

# Thinking Portable

Why and how to make your C++ cross  
platform

# Jason Turner

- <http://chaiscript.com>
- <http://cppbestpractices.com>
- <http://github.com/lefticus>
- <http://cppcast.com>
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- Independent contractor

# ChaiScript

```
int dosomething(int x, int y,  
                const std::function<int (int, int)> &f)  
{ return f(x*2, 3); }  
  
int main()  
{  
    using namespace chaiscript;  
  
    ChaiScript chai(chaiscript::Std_Lib::library());  
    chai.add(fun(&dosomething), "dosomething");  
    auto i = chai.eval<int>("dosomething(4,3, `+`)"); // i = 11  
}
```

# All my C++ has been cross-platform

- Linux i386
- Linux x86\_64
- Linux MIPS
- Linux ARM
- Win32 gcc/msvc
- Win64 gcc/msvc
- MacOS i386
- MacOS x86\_64
- Solaris Sparc
- FreeBSD
- Haiku

# Regular Cross-platform Releases

- Last 5 years spent contracting with a team making regular (bi-weekly) releases of desktop applications
- MacOS / Linux / Windows
- Must be easy to install, usable and feel natural on native OS
- Also deploys ruby bindings for C++ libraries on all OSes

- I'm here to convince you to make all of your C++ applications cross platform
- Help you convince your co-workers
- Give some practical advice on how

# Cross Platform Code is Better!

- More standards compliant
- Safer
- Future resistant
- More organized
- More tools available
- Wider customer base

# Cross Platform Code is Better!

- More standards compliant
- Safer
- Future resistant

These three come with using compilers from multiple vendors on multiple platforms



# More Standards Compliant

```
#include <Windows.h>
#include <iostream>
```

```
int main()
{
    BOOL b = true;

    if (b) {
        std::cout << "true";
        ++b;
    }
}
```

# More Standards Compliant

```
#include <Windows.h>  
#include <iostream>
```

```
int main()  
{  
    bool bool b = true;  
  
    if (b) {  
        std::cout << "true";  
        ++b;  
    }  
}
```

# More Standards Compliant

```
#include <Windows.h>
#include <iostream>
```

```
int main()
{
    bool bool b = true;

    if (b) {
        std::cout << "true";
        ++b; 9 : warning: incrementing expression of type bool is deprecated [-Wdeprecated-increment-bool] (-Weverything on clang)
    }
}
```

# More Standards Compliant

- Only clang on non-Windows would find all of the portability and semantic issues in this code.

# Safer

```
if (Hex_()) {  
    std::string match(start, m_input_pos);  
    m_match_stack.emplace_back(  
        make_node<eval::Int_AST_Node>(  
            std::move(match),  
            prev_line,  
            prev_col,  
            buildInt(std::hex, match)));  
    return true;  
}
```

# Safer

```
if (Hex_()) {  
    std::string match(start, m_input_pos);  
    m_match_stack.emplace_back(  
        make_node<eval::Int_AST_Node>(  
            std::move(match),  
            prev_line,  
            prev_col,  
            buildInt(std::hex, match)));  
    return true;  
}
```

# Safer

- Clang on Linux crashes, no other tool even generated a warning.

# Safer

<http://googleresearch.blogspot.no/2006/06/extra-extra-read-all-about-it-nearly.html>

```
uint64_t binarySearch(const std::vector<int64_t> &v, int64_t key) {  
    int low = 0;  
    int high = v.size() - 1;  
  
    while (low <= high) {  
        int mid = (low + high) / 2;  
        int midVal = v[mid];  
  
        if (midVal < key)  
            low = mid + 1;  
        else if (midVal > key)  
            high = mid - 1;  
        else  
            return mid; // key found  
    }  
    return -(low + 1); // key not found.  
}
```



