Boostache Exposed

the internals of Boost's template engine



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boo{stache

boo{stache}



caterpillar

Part I

Introduction



LiaW

C++Now 2014 Library in a Week Challenge



C++ Template Engine



C++ Template Engine
What!!



Boostache is a text template processing engine.

Takes in a document (the template) and a data source and generates an output document based on values from the data source



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Example Libraries

- Mustache
- Handlebars
- ctemplate
- Dust
- Django
- Jade
- Jinja



Original Cast

- Michal Bukovsky
- Michael Caisse
- Jeff Garland
- Jeroen Habraken
- Kevin Harris
- Dan Nuffer



Design Goals

Design Goals (morning session):

- Integrate STL well
- Type Safety
- Template parsing error handling
- Provide customization of markup language
- Make configuration simple
- Any data structure convertible to text should work

Features

"Compiled templates" (for speed)

Design Decisions

▶ Use C++11

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Design Decisions

▶ Use C++11

Data Model Design Discussion

- ► Force a model on the user. (hash of strings to strings ...)
- Accept user defined model



Data Model Design Discussion

- ► Force a model on the user. (hash of strings to strings ...)
- Accept user defined model



Credit

Following examples are for the Mustache Man pages



Mustache Example

Template

```
Hello {{name}}
You have just won {{value}} dollars!
{{#in_ca}}
Well, {{taxed_value}} dollars, after taxes.
{{/in_ca}}
```

Data

```
{
  "name": "Chris",
  "value": 10000,
  "taxed_value": 10000 - (10000 * 0.4),
  "in_ca": true
}
```

Result

```
Hello Chris
You have just won 10000 dollars!
Well, 6000.0 dollars, after taxes.
```

