



googlemock

Google C++ Mocking Framework

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CookBook

Google C++ Mocking Framework Cookbook

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You can find recipes for using Google Mock here. If you haven't yet, please read the [ForDummies](#) document first to make sure you the basics.

Note: Google Mock lives in the `testing` name space. For readability, it is recommended to write using `::testing::Foo`; once before using the name `Foo` defined by Google Mock. We omit such using statements in this page for brevity, but you should do it code.

Creating Mock Classes

Mocking Private or Protected Methods

You must always put a mock method definition (`MOCK_METHOD*`) in a `public:` section of the mock class, regardless of the method being `public`, `protected`, or `private` in the base class. This allows `ON_CALL` and `EXPECT_CALL` to reference the mock function from the mock class. (Yes, C++ allows a subclass to change the access level of a virtual function in the base class.) Example:

```
class Foo {
public:
    ...
    virtual bool Transform(Gadget* g) = 0;

protected:
    virtual void Resume();

private:
    virtual int GetTimeOut();
};
```

```

class MockFoo : public Foo {
public:
    ...
    MOCK_METHOD1(Transform, bool(Gadget* g));

    // The following must be in the public section, even though the
    // methods are protected or private in the base class.
    MOCK_METHOD0(Resume, void());
    MOCK_METHOD0(GetTimeout, int());
};

```

Mocking Overloaded Methods

You can mock overloaded functions as usual. No special attention is required:

```

class Foo {
    ...

    // Must be virtual as we'll inherit from Foo.
    virtual ~Foo();

    // Overloaded on the types and/or numbers of arguments.
    virtual int Add(Element x);
    virtual int Add(int times, Element x);

    // Overloaded on the const-ness of this object.
    virtual Bar& GetBar();
    virtual const Bar& GetBar() const;
};

class MockFoo : public Foo {
    ...
    MOCK_METHOD1(Add, int(Element x));
    MOCK_METHOD2(Add, int(int times, Element x);

    MOCK_METHOD0(GetBar, Bar&());
    MOCK_CONST_METHOD0(GetBar, const Bar&());
};

```

Note: if you don't mock all versions of the overloaded method, the compiler will give you a warning about some methods in the base class being hidden. To fix that, use `using` to bring them in scope:

```

class MockFoo : public Foo {
    ...
    using Foo::Add;
    MOCK_METHOD1(Add, int(Element x));
    // We don't want to mock int Add(int times, Element x);
    ...
};

```

Mocking Class Templates

To mock a class template, append `_T` to the `MOCK_*` macros:

```

template <typename Elem>
class StackInterface {
    ...
    // Must be virtual as we'll inherit from StackInterface.
    virtual ~StackInterface();
};

```

```

    virtual int GetSize() const = 0;
    virtual void Push(const Elem& x) = 0;
};

template <typename Elem>
class MockStack : public StackInterface<Elem> {
    ...
    MOCK_CONST_METHOD0_T(GetSize, int());
    MOCK_METHOD1_T(Push, void(const Elem& x));
};

```

Mocking Nonvirtual Methods

Google Mock can mock non-virtual functions to be used in what we call *hi-perf dependency injection*.

In this case, instead of sharing a common base class with the real class, your mock class will be *unrelated* to the real class, but co-exists with the same signatures. The syntax for mocking non-virtual methods is the *same* as mocking virtual methods:

```

// A simple packet stream class. None of its members is virtual.
class ConcretePacketStream {
public:
    void AppendPacket(Packet* new_packet);
    const Packet* GetPacket(size_t packet_number) const;
    size_t NumberOfPackets() const;
    ...
};

// A mock packet stream class. It inherits from no other, but defines
// GetPacket() and NumberOfPackets().
class MockPacketStream {
public:
    MOCK_CONST_METHOD1(GetPacket, const Packet*(size_t packet_number));
    MOCK_CONST_METHOD0(NumberOfPackets, size_t());
    ...
};

```

Note that the mock class doesn't define AppendPacket(), unlike the real class. That's fine as long as the test doesn't need to call

Next, you need a way to say that you want to use ConcretePacketStream in production code, and use MockPacketStream in tests. If the functions are not virtual and the two classes are unrelated, you must specify your choice at *compile time* (as opposed to run time).

One way to do it is to templatize your code that needs to use a packet stream. More specifically, you will give your code a template argument for the type of the packet stream. In production, you will instantiate your template with ConcretePacketStream as the type. In tests, you will instantiate the same template with MockPacketStream. For example, you may write:

```

template <class PacketStream>
void CreateConnection(PacketStream* stream) { ... }

template <class PacketStream>
class PacketReader {
public:
    void ReadPackets(PacketStream* stream, size_t packet_num);
};

```

Then you can use CreateConnection<ConcretePacketStream>() and PacketReader<ConcretePacketStream> in production code, and use CreateConnection<MockPacketStream>() and PacketReader<MockPacketStream> in tests.

```

MockPacketStream mock_stream;
EXPECT_CALL(mock_stream, ...)...;
// .. set more expectations on mock_stream ...
PacketReader<MockPacketStream> reader(&mock_stream);
// ... exercise reader ...

```

Mocking Free Functions

It's possible to use Google Mock to mock a free function (i.e. a C-style function or a static method). You just need to rewrite your c interface (abstract class).

Instead of calling a free function (say, `OpenFile`) directly, introduce an interface for it and have a concrete subclass that calls the f

```
class FileInterface {
public:
    ...
    virtual bool Open(const char* path, const char* mode) = 0;
};

class File : public FileInterface {
public:
    ...
    virtual bool Open(const char* path, const char* mode) {
        return OpenFile(path, mode);
    }
};
```

Your code should talk to `FileInterface` to open a file. Now it's easy to mock out the function.

This may seem much hassle, but in practice you often have multiple related functions that you can put in the same interface, so the syntactic overhead will be much lower.

If you are concerned about the performance overhead incurred by virtual functions, and profiling confirms your concern, you can c with the recipe for [mocking non-virtual methods](#).

Nice Mocks and Strict Mocks

If a mock method has no `EXPECT_CALL` spec but is called, Google Mock will print a warning about the "uninteresting call". The rati

- New methods may be added to an interface after a test is written. We shouldn't fail a test just because a method it doesn't kno called.
- However, this may also mean there's a bug in the test, so Google Mock shouldn't be silent either. If the user believes these ca harmless, he can add an `EXPECT_CALL()` to suppress the warning.

However, sometimes you may want to suppress all "uninteresting call" warnings, while sometimes you may want the opposite, i.e. them as errors. Google Mock lets you make the decision on a per-mock-object basis.

Suppose your test uses a mock class `MockFoo`:

```
TEST(...) {
    MockFoo mock_foo;
    EXPECT_CALL(mock_foo, DoThis());
    ... code that uses mock_foo ...
}
```

If a method of `mock_foo` other than `DoThis()` is called, it will be reported by Google Mock as a warning. However, if you rewrite y `NiceMock<MockFoo>` instead, the warning will be gone, resulting in a cleaner test output:

```
using ::testing::NiceMock;

TEST(...) {
    NiceMock<MockFoo> mock_foo;
    EXPECT_CALL(mock_foo, DoThis());
    ... code that uses mock_foo ...
}
```

`NiceMock<MockFoo>` is a subclass of `MockFoo`, so it can be used wherever `MockFoo` is accepted.

It also works if `MockFoo`'s constructor takes some arguments, as `NiceMock<MockFoo>` "inherits" `MockFoo`'s constructors:

```
using ::testing::NiceMock;

TEST(...) {
    NiceMock<MockFoo> mock_foo(5, "hi"); // Calls MockFoo(5, "hi").
    EXPECT_CALL(mock_foo, DoThis());
    ... code that uses mock_foo ...
}
```

The usage of `StrictMock` is similar, except that it makes all uninteresting calls failures:

```
using ::testing::StrictMock;

TEST(...) {
    StrictMock<MockFoo> mock_foo;
    EXPECT_CALL(mock_foo, DoThis());
    ... code that uses mock_foo ...

    // The test will fail if a method of mock_foo other than DoThis()
    // is called.
}
```

There are some caveats though (I don't like them just as much as the next guy, but sadly they are side effects of C++'s limitations)

1. `NiceMock<MockFoo>` and `StrictMock<MockFoo>` only work for mock methods defined using the `MOCK_METHOD*` family of macros in the `MockFoo` class. If a mock method is defined in a **base class** of `MockFoo`, the "nice" or "strict" modifier may not affect it, if the compiler. In particular, nesting `NiceMock` and `StrictMock` (e.g. `NiceMock<StrictMock<MockFoo> >`) is **not** supported.
2. The constructors of the base mock (`MockFoo`) cannot have arguments passed by non-const reference, which happens to be the [Google C++ style guide](#).
3. During the constructor or destructor of `MockFoo`, the mock object is *not* nice or strict. This may cause surprises if the constructor or destructor calls a mock method on this object. (This behavior, however, is consistent with C++'s general rule: if a constructor calls a virtual method of this object, that method is treated as non-virtual. In other words, to the base class's constructor or destructor, the object behaves like an instance of the base class, not the derived class. This rule is required for safety. Otherwise a base constructor could use members of a derived class before they are initialized, or a base destructor could use members of a derived class after the object is destroyed.)

Finally, you should be **very cautious** when using this feature, as the decision you make applies to **all** future changes to the mock. An important change is made in the interface you are mocking (and thus in the mock class), it could break your tests (if you use `StrictMock`, bugs pass through without a warning (if you use `NiceMock`). Therefore, try to specify the mock's behavior using explicit `EXPECT_CALL` only, and turn to `NiceMock` or `StrictMock` as the last resort.

Simplifying the Interface without Breaking Existing Code

Sometimes a method has a long list of arguments that is mostly uninteresting. For example,

```
class LogSink {
public:
    ...
    virtual void send(LogSeverity severity, const char* full_filename,
                     const char* base_filename, int line,
                     const struct tm* tm_time,
                     const char* message, size_t message_len) = 0;
};
```

This method's argument list is lengthy and hard to work with (let's say that the message argument is not even 0-terminated). If we change the interface, using the mock will be awkward. If, however, we try to simplify this interface, we'll need to fix all clients depending on it, which is often a pain.

The trick is to re-dispatch the method in the mock class:

```
class ScopedMockLog : public LogSink {
public:
    ...
```

```

virtual void send(LogSeverity severity, const char* full_filename,
                const char* base_filename, int line, const tm* tm_time,
                const char* message, size_t message_len) {
    // We are only interested in the log severity, full file name, and
    // log message.
    Log(severity, full_filename, std::string(message, message_len));
}

// Implements the mock method:
//
// void Log(LogSeverity severity,
//          const string& file_path,
//          const string& message);
MOCK_METHOD3(Log, void(LogSeverity severity, const string& file_path,
                      const string& message));
};

```

By defining a new mock method with a trimmed argument list, we make the mock class much more user-friendly.

Alternative to Mocking Concrete Classes

Often you may find yourself using classes that don't implement interfaces. In order to test your code that uses such a class (let's call it Concrete), you may be tempted to make the methods of Concrete virtual and then mock it.

Try not to do that.

Making a non-virtual function virtual is a big decision. It creates an extension point where subclasses can tweak your class' behavior, which weakens your control on the class because now it's harder to maintain the class' invariants. You should make a function virtual only if there is a valid reason for a subclass to override it.

Mocking concrete classes directly is problematic as it creates a tight coupling between the class and the tests - any small change may invalidate your tests and make test maintenance a pain.

To avoid such problems, many programmers have been practicing "coding to interfaces": instead of talking to the Concrete class, you would define an interface and talk to it. Then you implement that interface as an adaptor on top of Concrete. In tests, you can easily swap out the interface to observe how your code is doing.

This technique incurs some overhead:

- You pay the cost of virtual function calls (usually not a problem).
- There is more abstraction for the programmers to learn.

However, it can also bring significant benefits in addition to better testability:

- Concrete's API may not fit your problem domain very well, as you may not be the only client it tries to serve. By designing your own interface, you have a chance to tailor it to your need - you may add higher-level functionalities, rename stuff, etc instead of just using the Concrete class. This allows you to write your code (user of the interface) in a more natural way, which means it will be more readable, more maintainable, and you'll be more productive.
- If Concrete's implementation ever has to change, you don't have to rewrite everywhere it is used. Instead, you can absorb the change in your implementation of the interface, and your other code and tests will be insulated from this change.

Some people worry that if everyone is practicing this technique, they will end up writing lots of redundant code. This concern is totally understandable. However, there are two reasons why it may not be the case:

- Different projects may need to use Concrete in different ways, so the best interfaces for them will be different. Therefore, each project will have its own domain-specific interface on top of Concrete, and they will not be the same code.
- If enough projects want to use the same interface, they can always share it, just like they have been sharing Concrete. You can place the interface and the adaptor somewhere near Concrete (perhaps in a contrib sub-directory) and let many projects use it.