# Safer

<http://googleresearch.blogspot.no/2006/06/extra-extra-read-all-about-it-nearly.html>

```
uint64_t binarySearch(const std::vector<int64_t> &v, int64_t key) {  
    int low = 0;  
    int high = v.size() - 1;           // No warnings on GCC at any level  
  
    while (low <= high) {  
        int mid = (low + high) / 2;  
        int midVal = v[mid];           // What happens with > 2B objects?  
  
        if (midVal < key)  
            low = mid + 1;  
        else if (midVal > key)  
            high = mid - 1;  
        else  
            return mid; // key found  
    }  
    return -(low + 1); // key not found.  
}
```

# Safer

<http://googleresearch.blogspot.no/2006/06/extra-extra-read-all-about-it-nearly.html>

```
uint64_t binarySearch(const std::vector<int64_t> &v, int64_t key) {  
    int low = 0;  
    int high = v.size() - 1;    !!warning: implicit conversion loses integer precision: 'unsigned long' to 'int'  
                                [-Wshorten-64-to-32] clang -Weverything  
  
    while (low <= high) {  
        int mid = (low + high) / 2;  
        int midVal = v[mid];  
  
        if (midVal < key)  
            low = mid + 1;  
        else if (midVal > key)  
            high = mid - 1;  
        else  
            return mid; // key found  
    }  
    return -(low + 1); // key not found.  
}
```

# Safer

<http://googleresearch.blogspot.no/2006/06/extra-extra-read-all-about-it-nearly.html>

```
uint64_t binarySearch(const std::vector<int64_t> &v, int64_t key) {
    int low = 0;
    int high = v.size() - 1;    warning C4267: 'initializing': conversion from 'size_t' to 'int',
                                possible loss of data (MSVC /W3)

    while (low <= high) {
        int mid = (low + high) / 2;
        int midVal = v[mid];

        if (midVal < key)
            low = mid + 1;
        else if (midVal > key)
            high = mid - 1;
        else
            return mid; // key found
    }
    return -(low + 1); // key not found.
}
```

# Safer

- GCC never warns on integer sizing problems
- Clang only warns at the `-Weverything` level
- MSVC warns at the fairly normal `/W3` level

This is a big annoyance for users porting to 64bit MSVC, but it's a real issue!

# Future Resistant

```
// Not all compilers enforce all of the standard
```

```
void dosomething(std::string &t_str)  
{ t_str = "code"; }
```

```
int main()  
{  
    dosomething(std::string("data"));  
}
```

# Future Resistant (real world example)

```
// Not all compilers enforce all of the standard
void dosomething(std::string &t_str)
{ t_str = "code"; }

int main()
{
    dosomething(std::string("data")); // Compiles ONLY on MSVC
}
// Generates a warning only on /W4 or higher
```

# Future Resistant

- Only MSVC allows non-const reference to temporary.
- MSVC only warns all the way up at /W4 level

Doing this is almost certainly a logic error, and is definitely a portability problem

# More Organized

- OS specific code logically separated
- Leads to natural library / UI separation



# More Tools Available

- PVS Studio (Windows Only)
- ReSharper C++ (Windows Only)
- Valgrind (Linux / MacOS Only)
- MSVC Static Analyzer (Windows Only)
- Clang's "sanitizers" (Linux is easiest)

# Static Analysis (from ChaiScript)

```
template<typename T, typename U>
static Boxed_Value go(Operators::Opers t_oper, const T &t, const U &u, const Boxed_Value &) {
    switch (t_oper) {
        case Operators::equals:           return const_var(t == u);
        case Operators::less_than:        return const_var(t < u);
        case Operators::greater_than:     return const_var(t > u);
        case Operators::less_than_equal:  return const_var(t <= u);
        case Operators::greater_than_equal: return const_var(t >= u);
        case Operators::not_equal:        return const_var(t != u);
        default:                          throw chaiscript::detail::exception::bad_any_cast();
    }
    throw chaiscript::detail::exception::bad_any_cast();
}
```

