

# C++ REFLECTION TS

C++Now 2019  
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# REFERENCES

- [N4766](#): Latest Reflection TS Draft
- [P0578](#): Static Reflection in a Nutshell
- [P0385](#): Static Reflection Design
- [P0194](#): Base wording
- [P0670](#): Function Reflection
- Reference implementation.  
<https://github.com/matus-chochlik/clang>

# WHAT IS REFLECTION?

```
template<typename T>
struct GetInnerType {
    using type = T;
};
```

```
template<typename T>
struct GetInnerType<std::vector<T>> {
    using type = T;
};
```

```
GetInnerType<int>::type // int
GetInnerType<std::vector<int>>::type // int
GetInnerType<std::vector<std::vector<int>>>::type // vector<int>
```

```
template<typename T>
struct GetInnerType {
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};
```

```
template<typename T>
struct GetInnerType<std::vector<T>> {
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```
template<typename T>
struct GetInnerType<std::vector<T>> {
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};
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```
GetInnerType<int>::type // int
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GetInnerType<std::vector<std::vector<int>>>::type // vector<int>
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```
template<typename T>
struct GetInnerType {
    using type = T;
};
```

```
template<typename T>
struct GetInnerType<std::vector<T>> {
    using type = T;
};
```

```
GetInnerType<int>::type // int
GetInnerType<std::vector<int>>::type // int
GetInnerType<std::vector<std::vector<int>>>::type // vector<int>
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```
template<typename T>
struct GetInnerType {
    using type = T;
};
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```
template<typename T>
struct GetInnerType<std::vector<T>> {
    using type = T;
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```

```
GetInnerType<int>::type // int
GetInnerType<std::vector<int>>::type // int
GetInnerType<std::vector<std::vector<int>>>::type // vector<int>
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```
template<typename T>
struct GetInnerType {
    using type = T;
};
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```
template<typename T>
struct GetInnerType<std::vector<T>> {
    using type = T;
};
```

```
GetInnerType<int>::type // int
GetInnerType<std::vector<int>>::type // int
GetInnerType<std::vector<std::vector<int>>>::type // vector<int>
```

```
template<typename T>
struct GetInnerType {
    using type = T;
};

template<typename T>
struct GetInnerType<std::vector<T>> {
    using type = typename GetInnerType<T>::type;
};
```

```
GetInnerType<std::vector<std::vector<int>>>::type // int
```

```
template<typename T>
struct GetInnerType {
    using type = T;
};

template<typename T>
struct GetInnerType<std::vector<T>> {
    using type = typename GetInnerType<T>::type;
};
```

```
GetInnerType<std::vector<std::vector<int>>>::type // int
```

```
template<typename T>
struct GetInnerType {
    using type = T;
};

template<typename T>
struct GetInnerType<std::vector<T>> {
    using type = typename GetInnerType<T>::type;
};
```

```
GetInnerType<std::vector<std::vector<int>>>::type // int
```

# TYPE TRAITS

```
is_void  
is_integral  
is_class  
is_union  
is_function  
is_assignable  
is_destructable
```

```
template <class Fn, class... ArgTypes>  
struct is_invocable;
```

# BOOST.FUNCTIONTYPES

```
template<typename F, class ClassTransform = add_reference<_> >  
struct parameter_types;
```

- Extracts parameter types and produces an MPL sequence.



Key observation: C++ *already has compile-time reflection*

# APPLICATIONS OF REFLECTION SO FAR

- Boost.Bind (`std::bind`)
- Boost.HOF (higher order functions, e.g. fold)
- Boost.Parameter
- Boost.Python
- Boost.TTI

# SOMETHING'S MISSING

# BOOST.SERIALIZATION

```
class bus_stop {  
    friend class boost::serialization::access;  
    template<class Archive>  
    void serialize(Archive & ar, const unsigned int version)  
    {  
        ar & latitude;  
        ar & longitude;  
    }  
    gps_position latitude;  
    gps_position longitude;  
    //...  
};
```

# BOOST.SERIALIZATION

