Using Modern C++ to Improve Code Clarity

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Tracktion

Recap From Last Year

Things a Programmer has to Consider

- Performance
 - Battery life
 - Responsiveness
 - Graphics for better UI/UX
 - Future improvements
- Readability
 - Coding styles
 - Clear intent
 - Other developers (and your future self)
- Maintainability
 - Time to change/refactor
- Reusability
 - Generic
 - Level of abstraction

- Robustness
 - Withstand future uses (threading)
- Security
 - Connections
 - Storing data
- Portability
 - Time to adapt to other platforms
 - Different UI form factors
- Compatibility
 - Fit with existing/future code
- Scaleability
 - From test cases to real world uses
 - Potential future uses

Solutions?

- Write less code
- Write simpler code

How?

- Type deduction (auto, decltype)
- Threads (std::async, std::future etc.)
- Lambdas (std::function)
- Variadic templates (parameter packs)
- Range based for loops
- Braced initialisers (std::initializer_list)

Part 1: Braced Initialisers Recap

Braced Initialisers Recap

- Last years talk "Using C++11 to Improve Code Clarity: Braced Initialisers"
- Object constructor deduction
- Aggregate initialisation
- Default member initialisers

Returning Objects

Returning Objects

Constructing Objects

```
// C++98
p.addLineSegment (Line<float> (Point<float> (-0.25f, 0.5f), Point<float> (1.25f, 0.5f)), 0.1f);
// C++11
p.addLineSegment ({{ -0.25f, 0.5f }, { 1.25f, 0.5f }}, 0.1f);
// C++98
p.addTriangle (1.2f, 0.3f, 1.6f, 0.3f, 1.4f, 0.6f);
p.addTriangle ({ 1.2f, 0.3f }, { 1.6f, 0.3f }, { 1.4f, 0.6f });
```

Initialiser Lists

```
// C++98
static int notes[] = { 35, 38, 42, 46, 51, 41 };

for (int i = 0; i < numElementsInArray (notes); ++i)
    addChannel (notes[i], MidiMessage::getRhythmInstrumentName (notes[i]));

// C++11
for (auto n : { 35, 38, 42, 46, 51, 41 })
    addChannel (n, MidiMessage::getRhythmInstrumentName (n));</pre>
```

Default Member Initialisers

```
// C++98
class MidiNote
public:
    MidiNote()
        : startBeat (0.0), lengthInBeats (0.0),
noteNum (0), chan (0), velocity (0),
colourIndex (0),
          noteID (getNextNoteID())
    MidiNote (double startBeat_, double lengthInBeats_,
               int noteNum_, int chan_, int velocity_)
        : startBeat (startBeat_), lengthInBeats (lengthInBeats_),
          noteNum (noteNum_), chan (chan_), velocity (velocity_),
          colourIndex (0),
          noteID (getNextNoteID())
    MidiNote (const ValueTree& v)
        : startBeat (v[IDs::s]), lengthInBeats (v[IDs::l]),
          noteNum (v[IDs::n]), chan (v[IDs::c]), velocity (v[IDs::v]),
          colourIndex (0).
          noteID (getNextNoteID())
    // accessors/mutators
    // ...
private:
    double startBeat, lengthInBeats;
    int noteNum, chan, velocity;
    int colourIndex;
    int noteID;
```

```
// C++11
class MidiNote
public:
   MidiNote() = default;
   noteNum (noteNum_), chan (chan_), velocity (velocity_)
   MidiNote (const ValueTree& v)
       : startBeat (v[IDs::s]), lengthInBeats (v[IDs::l]),
        noteNum (v[IDs::n]), chan (v[IDs::c]), velocity (v[IDs::v])
   // accessors/mutators
   // ...
private:
   double startBeat = 0.0, lengthInBeats = 0.0;
   int noteNum = 0, chan = 0, velocity = 0;
   int colourIndex = 0;
   int noteID { getNextNoteID() };
};
```

