

# Preprocessor-Aware Refactoring

Jeff Trull

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# Outline

Preprocessor-Aware  
Refactoring

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Refactoring  
Refactoring is  
important  
The  
Preprocessor  
gets in the  
way

Tools  
User tools  
APIs

Conditional  
Compilation  
Calculating  
Presence  
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into Policies

Conclusion

Resources

- 1 Refactoring
  - Refactoring is important
  - The Preprocessor gets in the way
- 2 Tools
  - User tools
  - APIs
- 3 Conditional Compilation
  - Calculating Presence Conditions
  - Refactoring into Policies
- 4 Conclusion
- 5 Resources

# Refactoring is important

Most code is legacy code

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- constantly changing requirements, tactics
- short-term focus restrains investment
- clean rewrite trades predictable cost for unknown, optimistically better, but mgmt hates risk
- all "human nature"
- this is our reality

# Refactoring is important

Improving existing code is harder

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- must learn to think like author(s) first
- often poor or no tests
- sometimes must refactor to make testable first
- Good news: doing this well may be more valuable (to employers, customers) than greenfield development

# The Preprocessor gets in the way

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- Macro substitution is a textual operation that can result in any program text whatsoever
- Conditional compilation hides parts of the code at compile time
- Generally what the compiler (and other tools) see and what the programmer has written are different.

# The Preprocessor gets in the way

## Macro Substitution

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- Source of legacy idioms
  - global constants
    - what type is PI? MAXINT? NULL?
  - "helpful" global utilities e.g. min, max <sup>1</sup>
- Reproducible build issues - \_\_DATE\_\_, \_\_TIME\_\_, \_\_TIMESTAMP\_\_ <sup>2</sup>
- Barrier to refactoring: Scott Meyers blog <sup>3</sup>

```
#define ZERO 0
auto x = ZERO;
int *p = ZERO;
```

---

<sup>1</sup>"Using STL in Windows Program Can Cause Min/Max Conflicts"

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/kb/143208>

<sup>2</sup><https://wiki.debian.org/ReproducibleBuilds/TimestampsFromCPPMacros>

<sup>3</sup>"The Brick Wall of C++ Source Code Transformation"  
<http://scottmeyers.blogspot.com/2015/11/the-brick-wall-of-c-source-code.html>

# The Preprocessor gets in the way

## Conditional Compilation

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- Static analysis (usually) only studies one configuration
  - `OPENSSL_NO_HEARTBEATS` <sup>4</sup>
- Accidental dead or unconditional code
  - `CONFIG_CPU_HOTPLUG` <sup>5</sup>
- Often there are better design idioms (e.g. template specialization for different cases)

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<sup>4</sup>"Comments on a formal verification of PolarSSL" <http://blog.regehr.org/archives/1261>

<sup>5</sup>"How to avoid `#ifdef` bugs in the Linux kernel" <https://www.linuxplumbersconf.org/2014/ocw/system/presentations/1863/original/rothberg.pdf>

# User tools

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## User tools



The fruit of a 2012 paper by Kumar, Sutton, and Stroustrup, "Rejuvenating C++ Programs through Demacrofication" <sup>6</sup>

- C++11/14 gives new options for macro replacement
  - Expression alias becomes `constexpr auto`; deduces type
  - Type alias becomes `using` statement
  - Parameterized type alias becomes `template<> using`

```
#define PTR_TYPE(T) T*
```

becomes

```
template <typename T>  
using Ptr = T*;
```

---

<sup>6</sup><http://www.stroustrup.com/icsm-2012-demacro.pdf>

# User tools

cpp2cxx

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- Parameterized expression becomes variadic function template
  - perfect forwarding permits argument type deduction

```
// macro
#define F(A1, ..., An) X
// C++11 declaration
template <typename T1, ..., typename Tn>
auto F(T1&& A1, ..., Tn&& An)
-> decltype(X)
{
    return X;
}
```

- Parameterized statement can become a similar function returning void
- resulting tool is cpp2cxx <sup>7</sup>
  - Actively maintained. Uses *both* Clang and Boost.Wave (!?)