Mustache Example

Result

resque
hub
rip

```
int main()
```

```
int main()
   std::string input("My name is {{name}}. I am {{age}} years old.");
```

```
using map_t = std::map<std::string, std::string>;
int main()
   std::string input("My name is {{name}}. I am {{age}} years old.");
  map_t data = { { "name" , "Jeroen" },
                 { "age" , "42" }
   };
```

```
using map_t = std::map<std::string, std::string>;
int main()
  std::string input("My name is {{name}}. I am {{age}} years old.");
  map_t data = { { "name" , "Jeroen" },
                { "age" , "42" }
   };
  using boostache::load_template;
  auto iter = input.begin();
  auto templ = load template<boostache::format::stache>( iter
                                                        , input.end())
```

```
using map_t = std::map<std::string, std::string>;
int main()
  std::string input("My name is {{name}}. I am {{age}} years old.");
  map_t data = { "name" , "Jeroen" },
                { "age" , "42" }
   };
  using boostache::load_template;
  auto iter = input.begin();
  auto templ = load template<boostache::format::stache>( iter
                                                        , input.end())
   std::stringstream stream;
  boostache::generate(stream, templ, data);
   std::cout << stream.str();
```

```
int main()
```

```
int main()
   std::string input (
                      "Invoice"
                      "\n"
                      "{{#lines}}"
                      " {{item code}} {{description}} {{amount}}\n"
                      "{{/lines}}"
      );
```

```
using item t = std::map<std::string, std::string>;
using item list t = std::vector<item t>;
using invoice_t = std::map<std::string, item_list_t>;
int main()
  std::string input (
                     "Invoice"
                     "\n"
                     "{{#lines}}"
                     " {{item code}} {{description}} {{amount}}\n"
                     "{{/lines}}"
      );
  item list t invoice items = {
                                { {"item_code" , "1234"},
                                  {"description" , "Jolt"},
                                  {"amount" , "$23"} },
                                { {"item_code" , "1235"},
                                  {"description" , "computer"},
                                  {"amount" , "$9"} }
   };
  invoice t invoice = {{"lines" , invoice items}};
```

```
std::string input(
    "Invoice {{invoice_number}}"
    "\n"
    "{{# company}}"
    "{street}}\n"
    "{{city}}, {{state}} {{zip}}\n"
    "{{# lines}}"
    "{{item_code}} {{description}} {{amount}}\n"
    "{{/lines}}"
}
```

```
using boost::spirit::extended_variant;
struct value t;
using object t = std::map<std::string, value t>;
using list t = std::vector<value t>;
struct value t : extended variant< std::string</pre>
                                  , object_t
                                  . list t
  value_t() : base_type() {}
   value t(std::string const & rhs) : base type(rhs) {}
   value t(char const * rhs) : base type(std::string{rhs}) {}
   value_t(object_t const & rhs) : base_type(rhs) {}
   value t(list t const & rhs) : base type(rhs) {}
};
```

```
using boostache::load_template;
auto iter = input.begin();
auto templ = load_template<boostache::format::stache>(iter, input.end());
std::stringstream stream;
boostache::generate(stream, templ, invoice);
```

```
std::string input(
                   "Hello {{first_name}} {{last_name}} - \n\n"
                   "Congratulations on the acceptance of {{library}} "
                   "to Boost!"
                   "\n"
   );
author sue = { "Jones", "Sue", "sue@jones.net", "Wicket" };
using boostache::load_template;
auto iter = input.begin();
auto templ = load_template<boostache::format::stache>(iter, input.end());
std::stringstream stream;
boostache::generate(stream, templ, sue);
```

```
struct author
   std::string last_name;
   std::string first_name;
   std::string email;
   std::string library;
};
std::string input(
                   "Hello {{first_name}} {{last_name}} - \n\n"
                   "Congratulations on the acceptance of {{library}} "
                   "to Boost!"
                   "\n"
   );
author sue = { "Jones", "Sue", "sue@jones.net", "Wicket" };
```

```
struct author
   std::string last_name;
   std::string first_name;
   std::string email;
   std::string library;
};
BOOST FUSION ADAPT STRUCT (
   author.
   (std::string , last_name)
   (std::string , first_name)
   (std::string , library)
```

```
std::string input(
    "Invoice {{invoice_number}}"
    "\n"
    "{{# company}}"
    "{street}\n"
    "{{/ company}}"
    "{{/ company}}"
    ""
    "{{# lines}}"
    "{{litem_code}} {{amount}}\n"
    "{{/ lines}}"
}
```

```
struct company
   std::string name;
   std::string street;
   std::string city;
   std::string state;
   std::string zip;
};
struct line
   std::string item_code;
   std::string description;
   std::string amount;
};
struct invoice
   int invoice_number;
   company company_;
   std::vector<line> lines;
};
```

```
BOOST_FUSION_ADAPT_STRUCT(
   company,
   (std::string , name)
   (std::string , street)
   (std::string , city)
   (std::string , state)
   (std::string , zip)
BOOST FUSION ADAPT STRUCT (
   line.
   (std::string , item_code)
   (std::string , description)
   (std::string , amount)
BOOST_FUSION_ADAPT_STRUCT(
   invoice.
   (int
                      , invoice number)
   (company
                     , company_)
   (std::vector<line> , lines)
```

```
using boostache::load_template;
auto iter = input.begin();
auto templ = load_template<boostache::format::stache>(iter, input.end());
std::stringstream stream;
boostache::generate(stream, templ, invoice_);
```

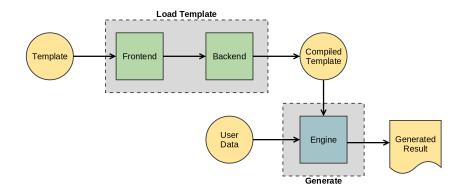
```
using boostache::load_template;
auto iter = input.begin();
auto templ = load_template<boostache::format::django>(iter, input.end());
std::stringstream stream;
boostache::generate(stream, templ, data);
```