You need to weigh the pros and cons carefully for your particular problem, but I'd like to assure you that the Java community has been using this for a long time and it's a proven effective technique applicable in a wide variety of situations. :-)

Delegating Calls to a Fake

Some times you have a non-trivial fake implementation of an interface. For example:

```

class Foo {
public:
    virtual ~Foo() {}
    virtual char DoThis(int n) = 0;
    virtual void DoThat(const char* s, int* p) = 0;
};

class FakeFoo : public Foo {
public:
    virtual char DoThis(int n) {
        return (n > 0) ? '+' :
            (n < 0) ? '-' : '0';
    }

    virtual void DoThat(const char* s, int* p) {
        *p = strlen(s);
    }
};

```

Now you want to mock this interface such that you can set expectations on it. However, you also want to use FakeFoo for the default as duplicating it in the mock object is, well, a lot of work.

When you define the mock class using Google Mock, you can have it delegate its default action to a fake class you already have, pattern:

```

using ::testing::_;
using ::testing::Invoke;

class MockFoo : public Foo {
public:
    // Normal mock method definitions using Google Mock.
    MOCK_METHOD1(DoThis, char(int n));
    MOCK_METHOD2(DoThat, void(const char* s, int* p));

    // Delegates the default actions of the methods to a FakeFoo object.
    // This must be called *before* the custom ON_CALL() statements.
    void DelegateToFake() {
        ON_CALL(*this, DoThis(_))
            .WillByDefault(Invoke(&fake_, &FakeFoo::DoThis));
        ON_CALL(*this, DoThat(_, _))
            .WillByDefault(Invoke(&fake_, &FakeFoo::DoThat));
    }
private:
    FakeFoo fake_; // Keeps an instance of the fake in the mock.
};

```

With that, you can use MockFoo in your tests as usual. Just remember that if you don't explicitly set an action in an ON_CALL() or EXPECT_CALL(), the fake will be called upon to do it:

```

using ::testing::_;

TEST(AbcTest, Xyz) {
    MockFoo foo;
    foo.DelegateToFake(); // Enables the fake for delegation.

    // Put your ON_CALL(foo, ...)s here, if any.

    // No action specified, meaning to use the default action.
    EXPECT_CALL(foo, DoThis(5));
    EXPECT_CALL(foo, DoThat(_, _));
}

```



```

int n = 0;
EXPECT_EQ('+', foo.DoThis(5)); // FakeFoo::DoThis() is invoked.
foo.DoThat("Hi", &n);        // FakeFoo::DoThat() is invoked.
EXPECT_EQ(2, n);
}

```

Some tips:

- If you want, you can still override the default action by providing your own `ON_CALL()` or using `.WillOnce()` / `.WillRepeatedly()`.
- In `DelegateToFake()`, you only need to delegate the methods whose fake implementation you intend to use.
- The general technique discussed here works for overloaded methods, but you'll need to tell the compiler which version you mean to use. To disambiguate a mock function (the one you specify inside the parentheses of `ON_CALL()`), see the "Selecting Between Overloaded Functions" section on this page; to disambiguate a fake function (the one you place inside `Invoke()`), use a `static_cast` to the function's type.
- Having to mix a mock and a fake is often a sign of something gone wrong. Perhaps you haven't got used to the interaction-based testing yet. Or perhaps your interface is taking on too many roles and should be split up. Therefore, **don't abuse this**. We would recommend to do it as an intermediate step when you are refactoring your code.

Regarding the tip on mixing a mock and a fake, here's an example on why it may be a bad sign: Suppose you have a class `System` that performs system operations. In particular, it does file and I/O operations. And suppose you want to test how your code uses `System` to do I/O, but you want the file operations to work normally. If you mock out the entire `System` class, you'll have to provide a fake implementation for the file operation part, which suggests that `System` is taking on too many roles.

Instead, you can define a `FileOps` interface and an `IIOps` interface and split `System`'s functionalities into the two. Then you can refactor your code without mocking `FileOps`.

Delegating Calls to a Real Object

When using testing doubles (mocks, fakes, stubs, and etc), sometimes their behaviors will differ from those of the real objects. This could be either intentional (as in simulating an error such that you can test the error handling code) or unintentional. If your mocks have different behaviors than the real objects by mistake, you could end up with code that passes the tests but fails in production.

You can use the *delegating-to-real* technique to ensure that your mock has the same behavior as the real object while retaining the ability to validate calls. This technique is very similar to the delegating-to-fake technique, the difference being that we use a real object instead of a fake. Here's an example:

```

using ::testing::_;
using ::testing::AtLeast;
using ::testing::Invoke;

class MockFoo : public Foo {
public:
    MockFoo() {
        // By default, all calls are delegated to the real object.
        ON_CALL(*this, DoThis())
            .WillByDefault(Invoke(&real_, &Foo::DoThis));
        ON_CALL(*this, DoThat(_))
            .WillByDefault(Invoke(&real_, &Foo::DoThat));
        ...
    }
    MOCK_METHOD0(DoThis, ...);
    MOCK_METHOD1(DoThat, ...);
    ...
private:
    Foo real_;
};

...

MockFoo mock;

EXPECT_CALL(mock, DoThis())

```

```

        .Times(3);
    EXPECT_CALL(mock, DoThat("Hi"))
        .Times(AtLeast(1));
    ... use mock in test ...

```

With this, Google Mock will verify that your code made the right calls (with the right arguments, in the right order, called the right number of times, etc), and a real object will answer the calls (so the behavior will be the same as in production). This gives you the best of both worlds.

Delegating Calls to a Parent Class

Ideally, you should code to interfaces, whose methods are all pure virtual. In reality, sometimes you do need to mock a virtual method of a class that already has an implementation. For example:

```

class Foo {
public:
    virtual ~Foo();

    virtual void Pure(int n) = 0;
    virtual int Concrete(const char* str) { ... }
};

class MockFoo : public Foo {
public:
    // Mocking a pure method.
    MOCK_METHOD1(Pure, void(int n));
    // Mocking a concrete method. Foo::Concrete() is shadowed.
    MOCK_METHOD1(Concrete, int(const char* str));
};

```

Sometimes you may want to call `Foo::Concrete()` instead of `MockFoo::Concrete()`. Perhaps you want to do it as part of a stub, but perhaps your test doesn't need to mock `Concrete()` at all (but it would be oh-so painful to have to define a new mock class when you need to mock one of its methods).

The trick is to leave a back door in your mock class for accessing the real methods in the base class:

```

class MockFoo : public Foo {
public:
    // Mocking a pure method.
    MOCK_METHOD1(Pure, void(int n));
    // Mocking a concrete method. Foo::Concrete() is shadowed.
    MOCK_METHOD1(Concrete, int(const char* str));

    // Use this to call Concrete() defined in Foo.
    int FooConcrete(const char* str) { return Foo::Concrete(str); }
};

```

Now, you can call `Foo::Concrete()` inside an action by:

```

using ::testing::_;
using ::testing::Invoke;
...
    EXPECT_CALL(foo, Concrete(_))
        .WillOnce(Invoke(&foo, &MockFoo::FooConcrete));

```

or tell the mock object that you don't want to mock `Concrete()`:

```

using ::testing::Invoke;
...
    ON_CALL(foo, Concrete(_))
        .WillByDefault(Invoke(&foo, &MockFoo::FooConcrete));

```

(Why don't we just write `Invoke(&foo, &Foo::Concrete)`? If you do that, `MockFoo::Concrete()` will be called (and cause an infinite recursion).

recursion) since `Foo::Concrete()` is virtual. That's just how C++ works.)

Using Matchers

Matching Argument Values Exactly

You can specify exactly which arguments a mock method is expecting:

```
using ::testing::Return;
...
EXPECT_CALL(foo, DoThis(5))
    .WillOnce(Return('a'));
EXPECT_CALL(foo, DoThat("Hello", bar));
```

Using Simple Matchers

You can use matchers to match arguments that have a certain property:

```
using ::testing::Ge;
using ::testing::NotNull;
using ::testing::Return;
...
EXPECT_CALL(foo, DoThis(Ge(5))) // The argument must be >= 5.
    .WillOnce(Return('a'));
EXPECT_CALL(foo, DoThat("Hello", NotNull()));
// The second argument must not be NULL.
```

A frequently used matcher is `_`, which matches anything:

```
using ::testing::_;
using ::testing::NotNull;
...
EXPECT_CALL(foo, DoThat(_, NotNull()));
```

Combining Matchers

You can build complex matchers from existing ones using `AllOf()`, `AnyOf()`, and `Not()`:

```
using ::testing::AllOf;
using ::testing::Gt;
using ::testing::HasSubstr;
using ::testing::Ne;
using ::testing::Not;
...
// The argument must be > 5 and != 10.
EXPECT_CALL(foo, DoThis(AllOf(Gt(5),
                              Ne(10))));

// The first argument must not contain sub-string "blah".
EXPECT_CALL(foo, DoThat(Not(HasSubstr("blah")),
                        NULL));
```

Casting Matchers

Google Mock matchers are statically typed, meaning that the compiler can catch your mistake if you use a matcher of the wrong type (for example, if you use `Eq(5)` to match a string argument). Good for you!

Sometimes, however, you know what you're doing and want the compiler to give you some slack. One example is that you have a `long` and the argument you want to match is `int`. While the two types aren't exactly the same, there is nothing really wrong with using `Matcher<long>` to match an `int` - after all, we can first convert the `int` argument to a `long` before giving it to the matcher.

To support this need, Google Mock gives you the `SafeMatcherCast<T>(m)` function. It casts a matcher `m` to type `Matcher<T>`. To Google Mock checks that (let `U` be the type `m` accepts):

1. Type `T` can be implicitly cast to type `U`;
2. When both `T` and `U` are built-in arithmetic types (`bool`, integers, and floating-point numbers), the conversion from `T` to `U` is not words, any value representable by `T` can also be represented by `U`); and
3. When `U` is a reference, `T` must also be a reference (as the underlying matcher may be interested in the address of the `U` value

The code won't compile if any of these conditions isn't met.

Here's one example:

```
using ::testing::SafeMatcherCast;

// A base class and a child class.
class Base { ... };
class Derived : public Base { ... };

class MockFoo : public Foo {
public:
    MOCK_METHOD1(DoThis, void(Derived* derived));
};
...

MockFoo foo;
// m is a Matcher<Base*> we got from somewhere.
EXPECT_CALL(foo, DoThis(SafeMatcherCast<Derived*>(m)));
```

If you find `SafeMatcherCast<T>(m)` too limiting, you can use a similar function `MatcherCast<T>(m)`. The difference is that `MatcherCast` works as long as you can `static_cast` type `T` to type `U`.

`MatcherCast` essentially lets you bypass C++'s type system (`static_cast` isn't always safe as it could throw away information, so be careful not to misuse/abuse it).

Selecting Between Overloaded Functions

If you expect an overloaded function to be called, the compiler may need some help on which overloaded version it is.

To disambiguate functions overloaded on the const-ness of this object, use the `Const()` argument wrapper.

```
using ::testing::ReturnRef;

class MockFoo : public Foo {
...
    MOCK_METHOD0(GetBar, Bar&());
    MOCK_CONST_METHOD0(GetBar, const Bar&());
};
...

MockFoo foo;
Bar bar1, bar2;
EXPECT_CALL(foo, GetBar()) // The non-const GetBar().
    .WillOnce(ReturnRef(bar1));
EXPECT_CALL(Const(foo), GetBar()) // The const GetBar().
    .WillOnce(ReturnRef(bar2));
```

(`Const()` is defined by Google Mock and returns a `const` reference to its argument.)

To disambiguate overloaded functions with the same number of arguments but different argument types, you may need to specify of a matcher, either by wrapping your matcher in `Matcher<type>()`, or using a matcher whose type is fixed (`TypedEq<type>`, `An` etc):

```

using ::testing::An;
using ::testing::Lt;
using ::testing::Matcher;
using ::testing::TypedEq;

class MockPrinter : public Printer {
public:
    MOCK_METHOD1(Print, void(int n));
    MOCK_METHOD1(Print, void(char c));
};

TEST(PrinterTest, Print) {
    MockPrinter printer;

    EXPECT_CALL(printer, Print(An<int>()));           // void Print(int);
    EXPECT_CALL(printer, Print(Matcher<int>(Lt(5)))); // void Print(int);
    EXPECT_CALL(printer, Print(TypedEq<char>('a'))); // void Print(char);

    printer.Print(3);
    printer.Print(6);
    printer.Print('a');
}

```

Performing Different Actions Based on the Arguments

When a mock method is called, the *last* matching expectation that's still active will be selected (think "newer overrides older"). So, a method can do different things depending on its argument values like this:

```

using ::testing::_;
using ::testing::Lt;
using ::testing::Return;
...
// The default case.
EXPECT_CALL(foo, DoThis(_))
    .WillRepeatedly(Return('b'));

// The more specific case.
EXPECT_CALL(foo, DoThis(Lt(5)))
    .WillRepeatedly(Return('a'));

```

Now, if `foo.DoThis()` is called with a value less than 5, 'a' will be returned; otherwise 'b' will be returned.