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<sup>7</sup><https://github.com/hiraditya/cpp2cxx>

# User tools

## Clang tools

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- clang-tidy "modernize nullptr" <sup>8</sup> handles the cases described by Scott Meyers
  - Replaces 0 and NULL assignment to pointers with nullptr
  - optionally handles user-selected macros as well
  - does not redefine the macro itself
- Clang Modularize <sup>9</sup>
  - Helps prepare for C++ "modules"
  - Looks for inconsistent macro definitions, among other things
  - Probably the most sophisticated PP/parser interaction tool I've seen

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<sup>8</sup><http://clang.llvm.org/extra/clang-tidy/checks/modernize-use-nullptr.html>

<sup>9</sup><http://clang.llvm.org/extra/modularize.html>

# User tools

## Others

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- cppcheck
  - hand-rolled parser etc.
  - does a surprisingly good job of handling configurations
- unifdef
  - Used to remove kernel-specific code from Linux code, and for understanding PP-heavy sources
  - <http://dotat.at/prog/unifdef/>

# APIs

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# APIs

# Boost.Wave

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Resources

- Generic programming
- Lexer, preprocessor somewhat decoupled
- Preprocessor can do callbacks
- Spirit Classic
- Users
  - Imageworks (Sony Pictures) Open Shading Language <sup>10</sup>
  - ROSE (LLNL) Compiler Tools <sup>11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup><https://github.com/imageworks/OpenShadingLanguage>

<sup>11</sup><http://rosecompiler.org/>

# Boost.Wave

## Lexer Usage

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Resources

```
using namespace boost::wave;

using cpplexer_token_t = cpplexer::lex_token<>;
using cpplexer_iterator_t =
    cpplexer::lex_iterator<cpplexer_token_t>;

std::string cppstr{"struct Foo {};"};
auto cbeg = cppstr.begin();
cpplexer_iterator_t beg(cbeg, cppstr.end(),
                        cpplexer_token_t::position_type("fake.cpp"),
                        language_support(support_cpp|support_cpp0x));
cpplexer_iterator_t end;

for (auto tok = beg; tok != end; ++tok) {
    std::cout << tok.get_value();
}
```

# Boost.Wave

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```

# Boost.Wave

## Preprocessor Usage

The Wave preprocessor wraps the lexer:

```
using policy_t =
    iteration_context_policies::load_file_to_string;
using context_t =
    context<std::string::const_iterator,
           cpplexer_iterator_t,
           policy_t,
           PPHooks>;
```

```
PPHooks    MyPPHooks;
context_t ctx(cppstr.begin(), cppstr.end(),
              "fake.cpp", MyPPHooks);
// many configuration methods on ctx here...
try {
    for (cpplexer_token const& tok : ctx) {
        std::cout << tok.get_value();
    }
} catch (preprocess_exception const& e) {
    std::cerr << "parse failed on line ";
    std::cerr << e.line_no() << "\n";
}
```

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## Preprocessing Hooks

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```
struct PPHooks : context_policies::default_preprocessing_hooks {

    template <typename ContextT, typename TokenT>
    bool found_directive(ContextT const &ctx,
                        TokenT const &directive);

    template <typename ContextT, typename TokenT,
              typename ContainerT>
    bool evaluated_conditional_expression(
        ContextT const &ctx,
        TokenT const& directive,
        ContainerT const& expression,
        bool expression_value);

};
```

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## Preprocessing Hooks

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## Preprocessing Hooks

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};
```

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## A Powerful Advantage

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- easy access to Clang's Abstract Syntax Tree
- a nice API for performing code edits
- reformatting tools supplied
- used to write clang-tidy tools
- tightly coupled to other parts of Clang (e.g. source management)
- very OO

# Clang libTooling

## A Whirlwind Tour

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These tools are worth a presentation on their own. What follows is a quick summary; I found these talks particularly helpful:

- LLVM Developers Conference 2015, "An update on Clang-based C++ Tooling" <sup>12</sup>
- Richard Thomson C++Now 2014, "Create Your Own Refactoring Tool with Clang" <sup>13</sup>

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<sup>12</sup><https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1S2A0VWG0ws>

<sup>13</sup><https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8PndHo7jjHk>

- Similar to Boost.Wave Context Policy, but based on SourceLocation instead of tokens
- gives the full range of related text for directives, making it easy to identify related blocks
- tells you very little about skipped ranges - just their boundaries

