Subject: Unresolved issue 360
From: Van Snyder

1 Introduction

J3 internal note

> Unresolved issue 360
> On reading the result, I'm still not convinced that these words unambiguously address the recurring question of whether it is legal to end a line with a semicolon. In spite of the change to consistently use the term "termination", we still have the claim that the semicolon "allows" another statement to begin on the same line. That "allows" is vague as to exactly what situations do and do not start a new statement. It is possible to interpret this as meaning that a new statement does start (and then is an invalid empty statement). Perhaps if we just plain say it instead of letting it be deduced, things would be simpler.
> The use of the terms "also" and "optional" are also confusing. Does "also" mean "alternatively" here, or does it mean that the statement is simultaneously terminated by two different things (whatever that would mean). I think it means "alternatively". The "optional" is confusing in that the semicolon is certainly not optional if there are two statements on the same line.

In addition to the editor's comments, it still seems that a terminator with more than one semicolon has to begin only with semicolons, and then it can have some blanks.

2 Edits

Edits refer to 02-007r1. Page and line numbers are displayed in the margin. Absent other instructions, a page and line number or line number range implies all of the indicated text is to be replaced by associated text, while a page and line number followed by + (-) indicates that associated text is to be inserted after (before) the indicated line. Remarks are noted in the margin, or appear between [and] in the text.

A statement may alternatively be terminated by a ";" character that appears other than in a character context or in a comment. The ";" is not part of the statement. After a ";" terminator, another statement may appear on the same line, or begin on that line and be continued. A ";" shall not appear as the first nonblank character on a line. A sequence that begins and ends with a ";" terminator, with any number of blanks and ";" terminators between, is equivalent to a single ";" terminator. 29:4-8

[Editor: Delete unresolved issue note 360.] 29:8+

A statement may alternatively be terminated by a ";" character that appears other than in a character context, in a comment, or in character position 6. The ";" is not part of the statement. After a ";" terminator, another statement may begin on the same line, or begin on that line and be continued. A ";" shall not appear as the first nonblank character on a line, except in character position 6. A sequence that begins and ends with a ";" terminator, with any number of blanks and ";" terminators between, is equivalent to a single ";" terminator. 30:9-13