Matching Multiple Arguments as a Whole

Sometimes it's not enough to match the arguments individually. For example, we may want to say that the first argument must be second argument. The `With()` clause allows us to match all arguments of a mock function as a whole. For example,

```

using ::testing::_;
using ::testing::Lt;
using ::testing::Ne;
...
EXPECT_CALL(foo, InRange(Ne(0), _))
    .With(Lt());

```

says that the first argument of `InRange()` must not be 0, and must be less than the second argument.

The expression inside `With()` must be a matcher of type `Matcher<tr1::tuple<A1, ..., An>>`, where `A1, ..., An` are the type: function arguments.

You can also write `AllArgs(m)` instead of `m` inside `.With()`. The two forms are equivalent, but `.With(AllArgs(Lt()))` is more i. `.With(Lt())`.

You can use `Args<k1, ..., kn>(m)` to match the `n` selected arguments (as a tuple) against `m`. For example,

```
using ::testing::_;
using ::testing::AllOf;
using ::testing::Args;
using ::testing::Lt;
...
EXPECT_CALL(foo, Blah(_, _, _))
    .With(AllOf(Args<0, 1>(Lt()), Args<1, 2>(Lt())));
```

says that `Blah()` will be called with arguments `x`, `y`, and `z` where `x < y < z`.

As a convenience and example, Google Mock provides some matchers for 2-tuples, including the `Lt()` matcher above. See the [C++](#) the complete list.

Note that if you want to pass the arguments to a predicate of your own (e.g. `.With(Args<0, 1>(Truly(&MyPredicate))))`, that MUST be written to take a `tr1::tuple` as its argument; Google Mock will pass the `n` selected arguments as *one* single tuple to the predicate.

Using Matchers as Predicates

Have you noticed that a matcher is just a fancy predicate that also knows how to describe itself? Many existing algorithms take predicates (e.g. those defined in STL's `<algorithm>` header), and it would be a shame if Google Mock matchers are not allowed to be used as predicates.

Luckily, you can use a matcher where a unary predicate functor is expected by wrapping it inside the `Matches()` function. For example,

```
#include <algorithm>
#include <vector>

std::vector<int> v;
...
// How many elements in v are >= 10?
const int count = count_if(v.begin(), v.end(), Matches(Ge(10)));
```

Since you can build complex matchers from simpler ones easily using Google Mock, this gives you a way to conveniently construct predicates (doing the same using STL's `<functional>` header is just painful). For example, here's a predicate that's satisfied by `x` if `x` is `>= 0`, `<= 100`, and `!= 50`:

```
Matches(AllOf(Ge(0), Le(100), Ne(50)))
```

Using Matchers in Google Test Assertions

Since matchers are basically predicates that also know how to describe themselves, there is a way to take advantage of them in Google Test assertions. It's called `ASSERT_THAT` and `EXPECT_THAT`:

```
ASSERT_THAT(value, matcher); // Asserts that value matches matcher.
EXPECT_THAT(value, matcher); // The non-fatal version.
```

For example, in a Google Test test you can write:

```
#include "gmock/gmock.h"

using ::testing::AllOf;
using ::testing::Ge;
using ::testing::Le;
using ::testing::MatchesRegex;
using ::testing::StartsWith;
...

EXPECT_THAT(Foo(), StartsWith("Hello"));
EXPECT_THAT(Bar(), MatchesRegex("Line \\d+"));
ASSERT_THAT(Baz(), AllOf(Ge(5), Le(10)));
```

which (as you can probably guess) executes `Foo()`, `Bar()`, and `Baz()`, and verifies that:

- `Foo()` returns a string that starts with "Hello".
- `Bar()` returns a string that matches regular expression "Line \\d+".
- `Baz()` returns a number in the range 10.

The nice thing about these macros is that *they read like English*. They generate informative messages too. For example, if the first `EXPECT_THAT()` above fails, the message will be something like:

```
Value of: Foo()
Actual: "Hi, world!"
Expected: starts with "Hello"
```

Credit: The idea of `(ASSERT|EXPECT)_THAT` was stolen from the [Hamcrest](#) project, which adds `assertThat()` to JUnit.

Using Predicates as Matchers

Google Mock provides a built-in set of matchers. In case you find them lacking, you can use an arbitrary unary predicate function or matcher - as long as the predicate accepts a value of the type you want. You do this by wrapping the predicate inside the `Truly()` example:

```
using ::testing::Truly;

int IsEven(int n) { return (n % 2) == 0 ? 1 : 0; }
...

// Bar() must be called with an even number.
EXPECT_CALL(foo, Bar(Truly(IsEven)));
```

Note that the predicate function / functor doesn't have to return `bool`. It works as long as the return value can be used as the condition in a `if (condition) ...` statement.

Matching Arguments that Are Not Copyable

When you do an `EXPECT_CALL(mock_obj, Foo(bar))`, Google Mock saves away a copy of `bar`. When `Foo()` is called later, Google Mock compares the argument to `Foo()` with the saved copy of `bar`. This way, you don't need to worry about `bar` being modified or destroyed after `EXPECT_CALL()` is executed. The same is true when you use matchers like `Eq(bar)`, `Le(bar)`, and so on.

But what if `bar` cannot be copied (i.e. has no copy constructor)? You could define your own matcher function and use it with `Truly()` as in the previous couple of recipes have shown. Or, you may be able to get away from it if you can guarantee that `bar` won't be changed after `EXPECT_CALL()` is executed. Just tell Google Mock that it should save a reference to `bar`, instead of a copy of it. Here's how:

```
using ::testing::Eq;
using ::testing::ByRef;
using ::testing::Lt;
...

// Expects that Foo()'s argument == bar.
EXPECT_CALL(mock_obj, Foo(Eq(ByRef(bar))));

// Expects that Foo()'s argument < bar.
EXPECT_CALL(mock_obj, Foo(Lt(ByRef(bar))));
```

Remember: if you do this, don't change `bar` after the `EXPECT_CALL()`, or the result is undefined.

Validating a Member of an Object

Often a mock function takes a reference to object as an argument. When matching the argument, you may not want to compare it against a fixed object, as that may be over-specification. Instead, you may need to validate a certain member variable or the result of a getter method of the object. You can do this with `Field()` and `Property()`. More specifically,

```
Field(&Foo::bar, m)
```

is a matcher that matches a Foo object whose bar member variable satisfies matcher m.

```
Property(&Foo::baz, m)
```

is a matcher that matches a Foo object whose baz() method returns a value that satisfies matcher m.

For example:

Field(&Foo::number, Ge(3))	Matches x where x.number >= 3.
----------------------------	--------------------------------

Property(&Foo::name, StartsWith("John "))	Matches x where x.name() starts with "John ".
---	---

Note that in Property(&Foo::baz, ...), method baz() must take no argument and be declared as const.

BTW, Field() and Property() can also match plain pointers to objects. For instance,

```
Field(&Foo::number, Ge(3))
```

matches a plain pointer p where p->number >= 3. If p is NULL, the match will always fail regardless of the inner matcher.

What if you want to validate more than one members at the same time? Remember that there is AllOf().

Validating the Value Pointed to by a Pointer Argument

C++ functions often take pointers as arguments. You can use matchers like NULL, NotNull(), and other comparison matchers to pointer, but what if you want to make sure the value *pointed to* by the pointer, instead of the pointer itself, has a certain property? \ use the Pointee(m) matcher.

Pointee(m) matches a pointer iff m matches the value the pointer points to. For example:

```
using ::testing::Ge;
using ::testing::Pointee;
...
EXPECT_CALL(foo, Bar(Pointee(Ge(3))));
```

expects foo.Bar() to be called with a pointer that points to a value greater than or equal to 3.

One nice thing about Pointee() is that it treats a NULL pointer as a match failure, so you can write Pointee(m) instead of

```
AllOf(NotNull(), Pointee(m))
```

without worrying that a NULL pointer will crash your test.

Also, did we tell you that Pointee() works with both raw pointers **and** smart pointers (linked_ptr, shared_ptr, scoped_ptr, a

What if you have a pointer to pointer? You guessed it - you can use nested Pointee() to probe deeper inside the value. For exan Pointee(Pointee(Lt(3))) matches a pointer that points to a pointer that points to a number less than 3 (what a mouthful...).

Testing a Certain Property of an Object

Sometimes you want to specify that an object argument has a certain property, but there is no existing matcher that does this. If y error messages, you should define a matcher. If you want to do it quick and dirty, you could get away with writing an ordinary func

Let's say you have a mock function that takes an object of type Foo, which has an int bar() method and an int baz() method to constrain that the argument's bar() value plus its baz() value is a given number. Here's how you can define a matcher to do it

```
using ::testing::MatcherInterface;
using ::testing::MatchResultListener;

class BarPlusBazEqMatcher : public MatcherInterface<const Foo&> {
public:
    explicit BarPlusBazEqMatcher(int expected_sum)
        : expected_sum_(expected_sum) {}
```



```

virtual bool MatchAndExplain(const Foo& foo,
                             MatchResultListener* listener) const {
    return (foo.bar() + foo.baz()) == expected_sum_;
}

virtual void DescribeTo(::std::ostream* os) const {
    *os << "bar() + baz() equals " << expected_sum_;
}

virtual void DescribeNegationTo(::std::ostream* os) const {
    *os << "bar() + baz() does not equal " << expected_sum_;
}
private:
    const int expected_sum_;
};

inline Matcher<const Foo&> BarPlusBazEq(int expected_sum) {
    return MakeMatcher(new BarPlusBazEqMatcher(expected_sum));
}

...

EXPECT_CALL(..., DoThis(BarPlusBazEq(5)))...;

```

Matching Containers

Sometimes an STL container (e.g. list, vector, map, ...) is passed to a mock function and you may want to validate it. Since most STL containers support the == operator, you can write Eq(expected_container) or simply expected_container to match a container exactly.

Sometimes, though, you may want to be more flexible (for example, the first element must be an exact match, but the second element must be any positive number, and so on). Also, containers used in tests often have a small number of elements, and having to define the expected container out-of-line is a bit of a hassle.

You can use the ElementsAre() matcher in such cases:

```

using ::testing::_;
using ::testing::ElementsAre;
using ::testing::Gt;
...

MOCK_METHOD1(Foo, void(const vector<int&& numbers));
...

EXPECT_CALL(mock, Foo(ElementsAre(1, Gt(0), _, 5)));

```

The above matcher says that the container must have 4 elements, which must be 1, greater than 0, anything, and 5 respectively.

ElementsAre() is overloaded to take 0 to 10 arguments. If more are needed, you can place them in a C-style array and use ElementsAreArray() instead:

```

using ::testing::ElementsAreArray;
...

// ElementsAreArray accepts an array of element values.
const int expected_vector1[] = { 1, 5, 2, 4, ... };
EXPECT_CALL(mock, Foo(ElementsAreArray(expected_vector1)));

// Or, an array of element matchers.
Matcher<int> expected_vector2 = { 1, Gt(2), _, 3, ... };
EXPECT_CALL(mock, Foo(ElementsAreArray(expected_vector2)));

```

In case the array needs to be dynamically created (and therefore the array size cannot be inferred by the compiler), you can give `ElementsAreArray()` an additional argument to specify the array size:

```
using ::testing::ElementsAreArray;
...
int* const expected_vector3 = new int[count];
... fill expected_vector3 with values ...
EXPECT_CALL(mock, Foo(ElementsAreArray(expected_vector3, count)));
```

Tips:

- `ElementAre*()` works with *any* container that implements the STL iterator concept (i.e. it has a `const_iterator` type and `begin()/end()`) and supports `size()`, not just the ones defined in STL. It will even work with container types yet to be written that follow the above pattern.
- You can use nested `ElementAre*()` to match nested (multi-dimensional) containers.
- If the container is passed by pointer instead of by reference, just write `Pointee(ElementsAre*(...))`.
- The order of elements *matters* for `ElementsAre*()`. Therefore don't use it with containers whose element order is undefined (e.g. `hash_map`).

Sharing Matchers

Under the hood, a Google Mock matcher object consists of a pointer to a ref-counted implementation object. Copying matchers is very efficient, as only the pointer is copied. When the last matcher that references the implementation object dies, the implementation object is deleted.

Therefore, if you have some complex matcher that you want to use again and again, there is no need to build it everytime. Just as a matcher variable and use that variable repeatedly! For example,

```
Matcher<int> in_range = AllOf(Gt(5), Le(10));
... use in_range as a matcher in multiple EXPECT_CALLs ...
```

Setting Expectations

Ignoring Uninteresting Calls

If you are not interested in how a mock method is called, just don't say anything about it. In this case, if the method is ever called, it will perform its default action to allow the test program to continue. If you are not happy with the default action taken by Google Mock, you can override it using `DefaultValue<T>::Set()` (described later in this document) or `ON_CALL()`.