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## PPCallbacks

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```
struct MyPPHooks : clang::tooling::PPCallbacks
{
    virtual void
    If(SourceLocation      Loc,
        SourceRange        ConditionRange,
        ConditionValueKind ConditionValue
    );

    virtual void
    Endif(SourceLocation  Loc,
           SourceLocation IfLoc);
};
```

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## PPCallbacks

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# Clang libTooling

## PPCallbacks

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## RefactoringTool

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A RefactoringTool instance is configured with *matchers* and their callbacks, and outputs *replacements*. It offers hooks to gain control at the start of parsing and perform actions, such as installing a PPCallbacks instance.

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## Matchers

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Resources

- Help you find things in the AST
- Sort of a configurable visitor
- You can mark nodes of interest for processing by callbacks
- Three types:
  - Node
  - Narrowing
  - Traversal
- clang-query
  - sort of a CLI for matchers
- custom matchers

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## Matcher Example: Move Constructor

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```
MoveCtorHandler  move_ctor_handler; // callback
using namespace clang::ast_matchers;
MatchFinder  finder;
finder.addMatcher(
    cxxConstructorDecl(          // Node matcher
        isMoveConstructor()     // Narrowing matcher
    ).bind("moveCtor"),         // node of interest
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```

# Clang libTooling

## Matcher Example: Move Constructor

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MatchCallback Example: inside MoveCtorHandler

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```
const CXXConstructorDecl *decl =  
    result.Nodes.getStmtAs<CXXConstructorDecl>("moveCtor");  
auto loc = decl->getLocation();  
if (ctx->getSourceManager().isInMainFile(loc)) {  
    std::cout << "found a move constructor at "  
                << loc.printToString(ctx->getSourceManager())  
                << std::endl;  
}
```

# Clang libTooling

MatchCallback Example: inside MoveCtorHandler

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## Replacements

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Resources

- A very basic edit: the replacement of some original text with new text
- If Replacements don't overlap, libTooling can intelligently combine them

```
Replacement  insert_at_start("foo.cpp", 0, 0,  
                             "// New Header Comment");  
Replacement  delete_something("foo.cpp", bad_code_start,  
                              bad_code_length, "");  
Replacement  replace_code(sourceManager, astNode,  
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```

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## Replacements

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Putting it all together

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CommonOptionsParser opt(argc, argv,
                        ToolingSampleCategory);
RefactoringTool      tool(opt.getCompilations(),
                          opt.getSourcePathList());
SourceFileCallbacks myCallbacks; // PPCallbacks

auto feFactory =
    newFrontendActionFactory(&finder, &myCallbacks).get();
if (int result = tool.run(feFactory)) {
    return result;
}
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# Clang libTooling

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# Conditional Compilation

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## Addressing Conditional Compilation

# Conditional Compilation

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Let's try applying our APIs to some interesting problems:

- Identifying the "presence condition" for each block of text
- Refactoring simple `#ifdef/ifndef` conditions into policy classes

# Calculating Presence Conditions

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- Split code into sections marked with the condition under which they are present
- Enables useful features:
  - Identify dead code
  - Identify code that appears conditional but is always present
  - Calculate source text under different assumptions
  - *Enumerate* all possible texts



# Calculating Presence Conditions

The Problem to be Solved

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```
#ifndef A
// section 1
#if (C > 10) && defined(B)
// section 2
#else
// section 3
#endif
#endif
```

Condition	Text
!defined(A)	// section 1
!defined(A) && (C>10) && defined(B)	// section 2
!defined(A) && ((C<=10)    !defined(B))	// section 3

# Calculating Presence Conditions

## Building Blocks Required

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- A library that can represent conditional expressions, and combine and simplify them
- A lexical analyzer that handles C++ tokens
- A parser to recognize regular program text and preprocessor conditionals

# Calculating Presence Conditions

## Representing Conditional Expressions

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What we need is an **SMT solver**.

SMT stands for *Satisfiability Modulo Theories*. Satisfiability, in turn, refers to finding assignments of values to variables such that an expression is true. For example, the expression

```
A && (X > 20) || !B && (Y <= 10)
```

is true (*satisfied*) for A true and X==21 - as well as many other values.

```
A && (X > 10) && (!A || (X == 9))
```

is not true for any choice of A and X - it is *unsatisfiable*.