Part II

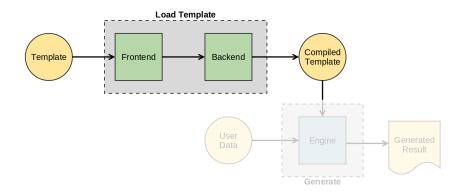
Diving In



Starting at the Top

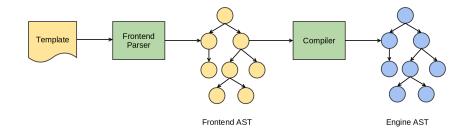








```
using boostache::load_template;
auto iter = input.begin();
auto templ = load_template<boostache::format::stache>(iter, input.end())
std::stringstream stream;
boostache::generate(stream, templ, sue);
```





Starting Out - load_template

```
template <typename Format, typename Iterator>
inline vm::ast::node load_template(Iterator & begin, Iterator const & end)
{
    return backend::compile(frontend::parse<Format>(begin,end));
}

template <typename Format>
inline vm::ast::node load_template(std::istream & input)
{
    return backend::compile(frontend::parse<Format>(input));
```

Frontend Selection

```
namespace boost { namespace boostache { namespace format
{
    struct stache
    {
        template <typename Iterator>
        using grammar_t = frontend::stache::grammar<Iterator>;

        using ast_t = frontend::stache::ast::root;
        using skipper_t = boost::spirit::qi::space_type;
    };
}}
```

Which Parser?

"Could use boost::spirit for parsing or maybe regex is enough"

Day 1 discussion notes LiaW 2014



Frontend Parse

Organization:

- ▶ frontend
 - ▶ stache
 - ▶ ast.hpp
 - ast_adapted.hpp
 - ▶ grammar.hpp
 - grammar_def.hpp
 - printer.hpp

users need fusion declaration definition



Organization:

- ▶ frontend
 - stache
 - ▶ ast.hpp
 - ast_adapted.hpp
 - ▶ grammar.hpp
 - grammar_def.hpp
 - printer.hpp

users need fusion declaration definition



```
node_list =
   *stache_node
;

stache_node =
   no_skip[literal_text]
   comment
   variable
   variable_unescaped
   section
   partial
;
```

```
node_list =
   *stache_node
;

stache_node =
    no_skip[literal_text]
    comment
    variable
    variable_unescaped
    section
    partial
;
```

```
literal_text =
    +(char_ - "{{"}};

stache_node =
    no_skip[literal_text]
    comment
    variable
    variable_unescaped
    section
    partial
;
```

```
comment =
     lit("{{")
  >> 111
  >> omit[*(char_ - "}}")]
  >> " } } "
stache_node =
      no_skip[literal_text]
    comment
    variable
    variable_unescaped
    section
     partial
```

```
variable =
    lit("{{")
  >> matches['&']
  >> identifier
  >> "}"
stache_node =
      no_skip[literal_text]
     comment
    variable
     variable_unescaped
     section
     partial
```

```
identifier =
  lexeme[alpha >> *(alnum | char_('_'))]
variable =
   lit("{{")
  >> matches['&']
  >> identifier
  >> "}"
stache_node =
      no_skip[literal_text]
     comment
    variable
    variable_unescaped
     section
     partial
```

```
section %=
     matches[&(lit("{{") >> '^')]
  >> section_begin[_a = _1]
  >> *stache_node
  >> section_end(_a)
  ;
```

```
section %=
     matches[&(lit("{{") >> '^')]
  >> section_begin[_a = _1]
   >> *stache_node
  >> section_end(_a)
   ;
section_begin =
    lit("{{")
  >> (lit('#') | '^')
  >> identifier
  >> " } "
```

```
section %=
     matches[&(lit("{{") >> '^')]
  >> section_begin[_a = _1]
  >> *stache_node
  >> section_end(_a)
   ;
section_begin =
    lit("{{")
  >> (lit('#') | '^')
  >> identifier
  >> " } "
section_end =
     lit("{{")
  >> '/'
  >> lit(_r1)
  >> "}}"
```