Please note that once you expressed interest in a particular mock method (via `EXPECT_CALL()`), all invocations to it must match some expectation. If this function is called but the arguments don't match any `EXPECT_CALL()` statement, it will be an error.

Disallowing Unexpected Calls

If a mock method shouldn't be called at all, explicitly say so:

```
using ::testing::_;
...
EXPECT_CALL(foo, Bar(_))
    .Times(0);
```

If some calls to the method are allowed, but the rest are not, just list all the expected calls:

```
using ::testing::AnyNumber;
using ::testing::Gt;
...
EXPECT_CALL(foo, Bar(5));
EXPECT_CALL(foo, Bar(Gt(10)))
    .Times(AnyNumber());
```

A call to `foo.Bar()` that doesn't match any of the `EXPECT_CALL()` statements will be an error.

Expecting Ordered Calls

Although an `EXPECT_CALL()` statement defined earlier takes precedence when Google Mock tries to match a function call with an expectation, by default calls don't have to happen in the order `EXPECT_CALL()` statements are written. For example, if the arguments match the third `EXPECT_CALL()`, but not those in the first two, then the third expectation will be used.

If you would rather have all calls occur in the order of the expectations, put the `EXPECT_CALL()` statements in a block where you declare a variable of type `InSequence`:

```
using ::testing::_;
using ::testing::InSequence;

{
    InSequence s;

    EXPECT_CALL(foo, DoThis(5));
    EXPECT_CALL(bar, DoThat(_))
        .Times(2);
    EXPECT_CALL(foo, DoThis(6));
}
```

In this example, we expect a call to `foo.DoThis(5)`, followed by two calls to `bar.DoThat()` where the argument can be anything, then followed by a call to `foo.DoThis(6)`. If a call occurred out-of-order, Google Mock will report an error.

Expecting Partially Ordered Calls

Sometimes requiring everything to occur in a predetermined order can lead to brittle tests. For example, we may care about A occurring before both B and C, but aren't interested in the relative order of B and C. In this case, the test should reflect our real intent, instead of being overly constraining.

Google Mock allows you to impose an arbitrary DAG (directed acyclic graph) on the calls. One way to express the DAG is to use the term `EXPECT_CALL()`.

Another way is via the `InSequence()` clause (not the same as the `InSequence` class), which we borrowed from jMock 2. It's less powerful than `EXPECT_CALL()`, but more convenient when you have long chains of sequential calls, as it doesn't require you to come up with different names for each expectation in the chains. Here's how it works:

If we view `EXPECT_CALL()` statements as nodes in a graph, and add an edge from node A to node B wherever A must occur before B, we get a DAG. We use the term "sequence" to mean a directed path in this DAG. Now, if we decompose the DAG into sequences, we know which sequences each `EXPECT_CALL()` belongs to in order to be able to reconstruct the original DAG.

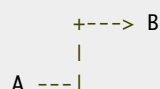
So, to specify the partial order on the expectations we need to do two things: first to define some `Sequence` objects, and then for each `EXPECT_CALL()` say which `Sequence` objects it is part of. Expectations in the same sequence must occur in the order they are written. For example,

```
using ::testing::Sequence;

Sequence s1, s2;

EXPECT_CALL(foo, A())
    .InSequence(s1, s2);
EXPECT_CALL(bar, B())
    .InSequence(s1);
EXPECT_CALL(bar, C())
    .InSequence(s2);
EXPECT_CALL(foo, D())
    .InSequence(s2);
```

specifies the following DAG (where s1 is 'A -> B', and s2 is 'A -> C -> D'):



```
|
+---> C ---> D
```

This means that A must occur before B and C, and C must occur before D. There's no restriction about the order other than these

Controlling When an Expectation Retires

When a mock method is called, Google Mock only consider expectations that are still active. An expectation is active when create becomes inactive (aka *retires*) when a call that has to occur later has occurred. For example, in

```
using ::testing::_;
using ::testing::Sequence;

Sequence s1, s2;

EXPECT_CALL(log, Log(WARNING, _, "File too large.)) // #1
    .Times(AnyNumber())
    .InSequence(s1, s2);
EXPECT_CALL(log, Log(WARNING, _, "Data set is empty.)) // #2
    .InSequence(s1);
EXPECT_CALL(log, Log(WARNING, _, "User not found.)) // #3
    .InSequence(s2);
```

as soon as either #2 or #3 is matched, #1 will retire. If a warning "File too large." is logged after this, it will be an error.

Note that an expectation doesn't retire automatically when it's saturated. For example,

```
using ::testing::_;
...
EXPECT_CALL(log, Log(WARNING, _, _)); // #1
EXPECT_CALL(log, Log(WARNING, _, "File too large.)) // #2
```

says that there will be exactly one warning with the message "File too large.". If the second warning contains this message too, # again and result in an upper-bound-violated error.

If this is not what you want, you can ask an expectation to retire as soon as it becomes saturated:

```
using ::testing::_;
...
EXPECT_CALL(log, Log(WARNING, _, _)); // #1
EXPECT_CALL(log, Log(WARNING, _, "File too large.)) // #2
    .RetiresOnSaturation();
```

Here #2 can be used only once, so if you have two warnings with the message "File too large.", the first will match #2 and the second will match #1 - there will be no error.

Using Actions

Returning References from Mock Methods

If a mock function's return type is a reference, you need to use `ReturnRef()` instead of `Return()` to return a result:

```
using ::testing::ReturnRef;

class MockFoo : public Foo {
public:
    MOCK_METHOD0(GetBar, Bar&());
};

...

MockFoo foo;
Bar bar;
```

```
EXPECT_CALL(foo, GetBar())
    .WillOnce(ReturnRef(bar));
```

Returning Live Values from Mock Methods

The `Return(x)` action saves a copy of `x` when the action is *created*, and always returns the same value whenever it's executed. You may want to instead return the *live* value of `x` (i.e. its value at the time when the action is *executed*).

If the mock function's return type is a reference, you can do it using `ReturnRef(x)`, as shown in the previous recipe ("Returning From Mock Methods"). However, Google Mock doesn't let you use `ReturnRef()` in a mock function whose return type is not a reference. Doing that usually indicates a user error. So, what shall you do?

You may be tempted to try `ByRef()`:

```
using testing::ByRef;
using testing::Return;

class MockFoo : public Foo {
public:
    MOCK_METHOD0(GetValue, int());
};

...
int x = 0;
MockFoo foo;
EXPECT_CALL(foo, GetValue())
    .WillRepeatedly(Return(ByRef(x)));
x = 42;
EXPECT_EQ(42, foo.GetValue());
```

Unfortunately, it doesn't work here. The above code will fail with error:

```
Value of: foo.GetValue()
Actual: 0
Expected: 42
```

The reason is that `Return(value)` converts `value` to the actual return type of the mock function at the time when the action is *created*. (This behavior was chosen for the action to be safe when `value` is a proxy object that references some temporary.) As a result, `ByRef(x)` is converted to an `int` value (instead of a `const int&`) when the expectation is set, and `Return(ByRef(x))` returns 0.

`ReturnPointee(pointer)` was provided to solve this problem specifically. It returns the value pointed to by `pointer` at the time when the action is *executed*:

```
using testing::ReturnPointee;

...
int x = 0;
MockFoo foo;
EXPECT_CALL(foo, GetValue())
    .WillRepeatedly(ReturnPointee(&x)); // Note the & here.
x = 42;
EXPECT_EQ(42, foo.GetValue()); // This will succeed now.
```

Combining Actions

Want to do more than one thing when a function is called? That's fine. `DoAll()` allows you to do a sequence of actions every time. The value of the last action in the sequence will be used.

```
using ::testing::DoAll;

class MockFoo : public Foo {
public:
    MOCK_METHOD1(Bar, bool(int n));
```

```
};
...

EXPECT_CALL(foo, Bar(_))
    .WillOnce(DoAll(action_1,
                    action_2,
                    ...
                    action_n));
```

Mocking Side Effects

Sometimes a method exhibits its effect not via returning a value but via side effects. For example, it may change some global state or output argument. To mock side effects, in general you can define your own action by implementing `::testing::ActionInterface`.

If all you need to do is to change an output argument, the built-in `SetArgPointee()` action is convenient:

```
using ::testing::SetArgPointee;

class MockMutator : public Mutator {
public:
    MOCK_METHOD2(Mutate, void(bool mutate, int* value));
    ...
};
...

MockMutator mutator;
EXPECT_CALL(mutator, Mutate(true, _))
    .WillOnce(SetArgPointee<1>(5));
```

In this example, when `mutator.Mutate()` is called, we will assign 5 to the `int` variable pointed to by argument #1 (0-based).

`SetArgPointee()` conveniently makes an internal copy of the value you pass to it, removing the need to keep the value in scope. An implication however is that the value must have a copy constructor and assignment operator.

If the mock method also needs to return a value as well, you can chain `SetArgPointee()` with `Return()` using `DoAll()`:

```
using ::testing::_;
using ::testing::Return;
using ::testing::SetArgPointee;

class MockMutator : public Mutator {
public:
    ...
    MOCK_METHOD1(MutateInt, bool(int* value));
};
...

MockMutator mutator;
EXPECT_CALL(mutator, MutateInt(_))
    .WillOnce(DoAll(SetArgPointee<0>(5),
                    Return(true)));
```

If the output argument is an array, use the `SetArrayArgument<N>(first, last)` action instead. It copies the elements in source `[first, last)` to the array pointed to by the `N`-th (0-based) argument:

```
using ::testing::NotNull;
using ::testing::SetArrayArgument;

class MockArrayMutator : public ArrayMutator {
public:
    MOCK_METHOD2(Mutate, void(int* values, int num_values));
```

```

...
};
...

MockArrayMutator mutator;
int values[5] = { 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 };
EXPECT_CALL(mutator, Mutate(NotNull(), 5))
    .WillOnce(SetArrayArgument<0>(values, values + 5));

```

This also works when the argument is an output iterator:

```

using ::testing::_;
using ::testing::SetArrayArgument;

class MockRolodex : public Rolodex {
public:
    MOCK_METHOD1(GetNames, void(std::back_insert_iterator<vector<string> >));
    ...
};
...

MockRolodex rolodex;
vector<string> names;
names.push_back("George");
names.push_back("John");
names.push_back("Thomas");
EXPECT_CALL(rolodex, GetNames(_))
    .WillOnce(SetArrayArgument<0>(names.begin(), names.end()));

```

Changing a Mock Object's Behavior Based on the State

If you expect a call to change the behavior of a mock object, you can use `::testing::InSequence` to specify different behaviors after the call:

```

using ::testing::InSequence;
using ::testing::Return;

...
{
    InSequence seq;
    EXPECT_CALL(my_mock, IsDirty())
        .WillRepeatedly(Return(true));
    EXPECT_CALL(my_mock, Flush());
    EXPECT_CALL(my_mock, IsDirty())
        .WillRepeatedly(Return(false));
}
my_mock.FlushIfDirty();

```

This makes `my_mock.IsDirty()` return `true` before `my_mock.Flush()` is called and return `false` afterwards.

If the behavior change is more complex, you can store the effects in a variable and make a mock method get its return value from

```

using ::testing::_;
using ::testing::SaveArg;
using ::testing::Return;

ACTION_P(ReturnPointee, p) { return *p; }

...
int previous_value = 0;
EXPECT_CALL(my_mock, GetPrevValue())
    .WillRepeatedly(ReturnPointee(&previous_value));

```

```
EXPECT_CALL(my_mock, UpdateValue(_))
    .WillRepeatedly(SaveArg<0>(&previous_value));
my_mock.DoSomethingToUpdateValue();
```

Here `my_mock.GetPrevValue()` will always return the argument of the last `UpdateValue()` call.

Setting the Default Value for a Return Type

If a mock method's return type is a built-in C++ type or pointer, by default it will return 0 when invoked. You only need to specify a default value doesn't work for you.

Sometimes, you may want to change this default value, or you may want to specify a default value for types Google Mock doesn't support. You can do this using the `::testing::DefaultValue` class template:

```
class MockFoo : public Foo {
public:
    MOCK_METHOD0(CalculateBar, Bar());
};
...

Bar default_bar;
// Sets the default return value for type Bar.
DefaultValue<Bar>::Set(default_bar);

MockFoo foo;

// We don't need to specify an action here, as the default
// return value works for us.
EXPECT_CALL(foo, CalculateBar());

foo.CalculateBar(); // This should return default_bar.

// Unsets the default return value.
DefaultValue<Bar>::Clear();
```

Please note that changing the default value for a type can make your tests hard to understand. We recommend you to use this feature judiciously. For example, you may want to make sure the `Set()` and `Clear()` calls are right next to the code that uses your mock.