```
class bus_stop {  
    friend class boost::serialization::access;  
    template<class Archive>  
    void serialize(Archive & ar, const unsigned int version)  
    {  
        ar & latitude;  
        ar & longitude;  
    }  
    gps_position latitude;  
    gps_position longitude;  
    //...  
};
```

# BOOST.SERIALIZATION WITH XML

```
class bus_stop {  
    friend class boost::serialization::access;  
    template<class Archive>  
    void serialize(Archive & ar, const unsigned int version)  
    {  
        ar & make_nvp("latitude", latitude);  
        ar & make_nvp("longitude", longitude);  
    }  
    gps_position latitude;  
    gps_position longitude;  
    //...  
};
```

# BOOST.SERIALIZATION WITH XML

```
class bus_stop {  
    friend class boost::serialization::access;  
    template<class Archive>  
    void serialize(Archive & ar, const unsigned int version)  
    {  
        ar & make_nvp("latitude", latitude);  
        ar & make_nvp("longitude", longitude);  
    }  
    gps_position latitude;  
    gps_position longitude;  
    //...  
};
```

# BOOST.SERIALIZATION WITH XML

```
class bus_stop {  
    friend class boost::serialization::access;  
    template<class Archive>  
    void serialize(Archive & ar, const unsigned int version)  
    {  
        ar & make_nvp("latitude", latitude);  
        ar & make_nvp("longitude", longitude);  
    }  
    gps_position latitude;  
    gps_position longitude;  
    //...  
};
```

BOOST\_SERIALIZATION\_NVP alternative



# BOOST.FUSION

```
using namespace boost::fusion;  
std::tuple<int, std::string> example_tuple(101, "hello");  
  
std::cout << *begin(example_tuple) << '\n';           // 101  
std::cout << *next(begin(example_tuple)) << '\n';     // hello
```

```
struct employee {  
    std::string name;  
    int age;  
};
```

```
BOOST_FUSION_ADAPT_STRUCT(employee, name, age)
```

```
employee me{"David Sankel", 37};
```

```
std::cout << *begin(me) << '\n';           // David Sankel
```

```
std::cout << *next(begin(me)) << '\n'; // 37
```

```
struct employee {  
    std::string name;  
    int age;  
};
```

```
BOOST_FUSION_ADAPT_STRUCT(employee, name, age)
```

```
employee me{"David Sankel", 37};
```

```
std::cout << *begin(me) << '\n';           // David Sankel
```

```
std::cout << *next(begin(me)) << '\n'; // 37
```

```
struct employee {  
    std::string name;  
    int age;  
};
```

```
BOOST_FUSION_ADAPT_STRUCT(employee, name, age)
```

```
employee me{"David Sankel", 37};
```

```
std::cout << *begin(me) << '\n';           // David Sankel
```

```
std::cout << *next(begin(me)) << '\n'; // 37
```

```
BOOST_FUSION_DEFINE_STRUCT(  
    ,  
    employee,  
    (std::string, name)  
    (int, age))
```

```
BOOST_FUSION_DEFINE_STRUCT(  
    ,  
    employee,  
    (std::string, name)  
    (int, age))
```

```
BOOST_FUSION_DEFINE_STRUCT(  
    ,  
    employee,  
    (std::string, name)  
    (int, age))
```

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BOOST_FUSION_DEFINE_STRUCT(  
    ,  
    employee,  
    (std::string, name)  
    (int, age))
```



# REFLECTION TS FOCUS

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- Provide (only) what's missing