# Static Analysis (from ChaiScript)

```
template<typename T, typename U>
static Boxed_Value go(Operators::Opers t_oper, const T &t, const U &u, const Boxed_Value &) {
    switch (t_oper) {
        case Operators::equals:           return const_var(t == u);
        case Operators::less_than:        return const_var(t < u);
        case Operators::greater_than:      return const_var(t > u);
        case Operators::less_than_equal:   return const_var(t <= u);
        case Operators::greater_than_equal: return const_var(t >= u);
        case Operators::not_equal:         return const_var(t != u);
        default:                          throw chaiscript::detail::exception::bad_any_cast();
    }
    throw chaiscript::detail::exception::bad_any_cast(); // caught by MSVC only
}
```

# Static Analysis

```
int main(int argc, char *[]) {  
    if (argc > 3) {  
        return 5;  
    } else {  
        return 5;  
    }  
}
```

# Static Analysis

```
int main(int argc, char *[]) {  
    if (argc > 3) {  
        return 5;  
    } else {  
        return 5;  
    }  
}
```

[testcppcheck.cpp:5] -> [testcppcheck.cpp:3]: (style, inconclusive)  
Found duplicate branches for 'if' and 'else'.

# Wider Customer Base

- iOS
- Android
- Linux
- MacOS
- Windows
- Humble Bundle
- SteamOS

# Guidelines - Build Tool

DRY – Don't Repeat Yourself

- Maintaining multiple project files for multiple build configurations is hard. Let a build tool / makefile generator do the work for you

# Guidelines - Build Tool

- CMake
- biicode
- qmake
- premake
- meson
- Others here at the conference?



# Guidelines - Choose Your Compilers

- Choose which compilers and how old you'll support
- VS 2013 has limited C++11 support (constexpr, nothrow, defaulted functions, magic statics...)
- GCC 4.6 warns on return type deduction of complex lambdas
- And other issues

# Guidelines - Choose Your Compilers

```
#ifndef CHAIScript_MSVC_12
#define CHAIScript_HAS_MAGIC_STATICS
#endif
```

```
#if (defined(__GNUC__) && __GNUC__ > 4) || (__GNUC__ == 4 && __GNUC_MINOR__
>= 7) || defined(CHAIScript_MSVC) || defined(__llvm__)
#define CHAIScript_OVERRIDE override
#else
#define CHAIScript_OVERRIDE
#endif
```

```
#ifndef CHAIScript_MSVC
#define CHAIScript_NOEXCEPT throw()
#define CHAIScript_CONSTEXPR
#else
#define CHAIScript_NOEXCEPT noexcept
#define CHAIScript_CONSTEXPR constexpr
#endif
```

# Guidelines - GUI Toolkit

- Native?
- wxWidgets
- gtkmm
- FLTK
- Qt



Space Types



- General
- Loads
- Measure Tags
- Custom

Filter: Load Type

Show all loads

Space Type Name	All	Load Name	Multiplier	Definition	Schedule	Activity Schedule (People Only)
	<input type="checkbox"/>		Apply to Selected		Apply to Selected	Apply to Selected
Space Type 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	People 1	1.000000	kRoom - CZ4-8 People Definition		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lights 1	1.000000	akRoom - CZ1-3 Lights Definition		
Space Type 2						

- Space Types
- Default Construction Sets
- Default Schedule Sets
- Design Specification Outdoor Air
- Space Infiltration Effective Leakage Areas
- Space Infiltration Design Flow Rates
- People Definitions
  - 189.1-2009 - Office - BreakRoom - CZ1-3 People Definition
  - 189.1-2009 - Office - BreakRoom - CZ4-8 People Definition
  - 189.1-2009 - Office - ClosedOffice - CZ1-3 People Definition
  - 189.1-2009 - Office - ClosedOffice - CZ4-8 People Definition
  - 189.1-2009 - Office - Conference - CZ1-3 People Definition