Setting the Default Actions for a Mock Method

You've learned how to change the default value of a given type. However, this may be too coarse for your purpose: perhaps you have methods with the same return type and you want them to have different behaviors. The `ON_CALL()` macro allows you to customize behavior at the method level:

```
using ::testing::_;
using ::testing::AnyNumber;
using ::testing::Gt;
using ::testing::Return;
...
ON_CALL(foo, Sign(_))
    .WillByDefault(Return(-1));
ON_CALL(foo, Sign(0))
    .WillByDefault(Return(0));
ON_CALL(foo, Sign(Gt(0)))
    .WillByDefault(Return(1));

EXPECT_CALL(foo, Sign(_))
    .Times(AnyNumber());

foo.Sign(5); // This should return 1.
foo.Sign(-9); // This should return -1.
foo.Sign(0); // This should return 0.
```


As you may have guessed, when there are more than one `ON_CALL()` statements, the news order take precedence over the older words, the **last** one that matches the function arguments will be used. This matching order allows you to set up the common behavior object's constructor or the test fixture's set-up phase and specialize the mock's behavior later.

Using Functions/Methods/Functors as Actions

If the built-in actions don't suit you, you can easily use an existing function, method, or functor as an action:

```
using ::testing::_;
using ::testing::Invoke;

class MockFoo : public Foo {
public:
    MOCK_METHOD2(Sum, int(int x, int y));
    MOCK_METHOD1(ComplexJob, bool(int x));
};

int CalculateSum(int x, int y) { return x + y; }

class Helper {
public:
    bool ComplexJob(int x);
};
...

MockFoo foo;
Helper helper;
EXPECT_CALL(foo, Sum(_, _))
    .WillOnce(Invoke(CalculateSum));
EXPECT_CALL(foo, ComplexJob(_))
    .WillOnce(Invoke(&helper, &Helper::ComplexJob));

foo.Sum(5, 6);           // Invokes CalculateSum(5, 6).
foo.ComplexJob(10);      // Invokes helper.ComplexJob(10);
```

The only requirement is that the type of the function, etc must be *compatible* with the signature of the mock function, meaning that arguments can be implicitly converted to the corresponding arguments of the former, and the former's return type can be implicitly that of the latter. So, you can invoke something whose type is *not* exactly the same as the mock function, as long as it's safe to do huh?

Invoking a Function/Method/Functor Without Arguments

`Invoke()` is very useful for doing actions that are more complex. It passes the mock function's arguments to the function or functor invoked such that the callee has the full context of the call to work with. If the invoked function is not interested in some or all of them, it can simply ignore them.

Yet, a common pattern is that a test author wants to invoke a function without the arguments of the mock function. `Invoke()` allows that using a wrapper function that throws away the arguments before invoking an underlying nullary function. Needless to say, this is tedious and obscures the intent of the test.

`InvokeWithoutArgs()` solves this problem. It's like `Invoke()` except that it doesn't pass the mock function's arguments to the callee. Example:

```
using ::testing::_;
using ::testing::InvokeWithoutArgs;

class MockFoo : public Foo {
public:
    MOCK_METHOD1(ComplexJob, bool(int n));
};

bool Job1() { ... }
```

```
...

MockFoo foo;
EXPECT_CALL(foo, ComplexJob(_))
    .WillOnce(InvokeWithoutArgs(Job1));

foo.ComplexJob(10); // Invokes Job1().
```

Invoking an Argument of the Mock Function

Sometimes a mock function will receive a function pointer or a functor (in other words, a "callable") as an argument, e.g.

```
class MockFoo : public Foo {
public:
    MOCK_METHOD2(DoThis, bool(int n, bool (*fp)(int)));
};
```

and you may want to invoke this callable argument:

```
using ::testing::_;
...
MockFoo foo;
EXPECT_CALL(foo, DoThis(_, _))
    .WillOnce(...);
// Will execute (*fp)(5), where fp is the
// second argument DoThis() receives.
```

Arghh, you need to refer to a mock function argument but C++ has no lambda (yet), so you have to define your own action. :-(Or

Well, Google Mock has an action to solve *exactly* this problem:

```
InvokeArgument<N>(arg_1, arg_2, ..., arg_m)
```

will invoke the N-th (0-based) argument the mock function receives, with `arg_1`, `arg_2`, ..., and `arg_m`. No matter if the argument is a function pointer or a functor, Google Mock handles them both.

With that, you could write:

```
using ::testing::_;
using ::testing::InvokeArgument;
...
EXPECT_CALL(foo, DoThis(_, _))
    .WillOnce(InvokeArgument<1>(5));
// Will execute (*fp)(5), where fp is the
// second argument DoThis() receives.
```

What if the callable takes an argument by reference? No problem - just wrap it inside `ByRef()`:

```
...
MOCK_METHOD1(Bar, bool(bool (*fp)(int, const Helper&)));
...
using ::testing::_;
using ::testing::ByRef;
using ::testing::InvokeArgument;
...

MockFoo foo;
Helper helper;
...
EXPECT_CALL(foo, Bar(_))
    .WillOnce(InvokeArgument<0>(5, ByRef(helper)));
```

```
// ByRef(helper) guarantees that a reference to helper, not a copy of it,  
// will be passed to the callable.
```

What if the callable takes an argument by reference and we do **not** wrap the argument in `ByRef()`? Then `InvokeArgument()` will pass a *reference to the copy*, instead of a reference to the original value, to the callable. This is especially hazardous if the argument is a temporary value:

```
...  
    MOCK_METHOD1(DoThat, bool(bool (*f)(const double& x, const string& s)));  
...  
using ::testing::_;  
using ::testing::InvokeArgument;  
...  
  
MockFoo foo;  
...  
EXPECT_CALL(foo, DoThat(_))  
    .WillOnce(InvokeArgument<0>(5.0, string("Hi")));  
// Will execute (*f)(5.0, string("Hi")), where f is the function pointer  
// DoThat() receives. Note that the values 5.0 and string("Hi") are  
// temporary and dead once the EXPECT_CALL() statement finishes. Yet  
// it's fine to perform this action later, since a copy of the values  
// are kept inside the InvokeArgument action.
```

Ignoring an Action's Result

Sometimes you have an action that returns *something*, but you need an action that returns `void` (perhaps you want to use it in an `DoAll()` that returns `void`, or perhaps it needs to be used in `DoAll()` and it's not the last in the list). `IgnoreResult()` lets you do that. For

```
using ::testing::_;  
using ::testing::Invoke;  
using ::testing::Return;  
  
int Process(const MyData& data);  
string DoSomething();  
  
class MockFoo : public Foo {  
public:  
    MOCK_METHOD1(Abc, void(const MyData& data));  
    MOCK_METHOD0(Xyz, bool());  
};  
...  
  
MockFoo foo;  
EXPECT_CALL(foo, Abc(_))  
    // .WillOnce(Invoke(Process));  
// The above line won't compile as Process() returns int but Abc() needs  
// to return void.  
    .WillOnce(IgnoreResult(Invoke(Process)));  
  
EXPECT_CALL(foo, Xyz())  
    .WillOnce(DoAll(IgnoreResult(Invoke(DoSomething)),  
        // Ignores the string DoSomething() returns.  
        Return(true)));
```

Note that you **cannot** use `IgnoreResult()` on an action that already returns `void`. Doing so will lead to ugly compiler errors.

Selecting an Action's Arguments

Say you have a mock function `Foo()` that takes seven arguments, and you have a custom action that you want to invoke when `Foo()` is called. If the custom action only wants three arguments:

```

using ::testing::_;
using ::testing::Invoke;

...
MOCK_METHOD7(Foo, bool(bool visible, const string& name, int x, int y,
                        const map<pair<int, int>, double>& weight,
                        double min_weight, double max_wight));

...

bool IsVisibleInQuadrant1(bool visible, int x, int y) {
    return visible && x >= 0 && y >= 0;
}

...

EXPECT_CALL(mock, Foo(_, _, _, _, _, _, _))
    .WillOnce(Invoke(IsVisibleInQuadrant1)); // Uh, won't compile. :(

```

To please the compiler God, you can to define an "adaptor" that has the same signature as Foo() and calls the custom action with arguments:

```

using ::testing::_;
using ::testing::Invoke;

bool MyIsVisibleInQuadrant1(bool visible, const string& name, int x, int y,
                            const map<pair<int, int>, double>& weight,
                            double min_weight, double max_wight) {
    return IsVisibleInQuadrant1(visible, x, y);
}

...

EXPECT_CALL(mock, Foo(_, _, _, _, _, _, _))
    .WillOnce(Invoke(MyIsVisibleInQuadrant1)); // Now it works.

```

But isn't this awkward?

Google Mock provides a generic *action adaptor*, so you can spend your time minding more important business than writing your own. Here's the syntax:

```
WithArgs<N1, N2, ..., Nk>(action)
```

creates an action that passes the arguments of the mock function at the given indices (0-based) to the inner action and performs it. WithArgs, our original example can be written as:

```

using ::testing::_;
using ::testing::Invoke;
using ::testing::WithArgs;

...
EXPECT_CALL(mock, Foo(_, _, _, _, _, _, _))
    .WillOnce(WithArgs<0, 2, 3>(Invoke(IsVisibleInQuadrant1)));
// No need to define your own adaptor.

```

For better readability, Google Mock also gives you:

- WithoutArgs(action) when the inner action takes *no* argument, and
- WithArg<N>(action) (no s after Arg) when the inner action takes *one* argument.

As you may have realized, InvokeWithoutArgs(...) is just syntactic sugar for WithoutArgs(Invoke(...)).

Here are more tips:

- The inner action used in WithArgs and friends does not have to be Invoke() -- it can be anything.
- You can repeat an argument in the argument list if necessary, e.g. WithArgs<2, 3, 3, 5>(...).

- You can change the order of the arguments, e.g. `WithArgs<3, 2, 1>(...)`.
- The types of the selected arguments do *not* have to match the signature of the inner action exactly. It works as long as they can be converted to the corresponding arguments of the inner action. For example, if the 4-th argument of the mock function is an `int` and `my_action` takes a `double`, `WithArg<4>(my_action)` will work.

Ignoring Arguments in Action Functions

The selecting-an-action's-arguments recipe showed us one way to make a mock function and an action with incompatible arguments work together. The downside is that wrapping the action in `WithArgs<...>()` can get tedious for people writing the tests.

If you are defining a function, method, or functor to be used with `Invoke*()`, and you are not interested in some of its arguments, `WithArgs` is to declare the uninteresting arguments as `Unused`. This makes the definition less cluttered and less fragile in case the uninteresting arguments change. It could also increase the chance the action function can be reused. For example, given

```
MOCK_METHOD3(Foo, double(const string& label, double x, double y));
MOCK_METHOD3(Bar, double(int index, double x, double y));
```

instead of

```
using ::testing::_;
using ::testing::Invoke;

double DistanceToOriginWithLabel(const string& label, double x, double y) {
    return sqrt(x*x + y*y);
}

double DistanceToOriginWithIndex(int index, double x, double y) {
    return sqrt(x*x + y*y);
}
...

EXPECT_CALL(mock, Foo("abc", _, _))
    .WillOnce(Invoke(DistanceToOriginWithLabel));
EXPECT_CALL(mock, Bar(5, _, _))
    .WillOnce(Invoke(DistanceToOriginWithIndex));
```

you could write

```
using ::testing::_;
using ::testing::Invoke;
using ::testing::Unused;

double DistanceToOrigin(Unused, double x, double y) {
    return sqrt(x*x + y*y);
}
...

EXPECT_CALL(mock, Foo("abc", _, _))
    .WillOnce(Invoke(DistanceToOrigin));
EXPECT_CALL(mock, Bar(5, _, _))
    .WillOnce(Invoke(DistanceToOrigin));
```

Sharing Actions

Just like matchers, a Google Mock action object consists of a pointer to a ref-counted implementation object. Therefore copying an action object is allowed and very efficient. When the last action that references the implementation object dies, the implementation object will be deleted.

If you have some complex action that you want to use again and again, you may not have to build it from scratch everytime. If the action has an internal state (i.e. if it always does the same thing no matter how many times it has been called), you can assign it to an `Action` variable and use that variable repeatedly. For example:

```
Action<bool(int*)> set_flag = DoAll(SetArgPointee<0>(5),
```

```

        Return(true));
... use set_flag in .WillOnce() and .WillRepeatedly() ...