Part 2: Lambdas & std::function

Lambdas and std::function

- A lambda is a quick way to define a class and create an instance of it
- std::function is used to store, copy and invoke a callable object
- Lambdas are callable objects so can be stored in std::function
- auto lambda = [capture-list] (Args a) { functionBody; }

Lambdas as Callbacks

```
// C++98
class ObjectWithCallback
public:
    ObjectWithCallback() {}
    void changeObject()
    {
        listeners.call (&Listener::listenerCallback, *this);
    struct Listener
        virtual ~Listener() {}
        virtual void listenerCallback (ObjectWithCallback&) = 0;
    };
    void addListener (Listener∗ 1)
                                          { listeners.add (l); }
    void removeListener (Listener* 1)
                                          {    listeners.remove (l):    }
private:
    ListenerList<Listener> listeners;
};
```

// Usage

ObjectWithCallback objectWithCallback; ListeningObject listeningObject (objectWithCallback); objectWithCallback.changeObject();

Lambdas as Callbacks (2)

```
// C++11

class ObjectWithLambdaCallback
{
public:
    ObjectWithLambdaCallback() {}

    void changeObject()
    {
        if (callback)
            callback();
    }

    std::function<void()> callback;
};
```

// Usage

ObjectWithLambdaCallback objectWithLambdaCallback; LambdaListeningObject lambdaListeningObject (objectWithLambdaCallback); objectWithLambdaCallback.changeObject();

Timers

```
// C++98
struct TimerSubclass : private Timer
{
    TimerSubclass()
    {
        startTimerHz (1);
    }

private:
    void timerCallback() override
    {
        // Do some repetitive task
    }
};
```

Multi-Timers

```
struct OldTimerExample : public Component,
                          private MultiTimer
{
    enum
        repetitiveTimer,
        deferredTimer
    };
   OldTimerExample()
        startTimer (repetitiveTimer, 1000);
    void triggerDeferred()
        startTimer (deferredTimer, 500);
    void someDeferredMethod()
        // Do some stuff
        stopTimer (deferredTimer);
private:
    void timerCallback (int timerID) override
        switch (timerID)
            case repetitiveTimer:
                DBG ("repetitive callback");
                break;
            case deferredTimer:
                someDeferredMethod();
            default:
                break;
};
```

Lambda Timers

```
// C++11
struct LambdaTimer : public Timer
{
    LambdaTimer() = default;

    LambdaTimer& setCallback (std::function<void()> callback)
    {
        callbackFunction = std::move (callback);
        return *this;
    }

    void timerCallback() override
    {
        if (callbackFunction)
            callbackFunction();
    }

    std::function<void()> callbackFunction;
};
```

Using a Lambda Timer

```
// C++11
struct TimerExample
    TimerExample()
        repetitiveTimer.setCallback ([] { DBG ("repetitive callback"); });
        repetitiveTimer.startTimerHz (1);
        deferredTimer.setCallback ([this] { someDeferredMethod(); });
    void triggerDeferred()
        deferredTimer.startTimer (500);
private:
    void someDeferredMethod()
        // Do some stuff
        deferredTimer.stopTimer();
    LambdaTimer repetitiveTimer, deferredTimer;
};
```

Comparison

```
// C++98
struct OldTimerExample : public Component,
                          private MultiTimer
    OldTimerExample()
        startTimer (repetitiveTimer, 1000);
    void triggerDeferred()
        startTimer (deferredTimer, 500);
private:
    enum
        repetitiveTimer,
        deferredTimer
    };
    void someDeferredMethod()
        // Do some stuff
        stopTimer (deferredTimer);
    void timerCallback (int timerID) override
        switch (timerID)
            case repetitiveTimer:
                DBG ("repetitive callback");
                break;
            case deferredTimer:
                someDeferredMethod();
            default:
```

};