## Space Types

Drop  
Zone

General




Loads

Measure  
Tags

Custom

Filter: Load Type

Show all loads

Space Type Name	All	Load Name	Multiplier	Definition	Schedule	Activity Schedule (People Only)
	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="text" value="Apply to Selected"/>		<input type="text" value="Apply to Selected"/>	<input type="text" value="Apply to Selected"/>
Space Type 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	 People 1	<input type="text" value="1.000000"/>	n - CZ1-3 People Definition	<input type="text" value="Office Misc Occ"/>	<input type="text" value="Office Activity"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Lights 1	<input type="text" value="1.000000"/>	m - CZ1-3 Lights Definition	<input type="text" value="Office Bldg Light"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Lights 2	<input type="text" value="1.000000"/>	m - CZ4-8 Lights Definition	<input type="text" value="Office Bldg Light"/>	
Space Type 2						

My Model

Library

Edit

Space Types

Default Construction Sets

Default Schedule Sets

Design Specification Outdoor  
AirSpace Infiltration Effective  
Leakage AreasSpace Infiltration Design Flow  
Rates

People Definitions

Lights Definitions

Luminaire Definitions

Electric Equipment Definitions

Gas Equipment Definitions

Water Use Equipment  
DefinitionsHot Water Equipment  
Definitions

Steam Equipment Definitions



Drop  
Zone

General

Loads

Measure  
Tags

Custom

Filter: Load Type

Show all loads

Space Type Name	All	Load Name	Multiplier	Definition	Schedule	Activity Schedule (People Only)
	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="button" value="Apply to Selected"/>		<input type="button" value="Apply to Selected"/>	<input type="button" value="Apply to Selected"/>
Space Type 1	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	 People 1  Lights 1  Electric Equipment 1	<input type="text" value="1.000000"/> <input type="text" value="1.000000"/> <input type="text" value="1.000000"/>	<input type="text" value="CZ1-3 People Definition"/> <input type="text" value="CZ1-3 Lights Definition"/> <input type="text" value="Electric Equipment Definition"/> <input type="text" value=""/>	<input type="text" value="Office Misc Occ"/> <input type="text" value="Office Bldg Light"/> <input type="text" value="Office Bldg Equip"/>	<input type="text" value="Office Activity"/>
Space Type 2				<input type="text" value=""/>		

Space Types

Default Construction Sets

Default Schedule Sets

Design Specification Outdoor Air


Space Infiltration Effective  
Leakage AreasSpace Infiltration Design Flow  
Rates


People Definitions


Lights Definitions


Luminaire Definitions

Electric Equipment Definitions

 189.1-2009 - Office -  
BreakRoom - CZ1-3 Electric  
Equipment Definition

 189.1-2009 - Office -  
BreakRoom - CZ4-8 Electric  
Equipment Definition

 189.1-2009 - Office -  
ClosedOffice - CZ1-3 Electric  
Equipment Definition

 189.1-2009 - Office -  
ClosedOffice - CZ4-8 Electric

# Guidelines - Filesystem Access

- Qt
- wxWidgets
- Boost (>255 length issue?)
- Wait for C++1z?
- Roll your own (keep it as high level as possible)

# Guidelines - Automated Builds

You will never maintain cross platform capability without automated builds

- TravisCI (<http://travis-ci.org>, Linux)
- AppVeyor (<http://appveyor.com>, Windows)
- Hudson / Jenkins etc
- DecentCI ([http://github.com/lefticus/decent\\_ci](http://github.com/lefticus/decent_ci))



△

# How To Convince Your Team

- Show them the examples from these slides
- Try to extract some core functionality
- Set up a CMake stub to compile the core
- Demonstrate a tangible benefit from what the new compiler finds