```

However, if the action has its own state, you may be surprised if you share the action object. Suppose you have an action factory `IncrementCounter(init)` which creates an action that increments and returns a counter whose initial value is `init`, using two actions from the same expression and using a shared action will exhibit different behaviors. Example:

```

EXPECT_CALL(foo, DoThis())
    .WillRepeatedly(IncrementCounter(0));
EXPECT_CALL(foo, DoThat())
    .WillRepeatedly(IncrementCounter(0));
foo.DoThis(); // Returns 1.
foo.DoThis(); // Returns 2.
foo.DoThat(); // Returns 1 - Blah() uses a different
               // counter than Bar()'s.

```

versus

```

Action<int> increment = IncrementCounter(0);

EXPECT_CALL(foo, DoThis())
    .WillRepeatedly(increment);
EXPECT_CALL(foo, DoThat())
    .WillRepeatedly(increment);
foo.DoThis(); // Returns 1.
foo.DoThis(); // Returns 2.
foo.DoThat(); // Returns 3 - the counter is shared.

```

Misc Recipes on Using Google Mock

Making the Compilation Faster

Believe it or not, the *vast majority* of the time spent on compiling a mock class is in generating its constructor and destructor, as the non-trivial tasks (e.g. verification of the expectations). What's more, mock methods with different signatures have different types and their constructors/destructors need to be generated by the compiler separately. As a result, if you mock many different types of methods, your mock class can get really slow.

If you are experiencing slow compilation, you can move the definition of your mock class' constructor and destructor out of the class definition into a `.cpp` file. This way, even if you `#include` your mock class in `N` files, the compiler only needs to generate its constructor and destructor once, resulting in a much faster compilation.

Let's illustrate the idea using an example. Here's the definition of a mock class before applying this recipe:

```

// File mock_foo.h.
...
class MockFoo : public Foo {
public:
    // Since we don't declare the constructor or the destructor,
    // the compiler will generate them in every translation unit
    // where this mock class is used.

    MOCK_METHOD0(DoThis, int());
    MOCK_METHOD1(DoThat, bool(const char* str));
    ... more mock methods ...
};

```

After the change, it would look like:

```

// File mock_foo.h.
...
class MockFoo : public Foo {

```

```

public:
    // The constructor and destructor are declared, but not defined, here.
    MockFoo();
    virtual ~MockFoo();

    MOCK_METHOD0(DoThis, int());
    MOCK_METHOD1(DoThat, bool(const char* str));
    ... more mock methods ...
};

```

and

```

// File mock_foo.cpp.
#include "path/to/mock_foo.h"

// The definitions may appear trivial, but the functions actually do a
// lot of things through the constructors/destructors of the member
// variables used to implement the mock methods.
MockFoo::MockFoo() {}
MockFoo::~MockFoo() {}

```

Forcing a Verification

When it's being destroyed, your friendly mock object will automatically verify that all expectations on it have been satisfied, and will [Google Test](#) failures if not. This is convenient as it leaves you with one less thing to worry about. That is, unless you are not sure if the object will be destroyed.

How could it be that your mock object won't eventually be destroyed? Well, it might be created on the heap and owned by the code being tested. Suppose there's a bug in that code and it doesn't delete the mock object properly - you could end up with a passing test with an actually a bug.

Using a heap checker is a good idea and can alleviate the concern, but its implementation may not be 100% reliable. So, sometimes you want to *force* Google Mock to verify a mock object before it is (hopefully) destructed. You can do this with `Mock::VerifyAndClearExpectations(&mock_object)`:

```

TEST(MyServerTest, ProcessesRequest) {
    using ::testing::Mock;

    MockFoo* const foo = new MockFoo;
    EXPECT_CALL(*foo, ...)...;
    // ... other expectations ...

    // server now owns foo.
    MyServer server(foo);
    server.ProcessRequest(...);

    // In case that server's destructor will forget to delete foo,
    // this will verify the expectations anyway.
    Mock::VerifyAndClearExpectations(foo);
} // server is destroyed when it goes out of scope here.

```

Tip: The `Mock::VerifyAndClearExpectations()` function returns a `bool` to indicate whether the verification was successful (true) so you can wrap that function call inside a `ASSERT_TRUE()` if there is no point going further when the verification has failed.

Using Check Points

Sometimes you may want to "reset" a mock object at various check points in your test: at each check point, you verify that all existing expectations on the mock object have been satisfied, and then you set some new expectations on it as if it's newly created. This approach works with a mock object in "phases" whose sizes are each manageable.

One such scenario is that in your test's `SetUp()` function, you may want to put the object you are testing into a certain state, with the mock object. Once in the desired state, you want to clear all expectations on the mock, such that in the `TEST_F` body you can set the expectations on it.

As you may have figured out, the `Mock::VerifyAndClearExpectations()` function we saw in the previous recipe can help you are using `ON_CALL()` to set default actions on the mock object and want to clear the default actions as well, use `Mock::VerifyAndClear(&mock_object)` instead. This function does what `Mock::VerifyAndClearExpectations(&mock_obj)` returns the same `bool`, **plus** it clears the `ON_CALL()` statements on `mock_object` too.

Another trick you can use to achieve the same effect is to put the expectations in sequences and insert calls to a dummy "check-point" at specific places. Then you can verify that the mock function calls do happen at the right time. For example, if you are exercising

```
Foo(1);
Foo(2);
Foo(3);
```

and want to verify that `Foo(1)` and `Foo(3)` both invoke `mock.Bar("a")`, but `Foo(2)` doesn't invoke anything. You can write:

```
using ::testing::MockFunction;

TEST(FooTest, InvokesBarCorrectly) {
    MyMock mock;
    // Class MockFunction<F> has exactly one mock method. It is named
    // Call() and has type F.
    MockFunction<void(string check_point_name)> check;
    {
        InSequence s;

        EXPECT_CALL(mock, Bar("a"));
        EXPECT_CALL(check, Call("1"));
        EXPECT_CALL(check, Call("2"));
        EXPECT_CALL(mock, Bar("a"));
    }
    Foo(1);
    check.Call("1");
    Foo(2);
    check.Call("2");
    Foo(3);
}
```

The expectation spec says that the first `Bar("a")` must happen before check point "1", the second `Bar("a")` must happen after c and nothing should happen between the two check points. The explicit check points make it easy to tell which `Bar("a")` is called to `Foo()`.

Mocking Destructors

Sometimes you want to make sure a mock object is destructed at the right time, e.g. after `bar->A()` is called but before `bar->B()` already know that you can specify constraints on the order of mock function calls, so all we need to do is to mock the destructor of function.

This sounds simple, except for one problem: a destructor is a special function with special syntax and special semantics, and the `MOCK_METHOD0` macro doesn't work for it:

```
MOCK_METHOD0(~MockFoo, void()); // Won't compile!
```

The good news is that you can use a simple pattern to achieve the same effect. First, add a mock function `Die()` to your mock class the destructor, like this:

```
class MockFoo : public Foo {
    ...
    // Add the following two lines to the mock class.
    MOCK_METHOD0(Die, void());
    virtual ~MockFoo() { Die(); }
};
```

(If the name `Die()` clashes with an existing symbol, choose another name.) Now, we have translated the problem of testing when

object dies to testing when its `Die()` method is called:

```
MockFoo* foo = new MockFoo;
MockBar* bar = new MockBar;
...
{
    InSequence s;

    // Expects *foo to die after bar->A() and before bar->B().
    EXPECT_CALL(*bar, A());
    EXPECT_CALL(*foo, Die());
    EXPECT_CALL(*bar, B());
}
```

And that's that.

Using Google Mock and Threads

IMPORTANT NOTE: What we describe in this recipe is **ONLY** true on platforms where Google Mock is thread-safe. Currently these platforms that support the pthreads library (this includes Linux and Mac). To make it thread-safe on other platforms we only need to add some synchronization operations in "gtest/internal/gtest-port.h".

In a **unit** test, it's best if you could isolate and test a piece of code in a single-threaded context. That avoids race conditions and makes debugging your test much easier.

Yet many programs are multi-threaded, and sometimes to test something we need to pound on it from more than one thread. Google Mock works for this purpose too.

Remember the steps for using a mock:

1. Create a mock object `foo`.
2. Set its default actions and expectations using `ON_CALL()` and `EXPECT_CALL()`.
3. The code under test calls methods of `foo`.
4. Optionally, verify and reset the mock.
5. Destroy the mock yourself, or let the code under test destroy it. The destructor will automatically verify it.

If you follow the following simple rules, your mocks and threads can live happily together:

- Execute your *test code* (as opposed to the code being tested) in *one* thread. This makes your test easy to follow.
- Obviously, you can do step #1 without locking.
- When doing step #2 and #5, make sure no other thread is accessing `foo`. Obvious too, huh?
- #3 and #4 can be done either in one thread or in multiple threads - anyway you want. Google Mock takes care of the locking, you have to do any - unless required by your test logic.

If you violate the rules (for example, if you set expectations on a mock while another thread is calling its methods), you get undefined behavior. That's not fun, so don't do it.

Google Mock guarantees that the action for a mock function is done in the same thread that called the mock function. For example,

```
EXPECT_CALL(mock, Foo(1))
    .WillOnce(action1);
EXPECT_CALL(mock, Foo(2))
    .WillOnce(action2);
```

if `Foo(1)` is called in thread 1 and `Foo(2)` is called in thread 2, Google Mock will execute `action1` in thread 1 and `action2` in thread 2.

Google Mock does *not* impose a sequence on actions performed in different threads (doing so may create deadlocks as the actions may cooperate). This means that the execution of `action1` and `action2` in the above example *may* interleave. If this is a problem, you need to add proper synchronization logic to `action1` and `action2` to make the test thread-safe.

Also, remember that `DefaultValue<T>` is a global resource that potentially affects *all* living mock objects in your program. Naturally, you don't want to mess with it from multiple threads or when there are still mocks in action.

Controlling How Much Information Google Mock Prints

When Google Mock sees something that has the potential of being an error (e.g. a mock function with no expectation is called, a.k.a. an uninteresting call, which is allowed but perhaps you forgot to explicitly ban the call), it prints some warning messages, including the function and the return value. Hopefully this will remind you to take a look and see if there is indeed a problem.

Sometimes you are confident that your tests are correct and may not appreciate such friendly messages. Some other times, you are curious about your tests or learning about the behavior of the code you are testing, and wish you could observe every mock call that happens (irrespective of argument values and the return value). Clearly, one size doesn't fit all.

You can control how much Google Mock tells you using the `--gmock_verbose=LEVEL` command-line flag, where LEVEL is a string of the following possible values:

- **info**: Google Mock will print all informational messages, warnings, and errors (most verbose). At this setting, Google Mock will also print calls to the `ON_CALL/EXPECT_CALL` macros.
- **warning**: Google Mock will print both warnings and errors (less verbose). This is the default.
- **error**: Google Mock will print errors only (least verbose).

Alternatively, you can adjust the value of that flag from within your tests like so:

```
::testing::FLAGS_gmock_verbose = "error";
```

Now, judiciously use the right flag to enable Google Mock to serve you better!

Running Tests in Emacs

If you build and run your tests in Emacs, the source file locations of Google Mock and [Google Test](#) errors will be highlighted. Just press `C-x` on one of them and you'll be taken to the offending line. Or, you can just type `C-x` to jump to the next error.

To make it even easier, you can add the following lines to your `~/.emacs` file:

```
(global-set-key "\M-m" 'compile) ; m is for make
(global-set-key [M-down] 'next-error)
(global-set-key [M-up] '(lambda () (interactive) (next-error -1)))
```

Then you can type `M-m` to start a build, or `M-up/M-down` to move back and forth between errors.

Fusing Google Mock Source Files

Google Mock's implementation consists of dozens of files (excluding its own tests). Sometimes you may want them to be package files instead, such that you can easily copy them to a new machine and start hacking there. For this we provide an experimental `fuse_gmock_files.py` in the `scripts/` directory (starting with release 1.2.0). Assuming you have Python 2.4 or above installed on your machine, just go to that directory and run

```
python fuse_gmock_files.py OUTPUT_DIR
```

and you should see an `OUTPUT_DIR` directory being created with files `gtest/gtest.h`, `gmock/gmock.h`, and `gmock-gtest-all.cc`. These three files contain everything you need to use Google Mock (and Google Test). Just copy them to anywhere you want and you are ready to write tests and use mocks. You can use the [scripts/test/Makefile](#) file as an example on how to compile your tests against them.

Extending Google Mock

Writing New Matchers Quickly

The `MATCHER*` family of macros can be used to define custom matchers easily. The syntax:

```
MATCHER(name, description_string_expression) { statements; }
```

will define a matcher with the given name that executes the statements, which must return a `bool` to indicate if the match succeeds. If the statements refer to the value being matched by `arg`, and refer to its type by `arg_type`.

The description string is a string-typed expression that documents what the matcher does, and is used to generate the failure message when the match fails. It can (and should) reference the special `bool` variable `negation`, and should evaluate to the description of the matcher when `negation` is false, or that of the matcher's negation when `negation` is true.

For convenience, we allow the description string to be empty (`""`), in which case Google Mock will use the sequence of words in the

name as the description.