Lambda AsyncUpdater

```
// C++11
struct LambdaAsyncUpdater : public AsyncUpdater
{
    LambdaAsyncUpdater() = default;
    ~LambdaAsyncUpdater()
    {
        cancelPendingUpdate();
    }

    LambdaAsyncUpdater& setCallback (std::function<void()> callback)
    {
        callbackFunction = std::move (callback);
        return *this;
    }

    void handleAsyncUpdate() override
    {
        if (callbackFunction)
            callbackFunction();
    }

    std::function<void()> callbackFunction;
};
```

Lambda AsyncUpdater (2)

More Complex Example

```
/**
    Holds a list of function objects and enables you to call them asynchronously.
   1. Add function with an associated ID
    2. Call updateAsync with the ID
    3. When the update get triggered, any pending updates are called
    4. Useful to coalesce functionality from synchronous callbacks e.g. resizes or properties
*/
struct AsyncFunctionCaller : private juce::AsyncUpdater
    AsyncFunctionCaller() = default;
    ~AsyncFunctionCaller();
    void addFunction (int functionID, std::function<void()>);
    void updateAsync (int functionID);
private:
    std::unordered_map<int, std::pair<bool, std::function<void()>>> functions;
    void handleAsyncUpdate() override;
};
```

```
struct AsyncFunctionCaller : private juce::AsyncUpdater
    AsyncFunctionCaller() = default;
   ~AsyncFunctionCaller()
        cancelPendingUpdate();
    void addFunction (int functionID, std::function<void()> f)
        functions[functionID] = { false, std::move (f) };
    void updateAsync (int functionID)
        auto found = functions.find (functionID);
        if (found != functions.end())
            found->second.first = true;
            triggerAsyncUpdate();
    }
private:
    std::unordered map<int, std::pair<bool, std::function<void()>>> functions;
    void handleAsyncUpdate() override
        auto compareAndReset = [] (bool& flag) -> bool
            if (! flag)
                return false;
            flag = false;
            return true;
        };
        for (auto&& f : functions)
            if (compareAndReset (f.second.first))
                f.second.second();
};
```

```
/**

    Essentially coalesces synchronous ValueTree callbacks into other method calls

    Almost all logic is now simply responding to property changes and triggering a flag

    Not even any callback code

    No member flags (e.g. bool needsToUpdateTracks)

   - No reset methods (e.g. needsToUpdateTracks = false)
struct TreeWatcher : private ValueTree::Listener
   enum
        tracksFlag = 0,
        muteSoloFlag,
       nameFlag,
        updateLayoutFlag
   };
   TreeWatcher (TrackOwner& o, ValueTree& v) : owner (o), state (v)
        state.addListener (this);
        updater.addFunction (tracksFlag,
                                                 [this] { owner.updateTracks(); } );
        updater.addFunction (muteSoloFlag,
                                                 [this] { owner.updateMuteSolo(); } );
                                                 [this] { owner.updateNames(); });
        updater.addFunction (nameFlag,
        updater.addFunction (updateLayoutFlag, [this] { owner.updateLayout(); } );
   TrackOwner& owner;
   ValueTree state;
   AsyncFunctionCaller updater;
   void childAddedOrRemoved (ValueTree&, ValueTree& c)
        if (c.hasType (IDs::TRACK))
            updater.updateAsync (tracksFlag);
   void valueTreePropertyChanged (ValueTree& v, const Identifier& i) override
        if (v.hasType (IDs::VIEWSTATE))
            if (i == IDs::viewLeft || i == IDs::viewRight)
                updater.updateAsync (updateLayoutFlag);
        else if (v.hasType (IDs::TRACK))
            if (i == IDs::mute || i == IDs::solo)
               updater.updateAsync (muteSoloFlag);
            else if (i == IDs::name)
               updater.updateAsync (nameFlag);
   void valueTreeChildAdded (ValueTree& p, ValueTree& c) override
                                                                            { childAddedOrRemoved (p, c); }
    void valueTreeChildRemoved (ValueTree& p, ValueTree& c, int) override { childAddedOrRemoved (p, c); }
    void valueTreeParentChanged (ValueTree&) override {}
   void valueTreeChildOrderChanged (ValueTree& p, int, int n) override
        if (p.getChild (n).hasType (IDs::TRACK))
                                                                      26
};
```