stache AST

```
struct node : boost::spirit::extended_variant<</pre>
     undefined
   , comment
   . literal text
   . variable
   , boost::recursive wrapper<section>
   , partial
  node() : base type() {}
   node (comment const & rhs) : base_type (rhs) {}
   node(literal text const & rhs) : base type(rhs) {}
   node (variable const & rhs) : base type (rhs) {}
   node(section const & rhs) : base type(rhs) {}
   node (partial const & rhs) : base_type (rhs) {}
};
struct node list : std::vector<node> {};
```

stache AST

```
struct undefined { }:
struct comment {};
struct identifier : std::string
{ };
struct literal_text : std::string
{ };
struct variable
   bool is_unescaped;
   identifier value;
};
struct partial : identifier
{ };
struct section
   bool is inverted;
   identifier name;
   node_list nodes;
};
```

stache Printer

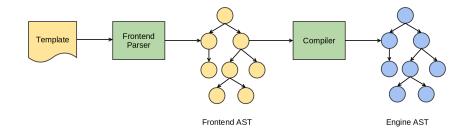
```
inline void print(std::ostream& out, node_list const& nodes)
{
   detail::printer p(out);
   for(auto const & node : nodes)
      {
        boost::apply_visitor(p, node);
      }
}
```

stache Printer

```
class printer
public:
   typedef void result_type;
   printer(std::ostream& out)
      : out (out)
   {}
   void operator()(undefined) const
      out << "WHOA! we have an undefined" << std::endl;
   void operator()(comment) const
private:
   std::ostream& out;
};
```

stache Printer

```
void operator()(literal_text const & v) const
   out << v;
void operator()(variable const & v) const
   out << "{{";
   if(v.is unescaped)
     out << "&";
   out << v.value << "}}":
void operator()(section const & v) const
   out << "{{";
   if(v.is inverted) { out << "^";</pre>
   else
                       out << "#"; }
   out << v.name << "}}";
   for(auto const & node : v.nodes)
      boost::apply_visitor(*this, node);
   out << "{{/" << v.name << "}}";
```





Starting Out - load_template

```
template <typename Format, typename Iterator>
inline vm::ast::node load_template(Iterator & begin, Iterator const & end)
{
    return backend::compile(frontend::parse<Format>(begin,end));
}

template <typename Format>
inline vm::ast::node load_template(std::istream & input)
{
    return backend::compile(frontend::parse<Format>(input));
}
```

stache Compile

```
namespace boost { namespace boostache { namespace backend
{
   inline vm::ast::node compile(frontend::stache::ast::root const & ast)
   {
      return stache_compiler::compile(ast);
   }
}}}

inline vm::ast::node compile(fe::stache::ast::root const & ast)
{
   detail::stache_visit visit;
   return visit(ast);
}
```

stache Compile

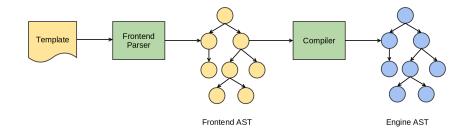
```
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      return stache_compiler::compile(ast);
   }
}}}

inline vm::ast::node compile(fe::stache::ast::root const & ast)
{
   detail::stache_visit visit;
   return visit(ast);
}
```

stache Compile - Vistor

```
class stache visit
public:
   typedef vm::ast::node result_type;
   vm::ast::node operator() (fe::stache::ast::root const & nodes) const
      vm::ast::node_list node_list;
      for(auto const & node : nodes)
         node_list.nodes.push_back(boost::apply_visitor(*this, node));
      return node list;
};
```

