

# The amazing disappearing, reappearing trigraphs

A conspiracy theory too big to fail, by  
Paul “TBBle” Hampson

2009: The United Kingdom suggests  
deprecating trigraphs for C++0x

2009: Canada (and IBM) find this vexing

[N2910: Comment on Proposed Trigraph Deprecation](#)

2010: CWG splits the difference, and  
disables trigraphs in raw string literals

[N3077: Alternative approach to Raw String issues](#)

2014: Richard Smith proposes removing  
trigraphs completely from C++17

[N3981: Removing trigraphs??!](#)

2014: Trigraphs removed from C++17

[N4053: WG21 2014-06 Rapperswil Minutes](#)

2014: Richard Smith becomes C++  
Project Editor

[N4053: WG21 2014-06 Rapperswil Minutes](#)

2014: IBM's vexation is more emphatic:  
*"C++ is becoming an ASCII-dominated  
language where the  
annoyances of the many should  
outweigh the needs of the few"*

[N4210: IBM comment on preparing for a Trigraph-adverse future in C++17](#)



2014: EWG agrees to support u8  
character literals and requests wording

2014: u8 character literals are added to C++17, explicitly limited to US-ASCII

[N4197: Adding u8 character literals](#)

2017: operator<=> proposed

[P0515R0: Consistent comparison](#)

operator<=>

P0515R0: Consistent comparison

operator🚀

[Unicode Character 'ROCKET' \(U+1F680\)](#)

operator\U0001F680

[Unicode Character 'ROCKET' \(U+1F680\)](#)

operator↔

operator↔

[Unicode Character 'LEFT RIGHT DOUBLE ARROW' \(U+21D4\)](#)



operator\u21D4

Unicode Character 'LEFT RIGHT DOUBLE ARROW' (U+21D4)

The truth is out there

<https://wg21.link/>

**??=ASCIIlluminati**