For example:

```
MATCHER(IsDivisibleBy7, "") { return (arg % 7) == 0; }
```

allows you to write

```
// Expects mock_foo.Bar(n) to be called where n is divisible by 7.
EXPECT_CALL(mock_foo, Bar(IsDivisibleBy7()));
```

or,

```
using ::testing::Not;
...
EXPECT_THAT(some_expression, IsDivisibleBy7());
EXPECT_THAT(some_other_expression, Not(IsDivisibleBy7()));
```

If the above assertions fail, they will print something like:

```
Value of: some_expression
Expected: is divisible by 7
Actual: 27
...
Value of: some_other_expression
Expected: not (is divisible by 7)
Actual: 21
```

where the descriptions "is divisible by 7" and "not (is divisible by 7)" are automatically calculated from the matcher name `IsDivisibleBy7`.

As you may have noticed, the auto-generated descriptions (especially those for the negation) may not be so great. You can always replace them with a string expression of your own:

```
MATCHER(IsDivisibleBy7, std::string(negation ? "isn't" : "is") +
    " divisible by 7") {
    return (arg % 7) == 0;
}
```

Optionally, you can stream additional information to a hidden argument named `result_listener` to explain the match result. For a better definition of `IsDivisibleBy7` is:

```
MATCHER(IsDivisibleBy7, "") {
    if ((arg % 7) == 0)
        return true;

    *result_listener << "the remainder is " << (arg % 7);
    return false;
}
```

With this definition, the above assertion will give a better message:

```
Value of: some_expression
Expected: is divisible by 7
Actual: 27 (the remainder is 6)
```

You should let `MatchAndExplain()` print *any additional information* that can help a user understand the match result. Note that it is only when the match succeeds in case of a success (unless it's obvious) - this is useful when the matcher is used inside `Not()`. There is no need to print the argument value itself, as Google Mock already prints it for you.

Notes:

1. The type of the value being matched (`arg_type`) is determined by the context in which you use the matcher and is supplied to

compiler, so you don't need to worry about declaring it (nor can you). This allows the matcher to be polymorphic. For example `IsDivisibleBy7()` can be used to match any type where the value of `(arg % 7) == 0` can be implicitly converted to a `bool`.
`Bar(IsDivisibleBy7())` example above, if method `Bar()` takes an `int`, `arg_type` will be `int`; if it takes an `unsigned long` will be `unsigned long`; and so on.

2. Google Mock doesn't guarantee when or how many times a matcher will be invoked. Therefore the matcher logic must be *pure* (i.e. it cannot have any side effect, and the result must not depend on anything other than the value being matched and the matcher's parameters). This requirement must be satisfied no matter how you define the matcher (e.g. using one of the methods described in the following recipes). In particular, a matcher can never call a mock function, as that will affect the state of the mock object and cause

Writing New Parameterized Matchers Quickly

Sometimes you'll want to define a matcher that has parameters. For that you can use the macro:

```
MATCHER_P(name, param_name, description_string) { statements; }
```

where the description string can be either `""` or a string expression that references `negation` and `param_name`.

For example:

```
MATCHER_P(HasAbsoluteValue, value, "") { return abs(arg) == value; }
```

will allow you to write:

```
EXPECT_THAT(Blah("a"), HasAbsoluteValue(n));
```

which may lead to this message (assuming `n` is 10):

```
Value of: Blah("a")
Expected: has absolute value 10
Actual: -9
```

Note that both the matcher description and its parameter are printed, making the message human-friendly.

In the matcher definition body, you can write `foo_type` to reference the type of a parameter named `foo`. For example, in the body `MATCHER_P(HasAbsoluteValue, value)` above, you can write `value_type` to refer to the type of `value`.

Google Mock also provides `MATCHER_P2`, `MATCHER_P3`, ..., up to `MATCHER_P10` to support multi-parameter matchers:

```
MATCHER_Pk(name, param_1, ..., param_k, description_string) { statements; }
```

Please note that the custom description string is for a particular **instance** of the matcher, where the parameters have been bound to values. Therefore usually you'll want the parameter values to be part of the description. Google Mock lets you do that by referencing parameters in the description string expression.

For example,

```
using ::testing::PrintToString;
MATCHER_P2(InClosedRange, low, hi,
           std::string(negation ? "isn't" : "is") + " in range [" +
             PrintToString(low) + ", " + PrintToString(hi) + "]") {
  return low <= arg && arg <= hi;
}
...
EXPECT_THAT(3, InClosedRange(4, 6));
```

would generate a failure that contains the message:

```
Expected: is in range [4, 6]
```

If you specify `""` as the description, the failure message will contain the sequence of words in the matcher name followed by the parameter values printed as a tuple. For example,

```
MATCHER_P2(InClosedRange, low, hi, "") { ... }
```

```
...
EXPECT_THAT(3, InClosedRange(4, 6));
```

would generate a failure that contains the text:

Expected: in closed range (4, 6)

For the purpose of typing, you can view

```
MATCHER_Pk(Foo, p1, ..., pk, description_string) { ... }
```

as shorthand for

```
template <typename p1_type, ..., typename pk_type>
FooMatcherPk<p1_type, ..., pk_type>
Foo(p1_type p1, ..., pk_type pk) { ... }
```

When you write `Foo(v1, ..., vk)`, the compiler infers the types of the parameters `v1`, ..., and `vk` for you. If you are not happy with the type inference, you can specify the types by explicitly instantiating the template, as in `Foo<long, bool>(5, false)`. As said don't get to (or need to) specify `arg_type` as that's determined by the context in which the matcher is used.

You can assign the result of expression `Foo(p1, ..., pk)` to a variable of type `FooMatcherPk<p1_type, ..., pk_type>`. This is useful when composing matchers. Matchers that don't have a parameter or have only one parameter have special types: you can assign `Foo()` to a `FooMatcher`-typed variable, and assign `Foo(p)` to a `FooMatcherP<p_type>`-typed variable.

While you can instantiate a matcher template with reference types, passing the parameters by pointer usually makes your code more readable. If, however, you still want to pass a parameter by reference, be aware that in the failure message generated by the matcher you will see the value of the referenced object but not its address.

You can overload matchers with different numbers of parameters:

```
MATCHER_P(Blah, a, description_string_1) { ... }
MATCHER_P2(Blah, a, b, description_string_2) { ... }
```

While it's tempting to always use the `MATCHER*` macros when defining a new matcher, you should also consider implementing `MatcherInterface` or using `MakePolymorphicMatcher()` instead (see the recipes that follow), especially if you need to use the matcher in a context where the type of the value being matched is not known at compile time. While these approaches require more work, they give you more control on the types of the value being matched and the matcher, which in general leads to better compiler error messages that pay off in the long run. They also allow overloading matchers based on the number of parameters (as opposed to just based on the number of parameters).

Writing New Monomorphic Matchers

A matcher of argument type `T` implements `::testing::MatcherInterface<T>` and does two things: it tests whether a value of type `T` matches the matcher, and can describe what kind of values it matches. The latter ability is used for generating readable error messages when expectations are violated.

The interface looks like this:

```
class MatchResultListener {
public:
    ...
    // Streams x to the underlying ostream; does nothing if the ostream
    // is NULL.
    template <typename T>
    MatchResultListener& operator<<((const T& x));

    // Returns the underlying ostream.
    ::std::ostream* stream();
};

template <typename T>
class MatcherInterface {
public:
```

```

virtual ~MatcherInterface();

// Returns true iff the matcher matches x; also explains the match
// result to 'listener'.
virtual bool MatchAndExplain(T x, MatchResultListener* listener) const = 0;

// Describes this matcher to an ostream.
virtual void DescribeTo(::std::ostream* os) const = 0;

// Describes the negation of this matcher to an ostream.
virtual void DescribeNegationTo(::std::ostream* os) const;
};

```

If you need a custom matcher but `Truly()` is not a good option (for example, you may not be happy with the way `Truly(predicate)` itself, or you may want your matcher to be polymorphic as `Eq(value)` is), you can define a matcher to do whatever you want in two steps: implement the matcher interface, and then define a factory function to create a matcher instance. The second step is not strictly necessary but makes the syntax of using the matcher nicer.

For example, you can define a matcher to test whether an `int` is divisible by 7 and then use it like this:

```

using ::testing::MakeMatcher;
using ::testing::Matcher;
using ::testing::MatcherInterface;
using ::testing::MatchResultListener;

class DivisibleBy7Matcher : public MatcherInterface<int> {
public:
    virtual bool MatchAndExplain(int n, MatchResultListener* listener) const {
        return (n % 7) == 0;
    }

    virtual void DescribeTo(::std::ostream* os) const {
        *os << "is divisible by 7";
    }

    virtual void DescribeNegationTo(::std::ostream* os) const {
        *os << "is not divisible by 7";
    }
};

inline Matcher<int> DivisibleBy7() {
    return MakeMatcher(new DivisibleBy7Matcher);
}

...

EXPECT_CALL(foo, Bar(DivisibleBy7()));

```

You may improve the matcher message by streaming additional information to the listener argument in `MatchAndExplain()`:

```

class DivisibleBy7Matcher : public MatcherInterface<int> {
public:
    virtual bool MatchAndExplain(int n,
                                MatchResultListener* listener) const {
        const int remainder = n % 7;
        if (remainder != 0) {
            *listener << "the remainder is " << remainder;
        }
        return remainder == 0;
    }
    ...
};

```

Then, `EXPECT_THAT(x, DivisibleBy7())`; may general a message like this:

```
Value of: x
Expected: is divisible by 7
Actual: 23 (the remainder is 2)
```

Writing New Polymorphic Matchers

You've learned how to write your own matchers in the previous recipe. Just one problem: a matcher created using `MakeMatcher()` for one particular type of arguments. If you want a *polymorphic* matcher that works with arguments of several types (for instance, I used to match a value as long as `value == x` compiles -- `value` and `x` don't have to share the same type), you can learn the trick "gmock/gmock-matchers.h" but it's a bit involved.

Fortunately, most of the time you can define a polymorphic matcher easily with the help of `MakePolymorphicMatcher()`. Here's I define `NotNull()` as an example:

```
using ::testing::MakePolymorphicMatcher;
using ::testing::MatchResultListener;
using ::testing::NotNull;
using ::testing::PolymorphicMatcher;

class NotNullMatcher {
public:
    // To implement a polymorphic matcher, first define a COPYABLE class
    // that has three members MatchAndExplain(), DescribeTo(), and
    // DescribeNegationTo(), like the following.

    // In this example, we want to use NotNull() with any pointer, so
    // MatchAndExplain() accepts a pointer of any type as its first argument.
    // In general, you can define MatchAndExplain() as an ordinary method or
    // a method template, or even overload it.
    template <typename T>
    bool MatchAndExplain(T* p,
                        MatchResultListener* /* listener */) const {
        return p != NULL;
    }

    // Describes the property of a value matching this matcher.
    void DescribeTo(::std::ostream* os) const { *os << "is not NULL"; }

    // Describes the property of a value NOT matching this matcher.
    void DescribeNegationTo(::std::ostream* os) const { *os << "is NULL"; }
};

// To construct a polymorphic matcher, pass an instance of the class
// to MakePolymorphicMatcher(). Note the return type.
inline PolymorphicMatcher<NotNullMatcher> NotNull() {
    return MakePolymorphicMatcher(NotNullMatcher());
}
...

EXPECT_CALL(foo, Bar(NotNull())); // The argument must be a non-NULL pointer.
```

Note: Your polymorphic matcher class does **not** need to inherit from `MatcherInterface` or any other class, and its methods do not need to be virtual.

Like in a monomorphic matcher, you may explain the match result by streaming additional information to the `listener` argument in `MatchAndExplain()`.

Writing New Cardinalities

A cardinality is used in `Times()` to tell Google Mock how many times you expect a call to occur. It doesn't have to be exact. For example, you can say `AtLeast(5)` or `Between(2, 4)`.

If the built-in set of cardinalities doesn't suit you, you are free to define your own by implementing the following interface (in namespace `testing`):

```
class CardinalityInterface {
public:
    virtual ~CardinalityInterface();

    // Returns true iff call_count calls will satisfy this cardinality.
    virtual bool IsSatisfiedByCallCount(int call_count) const = 0;

    // Returns true iff call_count calls will saturate this cardinality.
    virtual bool IsSaturatedByCallCount(int call_count) const = 0;

    // Describes self to an ostream.
    virtual void DescribeTo(::std::ostream* os) const = 0;
};
```

For example, to specify that a call must occur even number of times, you can write

```
using ::testing::Cardinality;
using ::testing::CardinalityInterface;
using ::testing::MakeCardinality;

class EvenNumberCardinality : public CardinalityInterface {
public:
    virtual bool IsSatisfiedByCallCount(int call_count) const {
        return (call_count % 2) == 0;
    }

    virtual bool IsSaturatedByCallCount(int call_count) const {
        return false;
    }

    virtual void DescribeTo(::std::ostream* os) const {
        *os << "called even number of times";
    }
};

Cardinality EvenNumber() {
    return MakeCardinality(new EvenNumberCardinality);
}

...

EXPECT_CALL(foo, Bar(3))
    .Times(EvenNumber());
```

Writing New Actions Quickly

If the built-in actions don't work for you, and you find it inconvenient to use `Invoke()`, you can use a macro from the `ACTION*` family to define a new action that can be used in your code as if it's a built-in action.