The Frontend





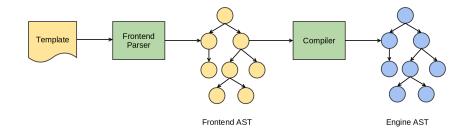
```
struct node : boost::spirit::extended_variant<
     undefined
   . literal
   . variable
   . render
   , boost::recursive wrapper<for each>
   , boost::recursive_wrapper<if_then_else>
   , boost::recursive wrapper<select context>
   , boost::recursive wrapper<node list> >
};
```

```
struct node : boost::spirit::extended_variant<</pre>
     undefined
   . literal
   . variable
   . render
   , boost::recursive wrapper<for each>
   , boost::recursive_wrapper<if_then_else>
   , boost::recursive wrapper<select context>
   , boost::recursive wrapper<node list> >
   node() : base_type() {}
   node(literal const & rhs) : base type(rhs) {}
   node(variable const & rhs) : base type(rhs) {}
   node (render const & rhs) : base type (rhs) {}
   node (for each const & rhs) : base type (rhs) {}
   node(if then else const & rhs) : base type(rhs) {}
   node(select_context const & rhs) : base_type(rhs) {}
   node(node list const & rhs) : base type(rhs) {}
};
```

```
struct literal
{
    literal(){}
    literal(std::string const & v) : value(v) {}
    std::string value;
};
struct for_each
{
    std::string name;
    node value;
};
```

```
struct if_then_else
   condition condition_;
   node then ;
   node else_;
};
struct select_context
   std::string tag;
   node body;
};
struct node_list
   std::vector<node> nodes;
};
```

The Frontend





stache Compiler

```
class stache visit
public:
   typedef vm::ast::node result type;
   vm::ast::node operator()(fe::stache::ast::undefined) const
      return vm::ast::node{};
   vm::ast::node operator()(fe::stache::ast::literal_text const & v) cor
     return vm::ast::literal{v};
   vm::ast::node operator()(fe::stache::ast::variable const & v) const
     return vm::ast::render{v.value};
   vm::ast::node operator() (fe::stache::ast::comment const & v) const
      return vm::ast::literal{}:
   vm::ast::node operator()(fe::stache::ast::partial const & v) const
      return vm::ast::literal{};
};
```

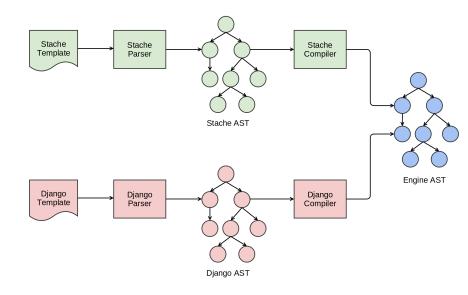
stache Compiler - Section

```
vm::ast::node operator() (fe::stache::ast::section const & sec) const
   vm::ast::node list vm ast;
   for(auto const & node : sec.nodes)
     vm ast.nodes.push back(boost::apply visitor(*this, node));
   vm::ast::for each section body;
   section body.name = sec.name;
   section body.value = vm ast;
   vm::ast::if then else if block;
   if_block.condition_.name = sec.name;
   vm::ast::select context select;
   select.tag = sec.name;
   select.body = section body;
   if(sec.is inverted) {  if block.else = select; }
   else
                         if_block.then_ = select; }
   return if block;
```

Compiler - AST Transform

Frontend AST \rightarrow Engine/VM AST

Multiple Frontends



Sample Django Template

```
std::string input(
    "My name is {{another.name}}. "
    "{# This is a comment #}"
    "I am {{pet}} years old."
    "{%% if another.notok %%}"
    "Nope"
    "{%% else %%}"
    "Yep"
    "{%% endif %%}\n");
```

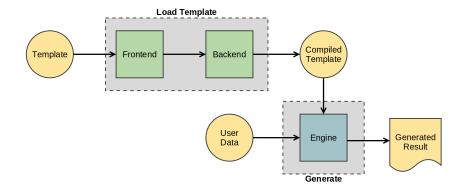
Django dot notation

```
vm::ast::node operator() (fe::django::ast::variable const & v) const
{
  vm::ast::node body = vm::ast::render{v.back()};
  for(auto iter = --v.rend(); iter != v.rbegin(); --iter)
  {
    vm::ast::select_context select;
    select.tag = *iter;
    select.body = std::move(body);
    body = std::move(select);
  }
  return body;
}
```