Popup Menu Callbacks

```
// Define a lambda based PopupMenuCallback
struct PopupMenuCallback : public PopupMenu::CustomCallback
    PopupMenuCallback (std::function<void()> fn)
         : function (std::move (fn))
         jassert (function);
    bool menuItemTriggered() override
         function();
        return false; // Don't pass on to general PopupMenu callback
    std::function<void()> function;
};
// Helper method to add the callback to the menu
static inline void addCustomCallback (PopupMenu& m, const String& text, std::function<void()> f)
    PopupMenu::Item mi;
    mi.text << text;</pre>
    mi.itemID = -1;
    mi.customCallback = new PopupMenuCallback (std::move (f));
    m.addItem (mi);
PopupMenu m;
addCustomCallback (m, "Item 1", [] { DBG("item one clicked"); });
addCustomCallback (m, "Item 2", [] { DBG("item two clicked"); });
m.showMenuAsync ({}, nullptr);
```

ButtonCallbacks

```
struct ButtonClickCallback : public ReferenceCountedObject,
                             private Button::Listener
    /** Helper method to attach a callback to a button. */
    static void create (Button& b, const Identifier& callbackName, std::function<void()> callbackToUse)
        auto& props = b.getProperties();
        jassert (props.indexOf (callbackName) == -1);
        props.set (callbackName, new ButtonClickCallback (b, std::move (callbackToUse)));
    ~ButtonClickCallback()
        button.removeListener (this);
private:
    Button& button;
    std::function<void()> callback;
    ButtonClickCallback (Button& b, std::function<void()> callbackToUse)
        : button (b), callback (std::move (callbackToUse))
        button.addListener (this);
    void buttonClicked (Button∗) override
       if (callback)
           callback();
};
```

ButtonCallbacks (2)

std::function: By Reference or Value?

- Don't pass by non-const reference (disables passing rvalues)
- Usually storing std::functions
- Not cheap to copy so avoid copying
- At minimum receive by value, move from parameter (1 move)
- Move call site Ivalues in to arguments (2 moves)
- OR, provide copy and move constructor and assignment operators

Part 2: Smart Pointers, auto and some Pitfalls

Stealing by Copying

- juce::ScopedPointer<> was developed before move semantics
- This makes it possible to steal and delete a ScopedPointer's contents by type deduction
- This can happen inadvertently when exposing scoped pointers as class member variables

```
juce::ScopedPointer<Slider> slider (new Slider());

if (auto p = slider)
{
    // Here p is juce::ScopedPointer<Slider> created with the copy
    // constructor thus nulling the original
}
```

Stealing by Copying (2)

- Never expose raw juce::ScopedPointers, prefer accessors
- Make ScopedPointers const where possible to prevent stealing
- Prefer std::unique_ptr to only allow explicit stealing by invoking std::move

```
auto slider = std::make_unique<Slider>();

if (auto p = slider)
{
    // Error: Call to implicitly-deleted copy constructor
}

if (auto p = slider.get())
{
    // Correct, p is now Slider*
}

if (auto p = std::move (slider))
{
    // Explicit transfer of ownership
    // p is now std::unique_ptr<Slider>, slider is nullptr
}
```

Keeping Objects Alive through Reference Counting

- juce::ReferenceCountedObjectPtr<ObjType> will increment the reference count of the object it refers to
- This can lead to surprising reference counts in certain situations
- Consider a garbage collection scenario