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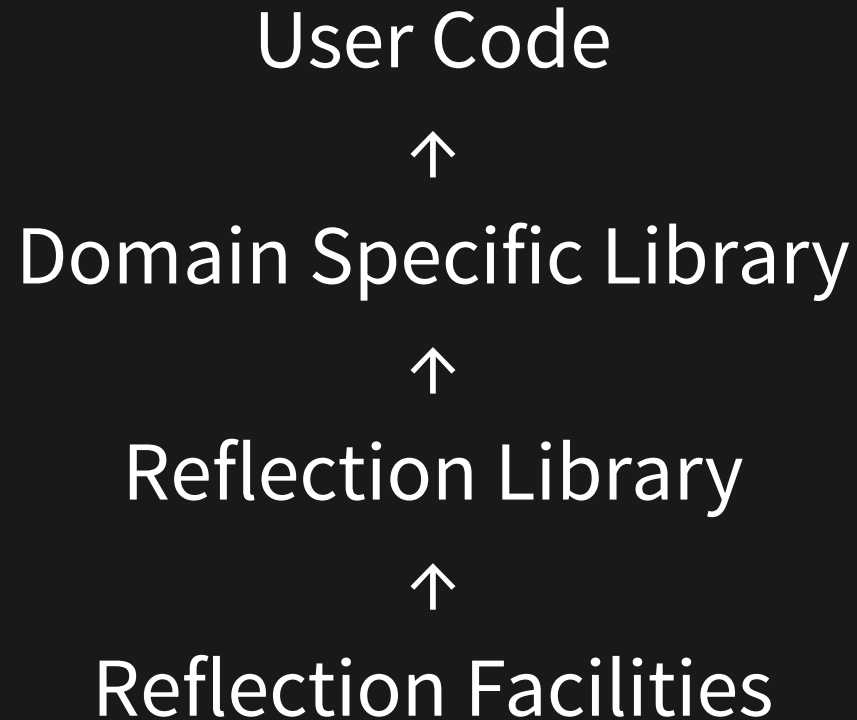
- Provide (only) what's missing
- Focus on use cases

# REFLECTION TS FOCUS

- Provide (only) what's missing
- Focus on use cases
- Focus on implementability

# REFLECTION TS FOCUS

- Provide (only) what's missing
- Focus on use cases
- Focus on implementability
- Make the API low level





```
reflexpr(<syntax>)
```

- Evaluates to a unnamed type



```
reflexpr(<syntax>)
```

- Evaluates to a unnamed type
- That type satisfies concepts

```
namespace std::experimental::reflect {  
inline namespace v1 {
```

```
template <class T>  
concept Object = /*...*/;
```

```
template <Object T1, Object T2> struct reflects_same;  
template <Object T> struct get_source_line;  
template <Object T> struct get_source_column;  
template <Object T> struct get_source_file_name;
```

```
namespace std::experimental::reflect {  
inline namespace v1 {
```

```
template <class T>  
concept Object = /*...*/;
```

```
template <Object T1, Object T2> struct reflects_same;  
template <Object T> struct get_source_line;  
template <Object T> struct get_source_column;  
template <Object T> struct get_source_file_name;
```

Every `reflexpr` result satisfies `Object`

```
namespace std::experimental::reflect {  
inline namespace v1 {
```

```
template <class T>  
concept Object = /*...*/;
```

```
template <Object T1, Object T2> struct reflects_same;  
template <Object T> struct get_source_line;  
template <Object T> struct get_source_column;  
template <Object T> struct get_source_file_name;
```

Concepts have associated operations

```
template <class T>  
constexpr auto get_source_line_v = get_source_line<T>::value;
```

\_v and \_t shorthands are included



```
struct S { // line 0  
    int i; // line 1  
};        // line 2
```

```
get_source_line_v<reflexpr(S)>;
```

Evaluates to 0

# TYPE SEQUENCES

```
template <ObjectSequence T>
constexpr auto get_size_v = get_size<T>::value;

template <ObjectSequence T1, size_t Index>
using get_element_t = typename get_element<T1, Index>::type;

template <ObjectSequence T1, template <class...> class Tpl>
constexpr auto unpack_sequence_v = unpack_sequence<T1, Tpl>::v
```