Django If

```
vm::ast::node operator() (fe::django::ast::if elif else const & if elif else
  vm::ast::node list then ;
   for(auto const & node : if_elif_else.if_.body)
      then_.nodes.push_back(boost::apply_visitor(*this, node));
   vm::ast::if_then_else if_then_else;
   if_then_else.condition_.name = if_elif_else.if_.condition.front();
   if then else.then = std::move(then);
   if(static cast<bool>(if elif else.else ))
     vm::ast::node list else ;
      for(auto const & node : if elif else.else .get())
         else_.nodes.push_back(boost::apply_visitor(*this, node));
      if_then_else.else_ = std::move(else_);
   return if_then_else;
```

The Big Picture





generate

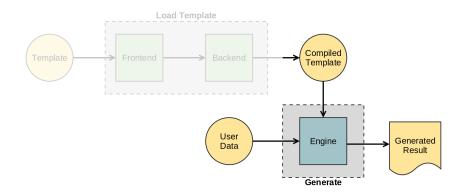
```
using boostache::load_template;
auto iter = input.begin();
auto templ = load_template<boostache::format::stache>(iter, input.end());
std::stringstream stream;
boostache::generate(stream, templ, invoice);
```

generate

```
using boostache::load_template;
auto iter = input.begin();
auto templ = load_template<boostache::format::stache>(iter, input.end());

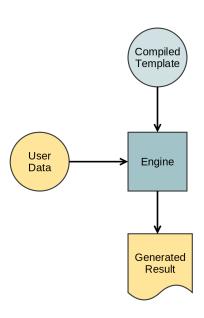
std::stringstream stream;
boostache::generate(stream, templ, invoice);
```

The Engine / VM





The Engine



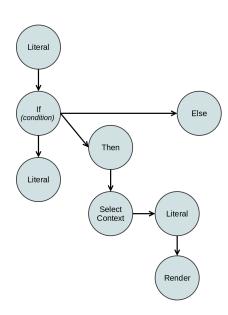
generate

Detail generate call:

Detail generate call:

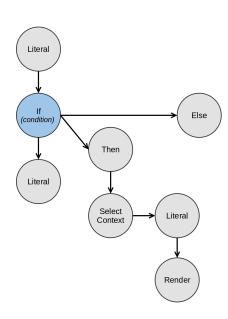
VM Processing





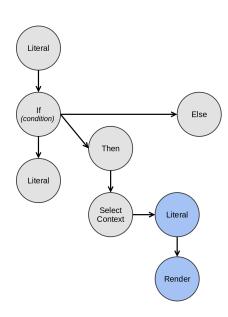
VM Processing





VM Processing





engine_visitor

```
template <typename Stream, typename Context>
class engine_visitor_base
public:
   typedef void result type;
   engine visitor base (Stream & s, Context const & c)
      : stream(s)
      , context(c)
   { }
   void operator() (ast::node list const & nodes) const
      for (auto const & node : nodes.nodes)
         boost::apply visitor(*this, node);
   void operator()(ast::node const & node) const
      boost::apply_visitor(*this, node);
private:
   Stream & stream;
   Context const & context;
};
```

```
void operator() (ast::undefined) const
{}

void operator() (ast::literal const & lit) const
{
    using boost::boostache::extension::render;
    render(stream, lit.value);
}

void operator() (ast::render const & r) const
{
    using boost::boostache::extension::render;
    render(stream, context, r.name);
}
```

```
void operator() (ast::if_then_else const & v) const
{
   using boost::boostache::extension::test;
   if(test(context, v.condition_.name))
   {
     boost::apply_visitor(*this, v.then_);
   }
   else
   {
     boost::apply_visitor(*this, v.else_);
   }
}
```

engine_visitor

```
void operator() (ast::for_each const & v) const
{
   using boost::boostache::vm::detail::foreach;
   foreach(stream, v, context);
}
```

```
template <typename Stream, typename Node, typename Context>
void foreach ( Stream & stream
            . Node const & node
            . Context const & context
            , extension::variant attribute)
   extension::detail::unwrap_variant_foreach<Stream,Node>
      variant foreach(stream, node);
   boost::apply_visitor(variant_foreach, context);
```