ReferenceCountedObjectPtr

```
// C++98
struct GarbageCollectedObject : juce::ReferenceCountedObject
   using Ptr = ReferenceCountedObjectPtr<GarbageCollectedObject>;
   GarbageCollectedObject() {}
   ~GarbageCollectedObject() {}
};
struct GarbageCollectedObjectFactory
   GarbageCollectedObjectFactory() {}
    . . .
private:
   ReferenceCountedArray<GarbageCollectedObject> objects;
    void collect()
        for (int i = objects.size(); --i >= 0;)
            if (GarbageCollectedObject* obj = objects.getUnchecked (i))
                if (obj->getReferenceCount() == 1)
                    objects.remove (i);
};
```

```
// Consider a small change to the previous slider where the type of obj is now deduced
for (int i = objects.size(); --i >= 0;)
    if (auto obj = objects.getUnchecked (i))
        if (obj->getReferenceCount() == 1)
            objects.remove (i):
// Now obj is deduced to be a ReferenceCountedObjectPtr
// This increments the ref count to 2
// Thus the object is never removed from the array and deleted
// This can have wider ranging consequences
// Solution #1
// Use ReferenceCountedArray::getObjectPointer to return a raw pointer
// Solution #2
// Use std::shared ptr to improve readability
struct GarbageCollectedObjectFactory
    GarbageCollectedObjectFactory() = default;
private:
    std::vector<std::shared ptr<GarbageCollectedObject>> objects;
    void collect()
        objects.erase (std::remove_if (objects.begin(),
                                        objects.end(),
                                        [] (const auto& element) { return element.unique(); }),
                       objects.end());
};
```

Taking a Reference to a SafePointer

- Capturing this in asynchronous functions can be dangerous
- There is the potential for the object to be deleted before the callback happens
- This can often be solved by capturing a weak reference to the object

Part 3: std::async

std::async Basics

- std::async runs a function asynchronously
- Returns a std::future which will eventually hold the result of the function
- std::future waits in the destructor for the result*
- Can be used to parallelise non-dependant tasks

- the shared state was created by a call to std::async
- the shared state is not yet ready
- and this was the last reference to the shared state

^{*}It's actually a bit more complicated that that, it will only block if all of the following are true:

```
// Load a file and return the buffer
static AudioBuffer<float>* loadFileInToBuffer (const void* data, size t size)
    if (auto reader = std::unique ptr<AudioFormatReader> (WavAudioFormat().createReaderFor (new
MemoryInputStream (data, size, false), true)))
        std::unique ptr<AudioBuffer<float>> buffer (new AudioBuffer<float>());
        buffer->setSize (reader->numChannels, (int) reader->lengthInSamples);
        reader->read (buffer.get(), 0, (int) reader->lengthInSamples, 0, true, true);
       return buffer.release();
    return {};
// Load several resources: ~20 ms
void loadResourcesSerial()
   OwnedArray<AudioBuffer<float>> buffers;
   buffers.add (loadFileInToBuffer (hiphop01 wav, hiphop01 wavSize));
   buffers.add (loadFileInToBuffer (hiphop02_wav, hiphop02_wavSize));
   buffers.add (loadFileInToBuffer (hiphop03_wav, hiphop03_wavSize));
    buffers.add (loadFileInToBuffer (hiphop04_wav, hiphop04_wavSize));
void loadResourcesMultithreaded()
   OwnedArray<AudioBuffer<float>, CriticalSection> buffers;
   auto b1 = std::async ([&buffers] {
                                       buffers.add (loadFileInToBuffer (hiphop01 wav, hiphop01 wavSize)); });
                                       buffers.add (loadFileInToBuffer (hiphop02 wav, hiphop02 wavSize)); });
   auto b2 = std::async ([&buffers] {
   auto b3 = std::async ([&buffers]
                                       buffers.add (loadFileInToBuffer (hiphop03 wav, hiphop03 wavSize)); });
                                       buffers.add (loadFileInToBuffer (hiphop04_wav, hiphop04_wavSize)); });
   auto b4 = std::async ([&buffers]
   // b# deduced to std::future<void>
                                                     40
```

Generic Usage

Can be combined with STL to make generic methods

Possible Side Effects

- Many uses of std::async/std::thread/std::future etc.
- Some will speed up code, some will slow it down
- Profile!
- Best utilised when there are:
 - No shared resources
 - Little thread contention
 - CPU is under-utilised (e.g. at start-up)
- Use C++17 Execution Policies (Parallelism TS)???

