

Sometimes a struct field, function, type, or even a whole package becomes redundant or unnecessary, but must be kept for compatibility with existing programs.

To signal that an identifier should not be used, add a paragraph to its doc comment that begins with

`Deprecated:` followed by some information about the deprecation, and a recommendation on what to use instead, if applicable.

The paragraph does not have to be the last paragraph in the doc comment.

[Some tools will warn on use of deprecated identifiers](#) and their docs [are hidden on pkg.go.dev now that #40850 is implemented](#).

The original issue to document the "Deprecated" convention was [issue #10909](#).

Note that, if function `F1` is being replaced by function `F2`, and the first release in which `F2` is available is Go 1.N, then we can add an official deprecation notice in release Go 1.N+2. This ensures that Go developers only see `F1` as deprecated when all supported Go versions include `F2` and they can easily switch.

Examples

```
type ResponseRecorder struct {
    // HeaderMap contains the headers explicitly set by the Handler.
    // It is an internal detail.
    //
    // Deprecated: HeaderMap exists for historical compatibility
    // and should not be used. To access the headers returned by a handler,
    // use the Response.Header map as returned by the Result method.
    HeaderMap http.Header
```

```
// Package rc4 implements the RC4 stream cipher.
//
// Deprecated: RC4 is cryptographically broken and should not be used
// except for compatibility with legacy systems.
//
// This package is frozen and no new functionality will be added.
package rc4
```

There are a few other examples [in the standard library](#).