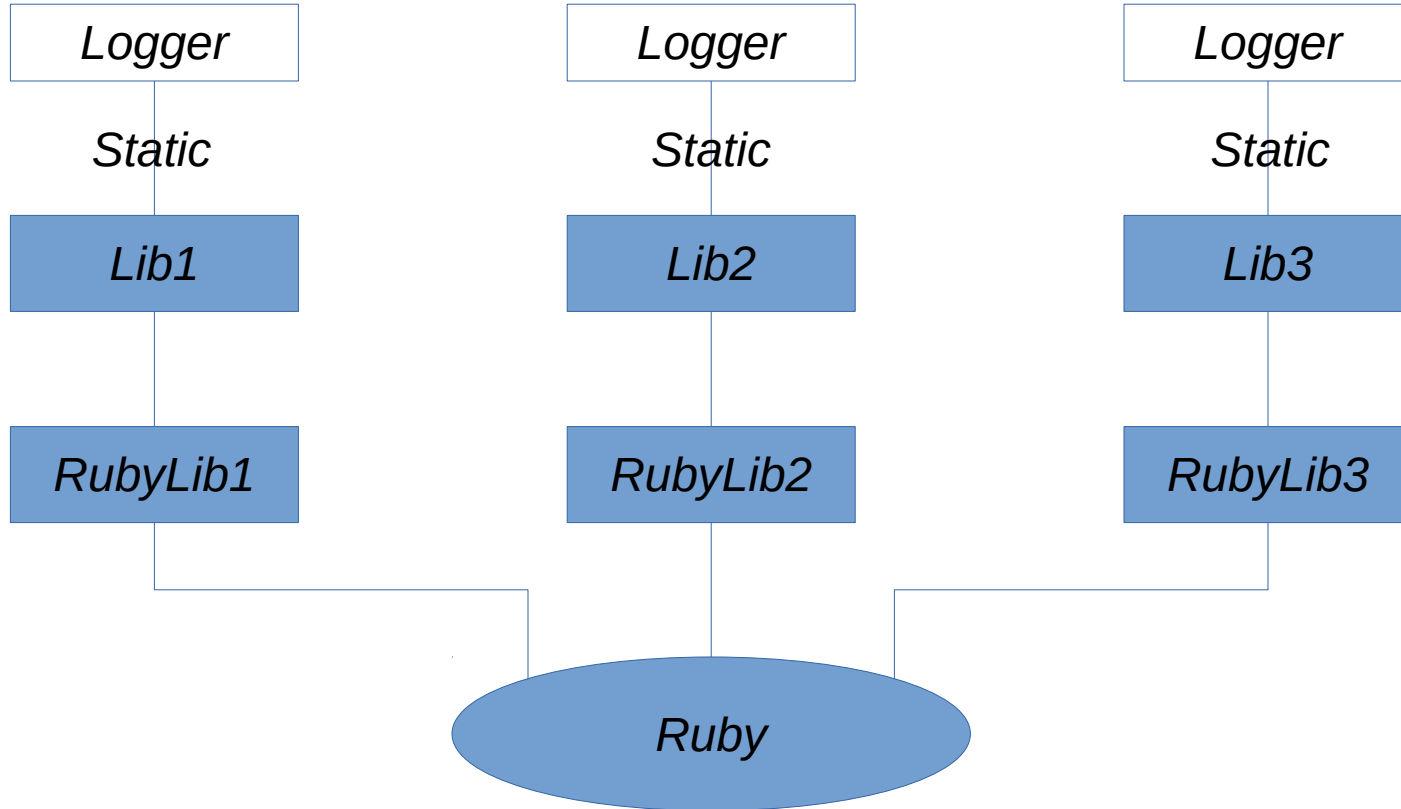
# What If The Team Isn't Convinced?

