

## Re: faq & casting malloc()

**Source:** <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/C/ CPP/comp.lang.c/2004-06/2176.html>

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tweak wrote:

> *Note: The only item I can find regarding casting*  
> *of malloc() is K&R2 pg. 142:*

Check the errata:

<http://cm.bell-labs.com/cm/cs/cbook/2ediffs.html>

142(§6.5, toward the end): The remark about casting the return value of malloc ("the proper method is to declare ... then explicitly coerce") needs to be rewritten. The example is correct and works, but the advice is debatable in the context of the 1988-1989 ANSI/ISO standards. It's not necessary (given that coercion of void \* to ALMOSTANYTYPE \* is automatic), and possibly harmful if malloc, or a proxy for it, fails to be declared as returning void \*.

The explicit cast can cover up an unintended error. On the other hand, pre-ANSI, the cast was necessary, and it is in C++ also.

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pete