# TYPE SEQUENCES

```
template <ObjectSequence T>
constexpr auto get_size_v = get_size<T>::value;

template <ObjectSequence T1, size_t Index>
using get_element_t = typename get_element<T1, Index>::type;

template <ObjectSequence T1, template <class...> class Tpl>
constexpr auto unpack_sequence_v = unpack_sequence<T1, Tpl>::v
```

Get sequence size

# TYPE SEQUENCES

```
template <ObjectSequence T>
constexpr auto get_size_v = get_size<T>::value;

template <ObjectSequence T1, size_t Index>
using get_element_t = typename get_element<T1, Index>::type;

template <ObjectSequence T1, template <class...> class Tpl>
constexpr auto unpack_sequence_v = unpack_sequence<T1, Tpl>::v
```

Get sequence element

# TYPE SEQUENCES

```
template <ObjectSequence T>
constexpr auto get_size_v = get_size<T>::value;

template <ObjectSequence T1, size_t Index>
using get_element_t = typename get_element<T1, Index>::type;

template <ObjectSequence T1, template <class...> class Tpl>
constexpr auto unpack_sequence_v = unpack_sequence<T1, Tpl>::v
```

Unpack the sequence into a template

```
template <ObjectSequence T1, template <class...> class Tpl>  
constexpr auto unpack_sequence_v = unpack_sequence<T1, Tpl>::v  
  
unpack_sequence_v<SomeSequence, boost::fusion::vector>
```

```
template <ObjectSequence T1, template <class...> class Tpl>  
constexpr auto unpack_sequence_v = unpack_sequence<T1, Tpl>::v  
  
unpack_sequence_v<SomeSequence, boost::fusion::vector>
```

Create a `boost::fusion::vector`

# WHAT'S IN? WHAT'S OUT?

In:

- Data members
- Member types
- Enumerators
- Templates  
instantiations
- Aliases
- Function  
declarations
- Lambdas

Out:

- Reflection facilities  
already in C++
- Namespace members
- Templates
- Building new datatypes  
(`reflid`)
- Attributes

```
struct S {  
    int i;  
};
```

```
using FirstDataMember =  
    get_element_t<  
        get_public_data_members_t<  
            reflexpr(S) >,  
        0 >;
```

```
std::string memberName = get_name_v<FirstDataMember>;  
std::string typeName = get_name_v< get_type_t<FirstDataMember>
```

```
struct S {  
    int i;  
};
```

```
using FirstDataMember =  
    get_element_t<  
        get_public_data_members_t<  
            reflexpr(S) >,  
        0 >;
```

```
std::string memberName = get_name_v<FirstDataMember>;  
std::string typeName = get_name_v< get_type_t<FirstDataMember>
```



```
struct S {  
    int i;  
};
```

```
using FirstDataMember =  
    get_element_t<  
        get_public_data_members_t<  
            reflexpr(S) >,  
        0 >;
```

```
std::string memberName = get_name_v<FirstDataMember>;  
std::string typeName = get_name_v< get_type_t<FirstDataMember>
```

## Get the data members

```
struct S {  
    int i;  
};
```

```
using FirstDataMember =  
    get_element_t<  
        get_public_data_members_t<  
            reflexpr(S) >,  
        0 >;
```

```
std::string memberName = get_name_v<FirstDataMember>;  
std::string typeName = get_name_v< get_type_t<FirstDataMember>
```

Extract the first one

```
struct S {  
    int i;  
};
```

```
using FirstDataMember =  
    get_element_t<  
        get_public_data_members_t<  
            reflexpr(S) >,  
        0 >;
```

```
std::string memberName = get_name_v<FirstDataMember>;  
std::string typeName = get_name_v< get_type_t<FirstDataMember>
```