By writing

```
ACTION(name) { statements; }
```

in a namespace scope (i.e. not inside a class or function), you will define an action with the given name that executes the statements. The value returned by the statements will be used as the return value of the action. Inside the statements, you can refer to the *K*-th (0-based) argument of the mock function as `argK`. For example:


```
ACTION(IncrementArg1) { return ++(*arg1); }
```

allows you to write

```
... WillOnce(IncrementArg1());
```

Note that you don't need to specify the types of the mock function arguments. Rest assured that your code is type-safe though: you'll get a compiler error if `*arg1` doesn't support the `++` operator, or if the type of `++(*arg1)` isn't compatible with the mock function's return type.

Another example:

```
ACTION(Foo) {  
    (*arg2)(5);  
    Blah();  
    *arg1 = 0;  
    return arg0;  
}
```

defines an action `Foo()` that invokes argument #2 (a function pointer) with 5, calls function `Blah()`, sets the value pointed to by `arg1` to 0, and returns argument #0.

For more convenience and flexibility, you can also use the following pre-defined symbols in the body of `ACTION`:

<code>argK_type</code>	The type of the K-th (0-based) argument of the mock function
<code>args</code>	All arguments of the mock function as a tuple
<code>args_type</code>	The type of all arguments of the mock function as a tuple
<code>return_type</code>	The return type of the mock function
<code>function_type</code>	The type of the mock function

For example, when using an `ACTION` as a stub action for mock function:

```
int DoSomething(bool flag, int* ptr);
```

we have:

Pre-defined Symbol	Is Bound To
<code>arg0</code>	the value of <code>flag</code>
<code>arg0_type</code>	the type <code>bool</code>
<code>arg1</code>	the value of <code>ptr</code>
<code>arg1_type</code>	the type <code>int*</code>
<code>args</code>	the tuple <code>(flag, ptr)</code>
<code>args_type</code>	the type <code>std::tr1::tuple<bool, int*></code>
<code>return_type</code>	the type <code>int</code>
<code>function_type</code>	the type <code>int(bool, int*)</code>

Writing New Parameterized Actions Quickly

Sometimes you'll want to parameterize an action you define. For that we have another macro

```
ACTION_P(name, param) { statements; }
```

For example,

```
ACTION_P(Add, n) { return arg0 + n; }
```

will allow you to write

```
// Returns argument #0 + 5.  
... WillOnce(Add(5));
```

For convenience, we use the term *arguments* for the values used to invoke the mock function, and the term *parameters* for the values used to instantiate an action.

Note that you don't need to provide the type of the parameter either. Suppose the parameter is named `param`, you can also use the mock-defined symbol `param_type` to refer to the type of the parameter as inferred by the compiler. For example, in the body of `ACTION_P(Add, n)` above, you can write `n_type` for the type of `n`.

Google Mock also provides `ACTION_P2`, `ACTION_P3`, and etc to support multi-parameter actions. For example,

```
ACTION_P2(ReturnDistanceTo, x, y) {  
    double dx = arg0 - x;  
    double dy = arg1 - y;  
    return sqrt(dx*dx + dy*dy);  
}
```

lets you write

```
... WillOnce(ReturnDistanceTo(5.0, 26.5));
```

You can view `ACTION` as a degenerated parameterized action where the number of parameters is 0.

You can also easily define actions overloaded on the number of parameters:

```
ACTION_P(Plus, a) { ... }  
ACTION_P2(Plus, a, b) { ... }
```

Restricting the Type of an Argument or Parameter in an ACTION

For maximum brevity and reusability, the `ACTION*` macros don't ask you to provide the types of the mock function arguments and parameters. Instead, we let the compiler infer the types for us.

Sometimes, however, we may want to be more explicit about the types. There are several tricks to do that. For example:

```
ACTION(Foo) {  
    // Makes sure arg0 can be converted to int.  
    int n = arg0;  
    ... use n instead of arg0 here ...  
}  
  
ACTION_P(Bar, param) {  
    // Makes sure the type of arg1 is const char*.  
    ::testing::StaticAssertTypeEq<const char*, arg1_type>();  
  
    // Makes sure param can be converted to bool.  
    bool flag = param;  
}
```

where `StaticAssertTypeEq` is a compile-time assertion in Google Test that verifies two types are the same.

Writing New Action Templates Quickly

Sometimes you want to give an action explicit template parameters that cannot be inferred from its value parameters. `ACTION_TEMPLATE` supports that and can be viewed as an extension to `ACTION()` and `ACTION_P*()`.

The syntax:

```
ACTION_TEMPLATE(ActionName,
                HAS_m_TEMPLATE_PARAMS(kind1, name1, ..., kind_m, name_m),
                AND_n_VALUE_PARAMS(p1, ..., p_n)) { statements; }
```

defines an action template that takes m explicit template parameters and n value parameters, where m is between 1 and 10, and n is between 1 and 10. `name_i` is the name of the i -th template parameter, and `kind_i` specifies whether it's a typename, an integral constant, or a value parameter. `p_i` is the name of the i -th value parameter.

Example:

```
// DuplicateArg<k, T>(output) converts the k-th argument of the mock
// function to type T and copies it to *output.
ACTION_TEMPLATE(DuplicateArg,
                // Note the comma between int and k:
                HAS_2_TEMPLATE_PARAMS(int, k, typename, T),
                AND_1_VALUE_PARAMS(output)) {
    *output = T(std::tr1::get<k>(args));
}
```

To create an instance of an action template, write:

```
ActionName<t1, ..., t_m>(v1, ..., v_n)
```

where the `ts` are the template arguments and the `vs` are the value arguments. The value argument types are inferred by the compiler. Example:

```
using ::testing::_;
...
int n;
EXPECT_CALL(mock, Foo(_, _))
    .WillOnce(DuplicateArg<1, unsigned char

```

If you want to explicitly specify the value argument types, you can provide additional template arguments:

```
ActionName<t1, ..., t_m, u1, ..., u_k>(v1, ..., v_n)
```

where `u_i` is the desired type of `v_i`.

`ACTION_TEMPLATE` and `ACTION/ACTION_P*` can be overloaded on the number of value parameters, but not on the number of template parameters. Without the restriction, the meaning of the following is unclear:

```
OverloadedAction<int, bool>(x);
```

Are we using a single-template-parameter action where `bool` refers to the type of `x`, or a two-template-parameter action where the compiler is asked to infer the type of `x`?

Using the ACTION Object's Type

If you are writing a function that returns an ACTION object, you'll need to know its type. The type depends on the macro used to define the action and the parameter types. The rule is relatively simple:

Given Definition	Expression	Has Type
<code>ACTION(Foo)</code>	<code>Foo()</code>	<code>FooAction</code>
<code>ACTION_TEMPLATE(Foo, HAS_m_TEMPLATE_PARAMS(...), AND_0_VALUE_PARAMS())</code>	<code>Foo<t1, ..., t_m>()</code>	<code>FooAction<t1, ..., t_m></code>
<code>ACTION_P(Bar, param)</code>	<code>Bar(int_value)</code>	<code>BarActionP<int></code>
<code>ACTION_TEMPLATE(Bar, HAS_m_TEMPLATE_PARAMS(...), AND_1_VALUE_PARAMS(p1))</code>	<code>Bar<t1, ..., t_m>(int_value)</code>	<code>BarActionP<t1, ..., t_m></code>

ACTION_P2(Baz, p1, p2)	Baz(bool_value, int_value)	BazActionP2<bool
ACTION_TEMPLATE(Baz, HAS_m_TEMPLATE_PARAMS(...), AND_2_VALUE_PARAMS(p1, p2))	Baz<t1, ..., t_m>(bool_value, int_value)	FooActionP2<t1, bool, int>
...

Note that we have to pick different suffixes (Action, ActionP, ActionP2, and etc) for actions with different numbers of value parameters. Action definitions cannot be overloaded on the number of them.

Writing New Monomorphic Actions

While the ACTION* macros are very convenient, sometimes they are inappropriate. For example, despite the tricks shown in the previous recipes, they don't let you directly specify the types of the mock function arguments and the action parameters, which in general leads to unoptimized compiler error messages that can baffle unfamiliar users. They also don't allow overloading actions based on parameters without jumping through some hoops.

An alternative to the ACTION* macros is to implement `::testing::ActionInterface<F>`, where F is the type of the mock function. The action will be used. For example:

```
template <typename F> class ActionInterface {
public:
    virtual ~ActionInterface();

    // Performs the action. Result is the return type of function type
    // F, and ArgumentTuple is the tuple of arguments of F.
    //
    // For example, if F is int(bool, const string&), then Result would
    // be int, and ArgumentTuple would be tr1::tuple<bool, const string&>.
    virtual Result Perform(const ArgumentTuple& args) = 0;
};

using ::testing::_;
using ::testing::Action;
using ::testing::ActionInterface;
using ::testing::MakeAction;

typedef int IncrementMethod(int*);

class IncrementArgumentAction : public ActionInterface<IncrementMethod> {
public:
    virtual int Perform(const tr1::tuple<int*>& args) {
        int* p = tr1::get<0>(args); // Grabs the first argument.
        return *p++;
    }
};

Action<IncrementMethod> IncrementArgument() {
    return MakeAction(new IncrementArgumentAction);
}
...

EXPECT_CALL(foo, Baz(_))
    .WillOnce(IncrementArgument());

int n = 5;
foo.Baz(&n); // Should return 5 and change n to 6.
```

Writing New Polymorphic Actions

The previous recipe showed you how to define your own action. This is all good, except that you need to know the type of the function the action will be used. Sometimes that can be a problem. For example, if you want to use the action in functions with *different* types

Return() and SetArgPointee()).

If an action can be used in several types of mock functions, we say it's *polymorphic*. The MakePolymorphicAction() function makes it easy to define such an action:

```
namespace testing {

template <typename Impl>
PolymorphicAction<Impl> MakePolymorphicAction(const Impl& impl);

} // namespace testing
```

As an example, let's define an action that returns the second argument in the mock function's argument list. The first step is to define an implementation class:

```
class ReturnSecondArgumentAction {
public:
    template <typename Result, typename ArgumentTuple>
    Result Perform(const ArgumentTuple& args) const {
        // To get the i-th (0-based) argument, use tr1::get<i>(args).
        return tr1::get<1>(args);
    }
};
```

This implementation class does *not* need to inherit from any particular class. What matters is that it must have a Perform() method. This method template takes the mock function's arguments as a tuple in a **single** argument, and returns the result of the action. It can be const or not, but must be invocable with exactly one template argument, which is the result type. In other words, you must be able to call Perform<R>(args) where R is the mock function's return type and args is its arguments in a tuple.

Next, we use MakePolymorphicAction() to turn an instance of the implementation class into the polymorphic action we need. It's convenient to have a wrapper for this:

```
using ::testing::MakePolymorphicAction;
using ::testing::PolymorphicAction;

PolymorphicAction<ReturnSecondArgumentAction> ReturnSecondArgument() {
    return MakePolymorphicAction(ReturnSecondArgumentAction());
}
```

Now, you can use this polymorphic action the same way you use the built-in ones:

```
using ::testing::_;

class MockFoo : public Foo {
public:
    MOCK_METHOD2(DoThis, int(bool flag, int n));
    MOCK_METHOD3(DoThat, string(int x, const char* str1, const char* str2));
};

...

MockFoo foo;
EXPECT_CALL(foo, DoThis(_, _))
    .WillOnce(ReturnSecondArgument());
EXPECT_CALL(foo, DoThat(_, _, _))
    .WillOnce(ReturnSecondArgument());
...
foo.DoThis(true, 5);           // Will return 5.
foo.DoThat(1, "Hi", "Bye");   // Will return "Hi".
```

Teaching Google Mock How to Print Your Values

When an uninteresting or unexpected call occurs, Google Mock prints the argument values and the stack trace to help you debug.

macros like `EXPECT_THAT` and `EXPECT_EQ` also print the values in question when the assertion fails. Google Mock and Google Test use Google Test's user-extensible value printer.

This printer knows how to print built-in C++ types, native arrays, STL containers, and any type that supports the `<<` operator. For complex types, it prints the raw bytes in the value and hopes that you the user can figure it out. [Google Test's advanced guide](#) explains how to extend the printer to do a better job at printing your particular type than to dump the bytes.