

Item 23: Prefer non-member non-friend functions to member functions.

Consider a class `WebBrowser`.

```
class WebBrowser {
public:
    ...
    void clearCache();
    void clearHistory();
    void removeCookies();
    ...
};
```

To perform all these actn together, `WebBrowser` might have function

```
class WebBrowser {
public:
    void clearEverything();
    ...
};
```

This functionality can be provided by non-member function also,

```
void clearBrowser(WebBrowser &wb)
{
    wb.clearCache();
    wb.clearHistory();
    wb.removeCookies();
}
```


I which one is better → member function or non-member function.

→ Object oriented principles dictate data & functions that operate on them should be bundled together.

→ This is incorrect in this sense since object oriented dictate that data should be encapsulated.

→ If something is encapsulated, it is hidden from view, thus lesser chances of changes affecting directly and greater flexibility.

→ Only members and friends have access to private data members and non-member & non-friend don't have access to any, thus providing greater encapsulation since it does not increase the number of functions that can access private parts of class.

II ~~non~~ that non-member function can be a function of another class. till that ~~part~~ class is not a part of (or friend of) that class, it does not affect encapsulation.


```

namespace webBrowserStuff
{
    class webBrowser {...};
    void clearBrowser(webBrowser & wb);
}

```

we can put the non member non friend
functn in same namespace to that of
class. we can have many convenience
functions like this. we can store them
in different `.h` files.

```

// header "webBrowser.h"
class web
namespace webBrowserStuff
{
    class webBrowser {...};
    ...
}

```

```

// header "webBrowserBookmark.h"
namespace webBrowserStuff
{
    .... // bookmark related functn.
}

```

```

// header "webBrowserCookies.h"
namespace webBrowserStuff
{
    // cookie related functn.
}

```


→ This is same way we use different .h in C++ like `<vector>` `<list>` we use only that .h which is needed for our operation, each is declared in the namespace `std`.

→ Instead of having single `<C++ Standard Lib>` above approach is better.

→ Putting all convenience function in multiple header files - but one namespace also means that client can easily extend the set of convenience function

→ All they have to do is to add more non member non friend function in the namespace.

→ Above functionality cannot be given by classes, sure we can derive them but still cannot access private data members & all ~~data~~ classes may not be base class.