SMT (in the form of its simpler cousin Boolean Satisfiability, or SAT) is *the* classic NP-complete problem. But solving it well regardless is enormously useful and so has received tons of research effort in the last decade. We will leverage that work.

# Calculating Presence Conditions

Expressing Conditionals with CVC4

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Resources

I picked CVC4 <sup>14</sup> based on a Google search but it's turned out well. Here's a quick tour:

```
ExprManager em;
SmtEngine smt(&em);
smt.setLogic("QF_LIA");           // Linear Integer Arithmetic
Type boolean = em.booleanType();
Expr a = em.mkVar("A", boolean); // bool defined(A)
Type integer = em.integerType();
Expr c = em.mkVar("C", integer);  // integer C
Expr expr =                        // defined(A) && (C > 10)
    em.mkExpr(kind::AND, a,
               em.mkExpr(kind::GT, c,
                           em.mkConst(Rational(10)))));
smt.assertFormula(                // assume C == 20
    em.mkExpr(kind::EQUAL, c,
               em.mkConst(Rational(20))));
std::cout << "reduced expression is: ";
std::cout << smt.simplify(expr) << "\n"; // prints "A"
```

---

<sup>14</sup><http://cvc4.cs.nyu.edu/web/>

# Calculating Presence Conditions

Expressing Conditionals with CVC4

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# Calculating Presence Conditions

## The Lexer

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In order to use the Boost.Wave lexer with a Spirit V2 grammar we have to create wrappers for both the iterator and the token:

- both token and iterator need some special typedefs and methods
- also insert specializations into Spirit "customization points" to help us synthesize parsed results as strings

I will spare you the hacky details. . .

# Calculating Presence Conditions

## The Parser

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As we collect text blocks, we must combine parsed conditions with their parent conditions:

- The condition for a text block is the logical AND of its own controlling condition and those of its parent
- `#else` or `#elsif` ANDs in negated conditions from "siblings"

Spirit rules are a nice fit for this task

# Calculating Presence Conditions

## Spirit Rule Anatomy

Preprocessor-  
Aware  
Refactoring

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Refactoring  
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important  
The  
Preprocessor  
gets in the  
way

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Conclusion

Resources

```
struct text_section {  
    CVC4::Expr          condition;  
    std::vector<std::string> body;  
};  
  
using namespace boost::spirit;  
qi::rule<Iterator,  
    std::vector<text_section>(CVC4::Expr),  
    skipper<Iterator>,                // whitespace handling  
    locals<CVC4::Expr>> cond_ifdef;
```

This rule type describes *inherited* attributes from nesting in the parent, the attribute *synthesized* by the rule, and a *local* attribute used to calculate the condition for the `#else` branch.

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# Calculating Presence Conditions

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```
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auto xbeg = make_tok_iterator(beg);
auto xend = make_tok_iterator(end);

vector<text_section> result;

bool pass = boost::spirit::qi::phrase_parse(xbeg, xend, fileparser,
                                              skipper<decltype(xbeg)>(),
                                              result);

if (pass) {
    for (auto const& s : result) {
        if (smt.checkSat(s.condition) != CVC4::Result::SAT) {
            cout << "detected a dead code section with condition ";
            cout << smt.simplify(s.condition) << ":\n";
            copy(s.body.begin(), s.body.end(),
                ostream_iterator<string>(cout, " "));
        }
    }
}
```

# Calculating Presence Conditions

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# Calculating Presence Conditions

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# Calculating Presence Conditions

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# Calculating Presence Conditions

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# Calculating Presence Conditions

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# Refactoring into Policies

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## Refactoring into Policies

# Refactoring into Policies

## The Problem to be Solved

Behavior and types for different configurations is sprinkled throughout the code.

```
char const* cstr = "foo";  
#ifdef USE_QSTRING  
    using string_t = QString;  
    string_t s(cstr);  
    s = s.toUpper();  
#else  
    using string_t = std::string;  
    string_t s(cstr);  
    std::transform(s.begin(), s.end(), s.begin(),  
                   [](char c) { return std::toupper(c); });  
#endif
```

Goal: isolate these variations in a *policy class* supplied as a template parameter.

- Access types with using statements
- Access code by calling static methods
- Conditional compilation only at point of instantiation, to choose policy



# Refactoring into Policies

## The Problem to be Solved

Desired classes:

