

## *explicit(boolean-expression)*

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### C++17

```
struct MyInt
{
    int val = 0;

    // explicit if the int type coming in
    // is bigger than what we can hold.
    // eg explicit if you pass a long,
    // implicit if you pass a short
    // TODO: handle unsigned...
    template <typename Init,
        std::enable_if_t<
            (sizeof(Init) > sizeof(int)),
            int> = 0>
    explicit MyInt(Init init)
        : val(static_cast<int>(init))
    {
    }

    template <typename Init,
        std::enable_if_t<
            (sizeof(Init) <= sizeof(int)),
            int> = 0>
    MyInt(Init init)
        : val(static_cast<int>(init))
    {
    }
};
```

### C++20

```
struct MyInt
{
    int val = 0;

    // explicit if the int type coming in
    // is bigger than what we can hold.
    // eg explicit if you pass a long,
    // implicit if you pass a short
    // (TODO: check for unsigned...)
    template <typename Init>
    explicit(sizeof(Init) > sizeof(int))
    MyInt(Init init)
        : val(static_cast<int>(init))
    {
    }
};
```

---

That can be useful on its own. But an interesting corollary is “explicit(false)”. What’s the point of that over the “equivalent” of just not saying explicit at all? It is being explicit about an implicit constructor. For example:

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### Questionable C++

```
struct Foo
{
    Foo(Bar b);
};
```

### Better C++

```
struct Foo
{
    /* yes, implicit*/ Foo(Bar b);
};
```

### C++20

```
struct Foo
{
    explicit(false) Foo(Bar b);
};
```

---

In code review of the first example, I would probably ask if the constructor should be explicit - the general rule is that most constructors should be explicit (it is another default that C++ got wrong). (because implicit

conversions often lead to mistaken conversions, which leads to bugs) So some people leave comments, to make it clear. But comments that just explain syntax (and not *why*) are better done as more clear code.

Using `explicit(false)` shows that the implicitness wasn't an accidental omission, but a real design decision. (You might still want to leave a comment as to *why* that is the right design decision.)

P.S. Please don't `#define implicit explicit(false)`. *Just Don't*. Do Not. Not Do. Don't even Try.

See also [wg21.link/p0892](http://wg21.link/p0892)

## `std::remove_cvref`

### Summary

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#### Before C++20

```
typename std::remove_cv<
    typename std::remove_reference<T>::type>::type
std::remove_cv_t<std::remove_reference_t<T>>
```

#### After C++20

```
typename std::remove_cvref<T>::type
std::remove_cvref_t<T>
```

---

### Detail

`std::decay<T>` is often (mis)used to obtain the type name for a type that is potentially a reference, cv-qualified, or both:

```
template <typename T>
auto f(T&& t) {
    // Removes reference and cv-qualifiers...
    using type_name = std::decay_t<T>;

    // To avoid this problem...
    static_assert(!std::is_same_v<int&, int>);
    static_assert(!std::is_same_v<int const, int>);

    // When evaluating the following conditional expression.
    if constexpr (std::is_same_v<type_name, int>) {
        use_int(t);
    }

    // Similarly, a reference type is not an array...
    else if constexpr (std::is_array_v<type_name>) {
        use_array(t);
    }

    // Nor is it a function.
    else if constexpr (std::is_function_v<type_name>) {
        use_function(t);
    }
}
```

```

    else {
        use_other(t);
    }
}

int main() {
    auto const i = 42;
    auto const s = std::string();

    f(i); // T == 'int const&', type_name == 'int'; invokes 'use_int'.
    f(s); // T == 'std::string const&', type_name == 'std::string'; invokes 'use_other'.
}

```

However, `std::decay<T>` introduces decay semantics for array and function types:

```

int arr[3];

// T == 'int (&)[3]', but type_name == 'int*' due to array-to-pointer decay.
// 'std::is_array_v<int*>' is false; invokes 'use_other'.
f(arr);

void g();

// T == 'void (&)()', but type_name == 'void (*)()' due to function-to-pointer decay.
// 'std::is_function<void (*)()>' is false; invokes 'use_other'.
f(g);

```

In C++20, the standard library provides the `std::remove_cvref<T>` type trait to fulfill this purpose without introducing unwanted decay semantics:

```

template <typename T>
auto f(T&& t) {
    using type_name = std::remove_cvref_t<T>;

    ...
}

int main() {
    auto const i = 42;
    int arr[3];
    void g();

    f(0); // Same as before.
    f(i); // Same as before.

    f(arr); // T == 'int (&)[3]', type_name == 'int [3]'; invokes 'use_array'.
    f(g); // T == 'void (&)()', type_name == 'void()'; invokes 'use_function'.
}

```