

Date: Wed, 17 May 95 17:17:15 -0400
From: Larry Jones <larry.jones@sdr.com>
Subject: sprintf replacement proposal from Keith Bostic
To: rex@aussie.com

Document Number: WG14 N 430/X3J11 95-051

C9X Revision Proposal

=====

Title: Replacement for sprintf _____
Author: Keith Bostic _____
Author Affiliation: University of California, Berkeley _____
Postal Address: 394 East Riding Dr., Carlisle MA 01741 _____
E-mail Address: bostic@cs.berkeley.edu _____
Telephone Number: +1 508-287-4781 _____
Fax Number: _____
Sponsor: _____
Date: 1995-05-17 _____
Proposal Category:
 ___ Editorial change/non-normative contribution
 ___ Correction
 Y_ New feature
 ___ Addition to obsolescent feature list
 ___ Addition to Future Directions
 ___ Other (please specify) _____
Area of Standard Affected:
 ___ Environment
 ___ Language
 ___ Preprocessor
 Y_ Library
 ___ Macro/typedef/tag name
 Y_ Function
 ___ Header
 ___ Other (please specify) _____
Prior Art: 4.4BSD, some unknown number of vendors. _____
Target Audience: Programmers that use sprintf. _____

Related Documents (if any): _____

Proposal Attached: Y_ Yes ___ No, but what's your interest?
Abstract:

There's no way to limit the buffer length used by sprintf.

Proposal:

Provide snprintf as a replacement.

```
int snprintf(char *str, size_t size, const char *format, ...);
```

Snprintf() and vsnprintf() will write at most size-1 of the characters printed into the output string (the size'th character then gets the terminating '\0'); if the return value is greater than or equal to the size argument, the string was too short and some of the printed characters were discarded.