```
template<bool UsingQString>
struct StringClass {
    // base template handles true case
    using string_t = QString;
    static void to_upper(string_t& s) {
        s = s.toUpper();
    }
};

template<>
struct StringClass<false> {
    using string_t = std::string;
    string_t s(cstr);
    static void to_upper(string_t& s) {
        std::transform(s.begin(), s.end(), s.begin(),
            [](char c) { return std::toupper(c); });
    }
};
```

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## The Problem to be Solved

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### Usage:

```
// select policy class in a single place
#ifdef USE_QSTRING
using StringPolicy = StringClass<true>;
#else
using StringPolicy = StringClass<false>;
#endif

void my_fn() {
    using string_t = StringPolicy::string_t;
    string_t s("foo");           // chooses appropriate type
    StringPolicy::to_upper(s);    // calls appropriate code
    ...
}
```

# Refactoring into Policies

## The Problem to be Solved

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# Refactoring into Policies

## The Problem to be Solved

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# Refactoring into Policies

## Building Blocks Required

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- A way to identify program text associated with a particular macro `ifdef/ifndef`
- A way to locate that text's AST subtree
  - Matchers can give us the typedefs and statements from there
- A way to determine the variables accessed and modified by that text
  - to determine the reference and const reference parameters of the static methods
- Code to integrate the above and produce edits

# Refactoring into Policies

## Identifying Conditional Text

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```
template<bool Sense>    // defined or undefined?
struct PPActions : clang::PPCallbacks
{
    void Ifdef(clang::SourceLocation loc,
               clang::Token const& tok,
               clang::MacroDefinition const& md) override {
        // check for our target macro and sense
        if (tok.getIdentifierInfo()->getName().str() == mname_) {
            cond_starts_.emplace(loc, true);
            else_loc_ = std::experimental::nullopt;
        }
    }
    void Endif(clang::SourceLocation endifloc,
               clang::SourceLocation ifloc) override {
        // is this endif related to an ifdef/ifndef of interest?
        auto start_it = cond_starts_.find(ifloc);
        if (start_it != cond_starts_.end()) {
            // check sense, record range
            ...
            std::map<clang::SourceLocation, bool> cond_starts_;
```

# Refactoring into Policies

## Identifying Conditional Text

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            std::map<clang::SourceLocation, bool> cond_starts_;
```





## Locating an AST subtree from a SourceRange

## Preprocessor-Aware Refactoring

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## Conditional Compilation

### Calculating Presence Conditions

### Refactoring into Policies

## Conclusion

## Resources

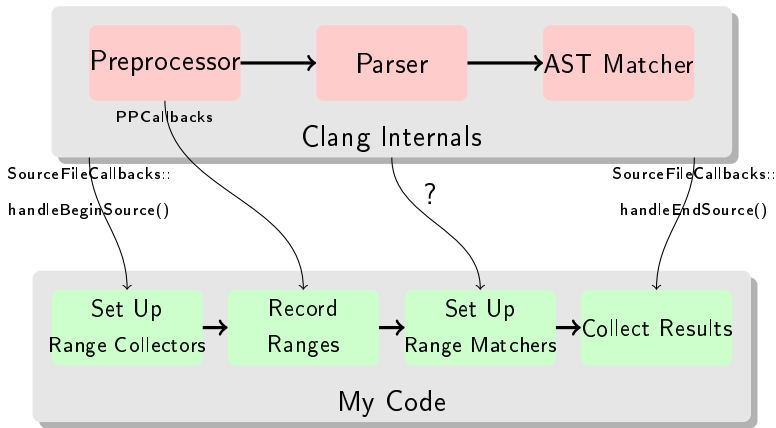
Clang's libASTMatchers doesn't provide a source range-based matcher, but we can make one:

[illegible]

# Refactoring into Policies

Connecting ranges to matchers

This was a little tricky.



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## Connecting ranges to matchers

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Hey, what's this?

**clang** 3.9.0svn

Main Page	Related Pages	Modules	Namespaces	<b>Classes</b>	Files
Class List	Class Index	Class Hierarchy	Class Members		
clang > ast_matchers > MatchFinder > ParsingDoneTestCallback >					
<b>clang::ast_matchers::MatchFinder::ParsingDoneTestCallback Class Reference</b> <span>abstract</span>					

Called when parsing is finished. Intended for testing only. [More...](#)