- Make full use of the tools you do have available
- Turn up warnings on current compiler (/W4, -Wall, -Wextra, -Weverything)
- Enable static analysis with MSVC / Clang
- Install Cppcheck
- Enable automated builds
- <http://cppbestpractices.com>

# What are the downsides?

- You must pick a subset of the language that you'll use
- You must pick a subset of OS/GUI Functionality
- Unexpected differences

# Unexpected Differences: Linking



# Unexpected Differences: Linking

- Global static logger object linked to 3 different dynamic libraries
- Linux: 1 Logger
- Windows: 3 Loggers
- MacOS: 1 Logger – Freed 3 times (crash on shutdown)

# Unexpected Differences: Linking

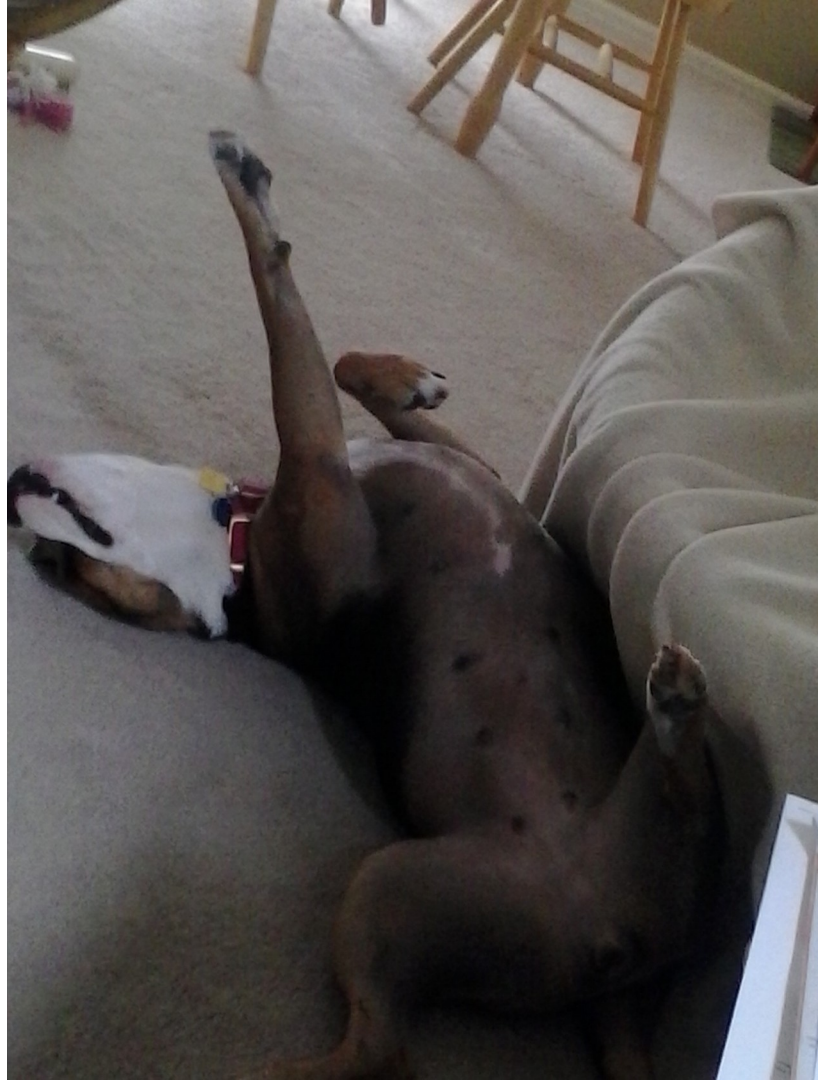
- Link a static library into your project at most 1 time.
- Prefer either 100% dynamic or 100% static linking
- Dynamically loading with a scripting engine might force you into 100% dynamic
- Avoid singletons as much as possible.

# Sometimes you end up with this:

```
#ifdef CHAISCRIPT_MSVC_12
#pragma warning(push)
#pragma warning(disable : 6011)
#endif
        // this analysis warning is invalid in
        //MSVC12 and doesn't exist in MSVC14
        std::vector<Type_Info> retval{types[0]};
#ifdef CHAISCRIPT_MSVC_12
#pragma warning(pop)
#endif
```



**Questions?**



# Jason Turner

- <http://chaiscript.com>
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- @lefticus