Coding Conventions

## Formatting

* Run AStyle script

RunAstyle.pl

I’m not even slightly happy about the way this looks but I’ve found no better alternative.

## Begin/End versus start/length

STL is reasonably consistent, with most APIs using T\* start, T\* end, but some APIs use length instead of end. The Stroika convention is to always use T\* start, T\* end.

### Rationale

One, this gives more consistent expectations. That’s especially important for APIs that use offsets (like String) – so that it’s obvious the meaning of integer parameters.

And it avoids problems with overflow. For example, if you had an API like:

basic\_string substr(

size\_type \_Off = 0,

size\_type \_Count = npos

) const

To map this to an internal representation you have todo:

char\* s = m\_bufPtr + \_Off;

char\* e = m\_bufPtr + \_Off + \_Count;

but if count was numeric\_limits<size\_t>::max(), then the e pointer computation would overflow. There are ways around this, but mixing the two styles creates a number of problems - but for implementations – and for use.

## mk Factories

Stroika doesn’t make much use of the factory pattern, but occasionally – it is useful. If the type provided by the factory is exactly the type of a given class, then we generally use

struct T {

static T mk();

};

Of course in this case, there was little obvious motivation to use a factory instead of regular constructor. However, if the class T is effectively a smart-pointer wrapper on some underlying dynamic ‘rep’ – this pattern may make sense.

But – for shared\_ptr types, and typedefs, we generally use

struct X;

typedef shared\_ptr<X> XPtr;

XPtr mkXPtr ();