Summary

- Use Modern C++ to reduce the amount of code
 - Use braces to reduce boilerplate and default initialise objects
 - Use std::function to reduce listener boilerplate
 - Prefer composable objects (over inheritance)
 - Use lambdas to improve code locality
 - Use std smart pointers to avoid pitfalls
 - Run tasks simply in parallel using std::async
- Less code means:
 - Quicker to write
 - Quicker to read
 - There's less to reason about
 - Clearer intent
 - More robust, maintainable
 - Likely to be more optimisable

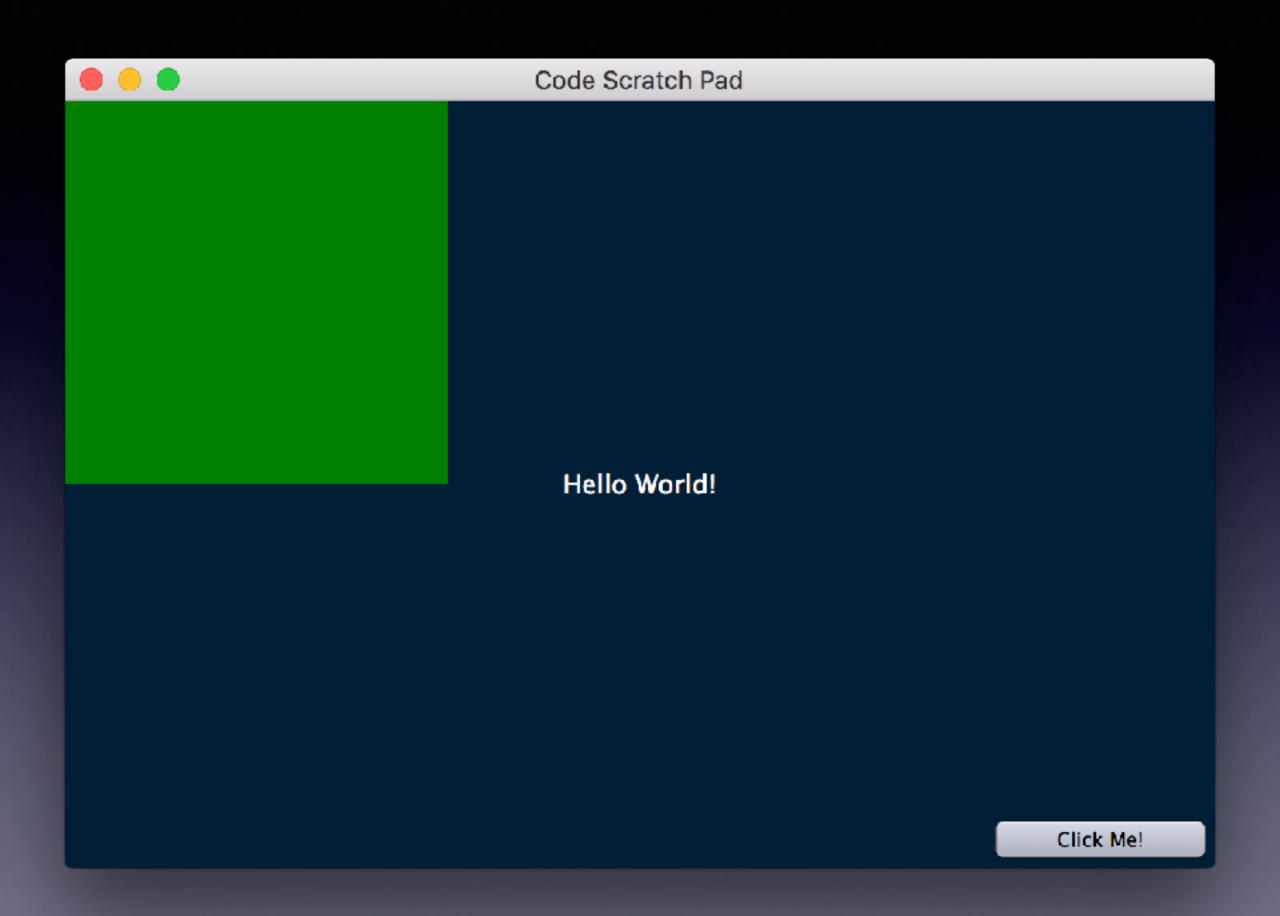
Questions?