```
#include <ASTMatchFinder.h>
```

### Public Member Functions

```
virtual ~ParsingDoneTestCallback ()
```

```
virtual void run ()=0
```

# Refactoring into Policies

## Analyze Variables

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Type definitions are fairly easy - we can have a matcher for those and move them to their specialization. Statements, which can reference or modify other variables, are more challenging. In this case we can apply a trick.

We can always:

- Create edits to the original source
- run those edits on an in-memory copy of the source
- run the compiler (and a tool) on that string with `runToolOnCode()`

How can we manipulate a source range to make it easier to identify variables used?

# Refactoring into Policies

## Analyze Variables: The Solution

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Annotate source with lambdas and analyze "captures"

```
auto expression_capture_0 = [&]() -> void { // inserted
    s = s.toUpperCase();
}                                           // inserted
```

All variables referenced will be in the capture list in the AST. Must traverse lambda body to determine whether each is modified.

# Refactoring into Policies

## Analyze Variables: Process Flow

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```
#ifdef F00
    // true case
    v.push_back("bar");
#else
    // false case
    i = 42;
#endif
```

```
#ifdef F00
auto _cond_statement_0 =
 [&]() {
    // true case
    v.push_back("bar");
};
_cond_statement_0();
#else
    // false case
    i = 42;
#endif
```

```
#ifdef F00
    // true case
    v.push_back("bar");
#else
auto _cond_statement_0 =
 [&]() {
    // false case
    i = 42;
};
_cond_statement_0();
#endif
```

```
static void method_0(
    std::vector<std::string>& v,
    int& i
);
```

# Refactoring into Policies

## Sample Result

### Preprocessor-Aware Refactoring

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Resources

```
int main() {
#ifdef F00
    typedef char i_t;
#else
    typedef int i_t;
    typedef char* string_t;
#endif

    i_t i;

#ifdef F00
    i = '\0';
#else
    i = 1;
#endif
}
```

```
template<bool MacroDefined>
struct F00_class {
    typedef char i_t;
    // static method TBD
};

template<>
struct F00_class<false> {
    typedef int i_t;
    typedef char* string_t;
    // static method TBD
};

#ifdef F00
    using F00_t = F00_class<true>;
#else
    using F00_t = F00_class<false>;
#endif

int main() {
    using i_t = F00_t::i_t;
    i_t i;
    // statements TBD...
}
```



# Refactoring into Policies

## Watch Me Finish Up

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**Faisal**

@faisalb



Following

TIL: [#octothorpe](#)  
[en.wiktionary.org/wiki/octothorpe](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/octothorpe)

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10:46 AM - 21 Mar 2016



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**Jeff Trull** @JaafarTrull · Mar 21

[@faisalb](#) Stealing this btw



**jefftrull/octothorpe**

octothorpe - Source code for a presentation on refactoring C++ while accounting for preprocessor interactions

[github.com](https://github.com)

# Conclusion

Preprocessor-  
Aware  
Refactoring

Jeff Trull

Refactoring  
Refactoring is  
important  
The  
Preprocessor  
gets in the  
way

Tools  
User tools  
APIs

Conditional  
Compilation  
Calculating  
Presence  
Conditions  
Refactoring  
into Policies

Conclusion

Resources

- The preprocessor is a necessary evil
- It is also often misused or (especially with C++11/14) unnecessary
- We can write tools to remove some usage
- We can make tools more aware of it

# Resources

Preprocessor-Aware  
Refactoring

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Refactoring  
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Conclusion

Resources

- Garrido&Johnson "Analyzing Multiple Configurations of a C Program" (ICSM 2005)
  - Tool P-Cpp, implemented in CRefactory (Eclipse/Java)
- Sincero, "Efficient Extraction and Analysis of Preprocessor-Based Variability" (2010)
  - Found 4 dead code blocks in the Linux kernel
- Kästner "Partial Preprocessing C Code for Variability Analysis" (2011)
  - Rewrite all conditions in terms of user-controlled defines
  - don't handle integer expressions, just Boolean
  - Uses Java preprocessor jcpp and SAT solver sat4j
  - <https://github.com/joliebig/Morpheus>
- Gazillo and Grimm, "Parsing all of C by Taming the Preprocessor" (2012)
  - More Java :)
  - <http://cs.nyu.edu/xtc/>