Get the name, "i"

```
struct S {  
    int i;  
};
```

```
using FirstDataMember =  
    get_element_t<  
        get_public_data_members_t<  
            reflexpr(S) >,  
        0 >;
```

```
std::string memberName = get_name_v<FirstDataMember>;  
std::string typeName = get_name_v< get_type_t<FirstDataMember>
```

Get the type name, "int"

# CONCEPTS IN USE

```
struct S { int i; };
```

```
using FirstDataMember =  
    get_element_t<  
        get_public_data_members_t<  
            reflexpr(S) >,  
            0 >;
```

```
std::string memberName = get_name_v<FirstDataMember>;  
std::string typeName = get_name_v<  
    get_type_t<FirstDataMember> >;
```

# CONCEPTS IN USE

```
struct S { int i; };
```

```
using FirstDataMember =  
    get_element_t<  
        get_public_data_members_t<  
            reflexpr(S) >,  
        0 >;
```

```
std::string memberName = get_name_v<FirstDataMember>;  
std::string typeName = get_name_v<  
    get_type_t<FirstDataMember> >;
```

## Class → Record

# CONCEPTS IN USE

```
struct S { int i; };
```

```
using FirstDataMember =  
    get_element_t<  
        get_public_data_members_t<  
            reflexpr(S) >,  
            0 >;
```

```
std::string memberName = get_name_v<FirstDataMember>;  
std::string typeName = get_name_v<  
    get_type_t<FirstDataMember> >;
```

## Sequence

# CONCEPTS IN USE

```
struct S { int i; };
```

```
using FirstDataMember =  
    get_element_t<  
        get_public_data_members_t<  
            reflexpr(S) >,  
            0 >;
```

```
std::string memberName = get_name_v<FirstDataMember>;  
std::string typeName = get_name_v<  
    get_type_t<FirstDataMember> >;
```

RecordMember → ScopeMember → Named



# CONCEPTS IN USE

```
struct S { int i; };
```

```
using FirstDataMember =  
    get_element_t<  
        get_public_data_members_t<  
            reflexpr(S) >,  
            0 >;
```

```
std::string memberName = get_name_v<FirstDataMember>;  
std::string typeName = get_name_v<  
    get_type_t<FirstDataMember> >;
```

Variable → Typed

# CONCEPTS IN USE

```
struct S { int i; };
```

```
using FirstDataMember =  
    get_element_t<  
        get_public_data_members_t<  
            reflexpr(S) >,  
            0 >;
```

```
std::string memberName = get_name_v<FirstDataMember>;  
std::string typeName = get_name_v<  
    get_type_t<FirstDataMember> >;
```

Type → Named

# CORE CONCEPTS

Object	Namespace
ObjectSequence	GlobalScope
TemplateParameterScope	Class
Named	Enum
Alias	Record
RecordMember	Scope
Enumerator	Type
Variable	Constant
ScopeMember	Base
Typed	

# RECORD

```
template <Record T> struct get_data_members;  
template <Record T> struct get_public_data_members;  
template <Record T> struct get_accessible_data_members;  
  
template <Record T> struct get_member_types;  
template <Record T> struct get_public_member_types;  
template <Record T> struct get_accessible_member_types;
```

# RECORD

```
template <Record T> struct get_data_members;  
template <Record T> struct get_public_data_members;  
template <Record T> struct get_accessible_data_members;  
  
template <Record T> struct get_member_types;  
template <Record T> struct get_public_member_types;  
template <Record T> struct get_accessible_member_types;
```

Get all members. "unsafe"

# RECORD

```
template <Record T> struct get_data_members;  
template <Record T> struct get_public_data_members;  
template <Record T> struct get_accessible_data_members;  
  
template <Record T> struct get_member_types;  
template <Record T> struct get_public_member_types;  
template <Record T> struct get_accessible_member_types;
```