But Wait, There's More...

Composable Components

```
struct LambdaComponent : public Component
   LambdaComponent() = default;
   LambdaComponent (std::function<void (Component&, Graphics&)> g)
        : paintFunction (std::move (g))
   {}
    void setCallback (std::function<void (Component&, Graphics&)> callback)
        paintFunction = std::move (callback);
        repaint();
    void paint (Graphics& g) override
        if (paintFunction)
            paintFunction (*this, g);
    std::function<void (Component&, Graphics&)> paintFunction;
};
```

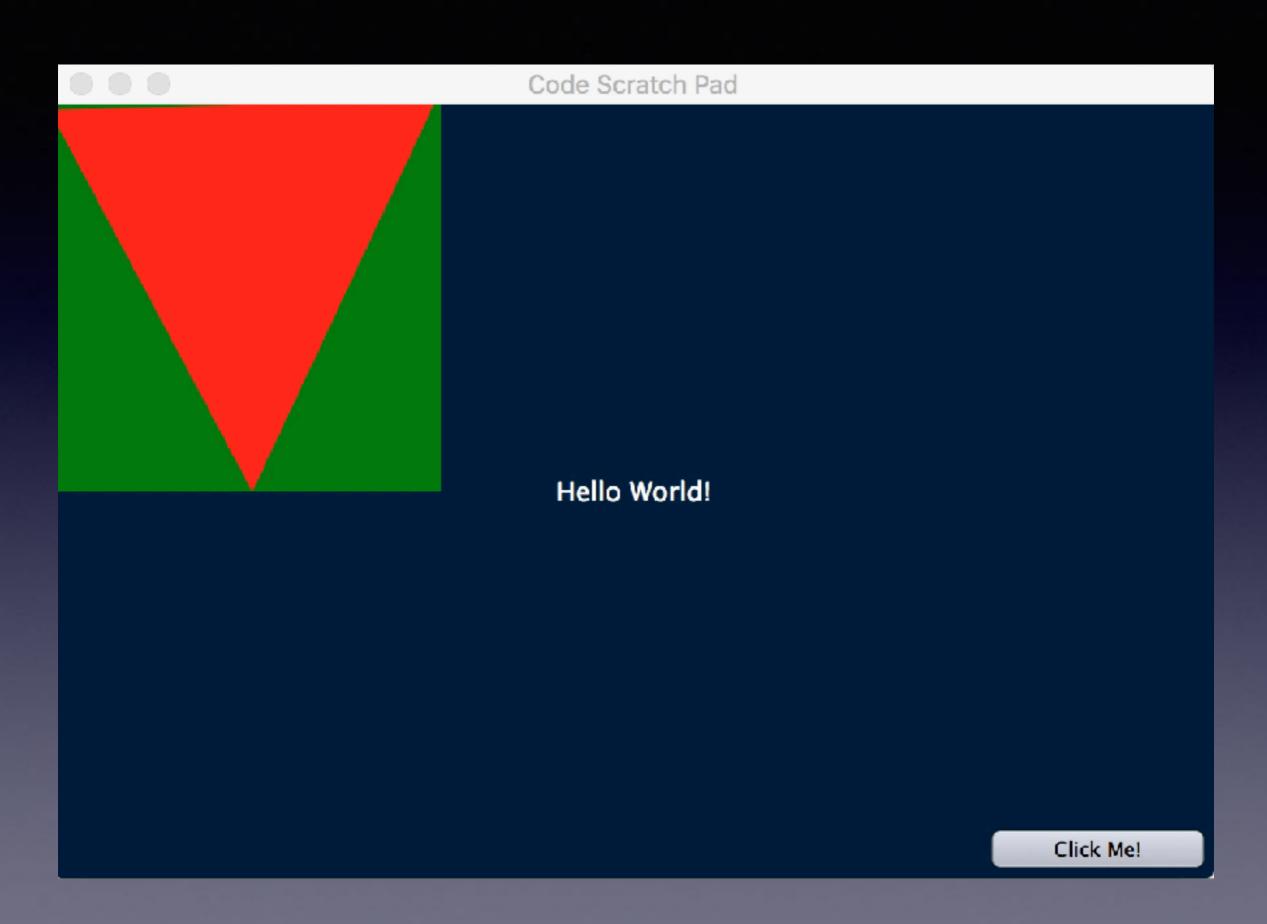
Simple Example



Animating a Composable Component

```
MainComponent()
    // Create a LambdaComponent and a timer to repaint it
    auto localLambdaComp = std::make unique<LambdaComponent>();
    auto timer = std::make_shared<LambdaTimer> ([comp = localLambdaComp.get()] { comp->repaint(); });
    timer->startTimerHz (25);
    // Set the paint method, moving the timer's ownership and creating a counter
    localLambdaComp->setCallback ([timer = std::move (timer)] (Component& c, Graphics& g)
        const double period = 3.0;
        const double prop = std::fmod (Time::getApproximateMillisecondCounter() * 0.001, period) / period;
        const double angle = (2.0 * double Pi) * prop;
        auto r = c.getLocalBounds().toFloat();
        Path p:
        p.addTriangle (r.getBottomLeft(), r.getBottomRight(), { r.getCentreX(), 0.0f });
        const auto centre = r.getCentre();
        p.applyTransform (AffineTransform::rotation (angle, centre.x, centre.y));