foreach magic

```
template <typename Stream, typename Node>
struct unwrap variant foreach
   typedef void result_type;
   unwrap_variant_foreach(Stream & stream, Node const & node)
      : stream (stream), node (node)
   { }
   template <typename T>
   void operator()(T const & context) const
      vm::detail::foreach(stream , node , context);
   Stream & stream:
   Node const & node ;
};
template <typename Stream, typename Node, typename Context>
void foreach ( Stream & stream
            . Node const & node
            . Context const & context
            , extension::variant attribute)
   extension::detail::unwrap_variant_foreach<Stream, Node>
      variant foreach(stream, node);
   boost::apply_visitor(variant_foreach, context);
```

foreach magic

```
template <typename Stream, typename Node, typename Context>
void foreach ( Stream & stream
            , Node const & node
            , Context const & ctx
            , extension::optional_attribute)
   if(ctx)
      foreach ( stream, node, *ctx
             , typename
                 extension::foreach_category<decltype(*ctx)>::type{});
   else
      generate(stream, node.value, ctx);
```

foreach magic

```
template <typename Stream, typename Context>
void select_context_dispatch ( Stream & stream
                            , ast::select_context const & templ
                            , Context const & ctx
                            , extension::associative_attribute)
   auto iter = ctx.find(templ.tag);
   if(iter != ctx.end())
      select_context( stream, templ.body, ctx, iter->second
                    , typename
                        extension::
                         select_category<decltype(iter->second)>::type{});
   else
      generate(stream, templ.body, ctx);
```

```
template < typename Stream, typename Template
         , typename Context1, typename Context2
void select context ( Stream & stream, Template const & templ
                   , Context1 const & /*ctx_parent*/
                   , Context2 const & ctx child
                   . extension::associative attribute)
   generate(stream, templ, ctx_child);
template < typename Stream, typename Template
         , typename Context1, typename Context2
void select context ( Stream & stream, Template const & templ
                   , Context1 const & /*ctx_parent*/
                   . Context2 const & ctx child
                   , extension::container attribute)
   generate(stream, templ, ctx_child);
```

```
template < typename Stream, typename Template
         , typename Context1, typename Context2
void select_context ( Stream & stream, Template const & templ
                   , Context1 const & ctx parent
                   , Context2 const & ctx_child
                   , extension::variant_attribute)
```

```
template < typename Stream, typename Template
         , typename Context1, typename Context2
void select_context ( Stream & stream, Template const & templ
                   , Context1 const & ctx parent
                   , Context2 const & ctx_child
                   , extension::variant_attribute)
   boost::apply_visitor(
        unwrap_and_select_context< Stream
                                  , Template
                                  , Context1>{ stream
                                             , templ
                                             , ctx_parent}
        , ctx_child
      );
```

Customization Point

```
std::string input(
                  "LiaW subject topic is: \n"
                  "{{# secret}}Not telling{{/ secret}}"
                  "{{\ secret}}{{name}}{{/ secret}}"
   );
std::function<bool()> conf_started =
   [](){return true;};
std::function<std::string() > liaw_topic =
   [](){return "Jeff's latest issue";};
smodel_t data = {
   {"name" , liaw topic},
   {"secret" , conf_started}
};
```

Customization Point

```
namespace boost { namespace boostache { namespace extension
   template <typename T>
   bool test ( std::string const & name
            , std::function<T() > const & context
            , extn::plain_attribute)
      return test(name, context());
   template < typename Stream
           , typename T
   void render ( Stream & stream
              , std::function<T()> const & context
              , std::string const & name
              , extn::plain attribute)
      render(stream, context(), name);
} } }
```

Part III

Future



What is next?

- General clean-up
- Complete Mustache and Django support
- Complete generalizing category handling
- Flesh out the extension mechanism
- Docs, docs, docs



Where do I find it?

https://github.com/cierelabs/boostache





Part IV

Bonus