Get public data members

# RECORD

```
template <Record T> struct get_data_members;  
template <Record T> struct get_public_data_members;  
template <Record T> struct get_accessible_data_members;  
  
template <Record T> struct get_member_types;  
template <Record T> struct get_public_member_types;  
template <Record T> struct get_accessible_member_types;
```

Members available in this context

# GOING FROM META TO REAL

```
template <Type T>
using get_reflected_type_t = typename get_reflected_type<T>::t

template <Variable T>
constexpr auto get_pointer_v = get_pointer<T>::value;

get_reflected_type_t<
    get_type_t<FirstDataMember> > i = 3;
```



# GOING FROM META TO REAL

```
template <Type T>
using get_reflected_type_t = typename get_reflected_type<T>::t

template <Variable T>
constexpr auto get_pointer_v = get_pointer<T>::value;

get_reflected_type_t<
    get_type_t<FirstDataMember> > i = 3;
```

"meta" type to type

# GOING FROM META TO REAL

```
template <Type T>
using get_reflected_type_t = typename get_reflected_type<T>::t

template <Variable T>
constexpr auto get_pointer_v = get_pointer<T>::value;

get_reflected_type_t<
    get_type_t<FirstDataMember> > i = 3;
```

To `int i = 3`

# GOING FROM META TO REAL

```
template <Type T>
using get_reflected_type_t = typename get_reflected_type<T>::t

template <Variable T>
constexpr auto get_pointer_v = get_pointer<T>::value;

get_reflected_type_t<
    get_type_t<FirstDataMember> > i = 3;
```

Get pointer to data member

# NAMED

```
template <Named T>
constexpr auto get_name_v = get_name<T>::value;
template <Named T>
constexpr auto get_display_name_v = get_display_name<T>::value
```

# NAMED

```
template <Named T>
constexpr auto get_name_v = get_name<T>::value;
template <Named T>
constexpr auto get_display_name_v = get_display_name<T>::value
```

# NAMED

```
template <Named T>
constexpr auto get_name_v = get_name<T>::value;
template <Named T>
constexpr auto get_display_name_v = get_display_name<T>::value
```

# APPLICATIONS

# SERIALIZATION

```
struct C { /*...*/ };  
struct D {  
    std::string s;  
    C c;  
};
```

```
D d = /*...*/  
std::cout << to_json(d);
```



# SERIALIZATION

```
struct C { /*...*/ };  
struct D {  
    std::string s;  
    C c;  
};
```

```
D d = /*...*/  
std::cout << to_json(d);
```

```
{ s: "hello", c: { /*...*/ } }
```

```
class bus_stop {  
    friend class boost::serialization::access;  
    template<class Archive>  
    void serialize(Archive & ar, const unsigned int version)  
    {  
        ar & make_nvp("latitude", latitude);  
        ar & make_nvp("longitude", longitude);  
    }  
    gps_position latitude;  
    gps_position longitude;  
    //...  
};
```

```
class bus_stop : public boost::serialization2<bus_stop> {  
    gps_position latitude;  
    gps_position longitude;  
    //...  
};
```

```
class bus_stop : public boost::serialization2<bus_stop> {  
    gps_position latitude;  
    gps_position longitude;  
    //...  
};
```

# CRTP

# BOOST.OPERATORS

```
struct person : public boost::less_than_comparable<person>
{
    std::string name;
    int id;

    bool operator<(const person &a) const {
        return std::tie(name, id) < std::tie(a.name, a.id);
    }
};
```

```
struct person : public boost::operators2::comparisons<person>
{
    std::string name;
    int id;
};
```

```
struct person : public boost::operators2::strong_ordering<pers
{
    std::string name;
    int id;
};
```

```
struct person : public boost::operators2::strong_ordering<pers
{
    std::string name;
    int id;
};
```

We didn't really need  $\leq$ . Oops



```
struct School {  
    std::string name;  
    double gpa;  
};  
  
struct Job {  
    std::string name;  
    std::vector<std::string> references;  
};  
  
struct Candidate {  
    std::string first_name;  
    std::string last_name;  
    std::variant<School, Job> most_recent_setting;  
};
```