        g.setColour (Colours::red);
        g.fillPath (p);
    });
    lambdaComponent = std::move (localLambdaComp);
    addAndMakeVisible (lambdaComponent.get());
```

```
// Abstract complex logic into a helper function
std::unique ptr<LambdaComponent>
createAnimatedComponent (std::function<void (Component&, Graphics&)> paintFunction)
    auto localLambdaComp = std::make unique<LambdaComponent>();
    auto timer = std::make_shared<LambdaTimer> ([comp = localLambdaComp.get()] { comp->repaint(); });
    timer->startTimerHz (25);
    localLambdaComp->setCallback (
        [timer = std::move (timer), callback = std::move (paintFunction)] (Component& c, Graphics& g)
            callback (c, g);
        });
    return localLambdaComp;
}
// Which leaves just the paint logic in the parent Component constructor
MainComponent()
    lambdaComponent = createAnimatedComponent ([] (Component& c, Graphics& g)
        const double period = 3.0;
        const double prop = std::fmod (Time::getApproximateMillisecondCounter() * 0.001, period) / period;
        const double angle = (2.0 * double Pi) * prop;
        auto r = c.getLocalBounds().toFloat();
        Path p:
        p.addTriangle (r.getBottomLeft(), r.getBottomRight(), { r.getCentreX(), 0.0f });
        const auto centre = r.getCentre();
        p.applyTransform (AffineTransform::rotation (angle, centre.x, centre.y));
        g.setColour (Colours::red);
        g.fillPath (p);
    addAndMakeVisible (lambdaComponent.get());
```



More Questions?