedef struct GenericString {  
    size_t NumCodeUnits;  
    auto *CodeUnits;  
} _Generic(CodeUnits, char8_t:String8, char16_t:String16, char32_t:String32);
```

Example:

```
size_t GetNumCodeUnits(GenericString *Generic) {  
    return Generic->NumCodeUnits;  
}  
  
char8_t *GetCodeUnits(String8 *String) {  
    return String->CodeUnits;  
}  
  
char8_t GetCodeUnit8(String8 *String, size_t Index) {  
    assert(Index < String->NumCodeUnits);  
    return String->CodeUnits[Index];  
}  
  
char16_t GetCodeUnit16(String16 *String, size_t Index) {  
    assert(Index < String->NumCodeUnits);  
    return String->CodeUnits[Index];  
}  
  
char32_t GetCodeUnit32(String32 *String, size_t Index) {  
    assert(Index < String->NumCodeUnits);
```

```
    return String->CodeUnits[Index];  
}  
  
#define GetCodeUnit(String, Index) _Generic(String, String8:GetCodeUnit8,  
String16:GetCodeUnit16, String32:GetCodeUnit32)(String, Index)  
  
String8 *Generic = u8"Literal";  
  
char8_t GenericChar = GetCodeUnit(Generic, 3); // GenericChar == 'e'
```