# JACKIE KAY COMMAND-LINE PARSER

```
struct ParsedCommandLine {  
    std::optional<int> verbosity;  
    ServiceId serviceid;  
};  
  
int main( int argc, char** argv ) {  
    ParsedCommandLine cmdLine  
        = boost::args::parseCommandLine<ParsedCommandLine>(argc, a  
    if(cmdLine.verbose)  
        // ...  
}
```

```
program --verbosity=3 --serviceid=293923:1.0  
program --serviceid=293923:1.0  
program # error serviceid not specified ...  
program --help
```

# JACKIE KAY COMMAND-LINE PARSER

```
struct ParsedCommandLine {  
    std::optional<int> verbosity;  
    ServiceId serviceid;  
};  
  
int main( int argc, char** argv ) {  
    ParsedCommandLine cmdLine  
        = boost::args::parseCommandLine<ParsedCommandLine>(argc, a  
    if(cmdLine.verbose)  
        // ...  
}
```

```
program --verbosity=3 --serviceid=293923:1.0  
program --serviceid=293923:1.0  
program # error serviceid not specified ...  
program --help
```

Type driven development

# JACKIE KAY COMMAND-LINE PARSER

```
struct ParsedCommandLine {  
    std::optional<int> verbosity;  
    ServiceId serviceid;  
};  
  
int main( int argc, char** argv ) {  
    ParsedCommandLine cmdLine  
        = boost::args::parseCommandLine<ParsedCommandLine>(argc, a  
    if(cmdLine.verbose)  
        // ...  
}
```

```
program --verbosity=3 --serviceid=293923:1.0  
program --serviceid=293923:1.0  
program # error serviceid not specified ...  
program --help
```

Fictional Boost library

# JACKIE KAY COMMAND-LINE PARSER

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program --verbosity=3 --serviceid=293923:1.0  
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`std::optional` treated specially

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```



**AND THAT'S NOT ALL...**

# FUNCTION REFLECTION

FunctionParameter

Callable

Expression

ParenthesizedExpression

FunctionCallExpression

FunctionalTypeConversion

Function

MemberFunction

SpecialMemberFunction

Constructor

Destructor

Operator

ConversionOperator

Lambda

LambdaCapture

```
class Foo {  
    //...  
public:  
    std::vector<string> ls();  
    void copy(std::string source, std::string destination);  
    void touch(std::string path);  
    //...  
};
```

```
void main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    Foo f;  
    make_me_a_rest_service(argc, argv, f);  
}
```

```
class Foo {  
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```
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    //...  
public:  
    std::vector<string> ls();  
    void copy(std::string source, std::string destination);  
    void touch(std::string path);  
    //...  
};
```

```
void main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    Foo f;  
    make_me_an_interactive_console(argc, argv, f);  
}
```

```
class Foo {  
    //...  
public:  
    std::vector<string> ls();  
    void copy(std::string source, std::string destination);  
    void touch(std::string path);  
    //...  
};
```

```
void main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    Foo f;  
    make_me_an_interactive_console(argc, argv, f);  
}
```

```
class Foo {  
    //...  
public:  
    std::vector<string> ls();  
    void copy(std::string source, std::string destination);  
    void touch(std::string path);  
    //...  
};
```

```
> ls  
foo  
bar  
> copy source=foo destination=baz  
> ls  
foo  
bar  
baz
```



```
class Foo {  
    //...  
public:  
    std::vector<string> ls();  
    static const std::string helpText_ls;  
};
```

**YOUR IMAGINATION IS THE LIMIT**

# TS STATUS

- Will be published shortly
- Official clang implementation in the works

# FUTURE DIRECTION

Reface with constexpr-based syntax

- Make reflection more accessible
- Make metaprogramming more efficient
- See [P0953](#)...

# C++ REFLECTION TS

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