

# 50 Boost C++ Libraries in 180 minutes

- What has Boost to offer?
- How do the Boost libraries look like?
- Which Boost library shall I use for a certain task?
- Which Boost libraries can I ignore?
- Where do I find more information?

Boris Schäling, boris@highscore.de C++Now!, Aspen, 14 May 2012



### Which 50 libraries?



#### **General purpose libraries**

Libraries which are useful for many developers and for the development of many programs

### No TR1/C++11 libraries

Libraries in the C++ standard well-known by many developers





### No "deprecated" Boost libraries

A few Boost libraries have been superseded by newer versions or C++11



### TRI/C++II libraries



A lot of functionality of the Boost libraries is available through the standard library:

**Boost.Array** 

**Boost.Bind** 

**Boost.Chrono** 

**Boost.Function** 

**Boost.Hash** 

**Boost.Math** 

**Boost.MemberFunction** 

**Boost.Random** 

**Boost.Ref** 

**Boost.Regex** 

**Boost.SmartPointers** 

**Boost.System** 

**Boost.Thread** 

**Boost.Tuple** 

**Boost.TypeTraits** 

**Boost. Unordered** 

# "Deprecated" libraries



#### **Boost.Signals**

Replaced by thread-safe Boost.Signals2 (thread-safety can be disabled)

#### **Boost.Lambda**

Domain-specific language which looks like C++ but isn't C++; use for very small lambda functions or use C++11

#### **Boost.Foreach**

Macro which simulates foreach-loops from other programming languages; use for-loop or C++11



### Resource management



#### **Boost.SmartPointers**

Managing a dynamically allocated object in a shared or in a scoped (unique) pointer

#### **Boost.PointerContainer**

Managing many dynamically allocated objects which are owned by a container exclusively





#### **Boost.ScopeExit**

A macro to clean up ressources without using pointers



### Resource management



#### **Boost.Pool**

Memory management with an allocator based on a singleton

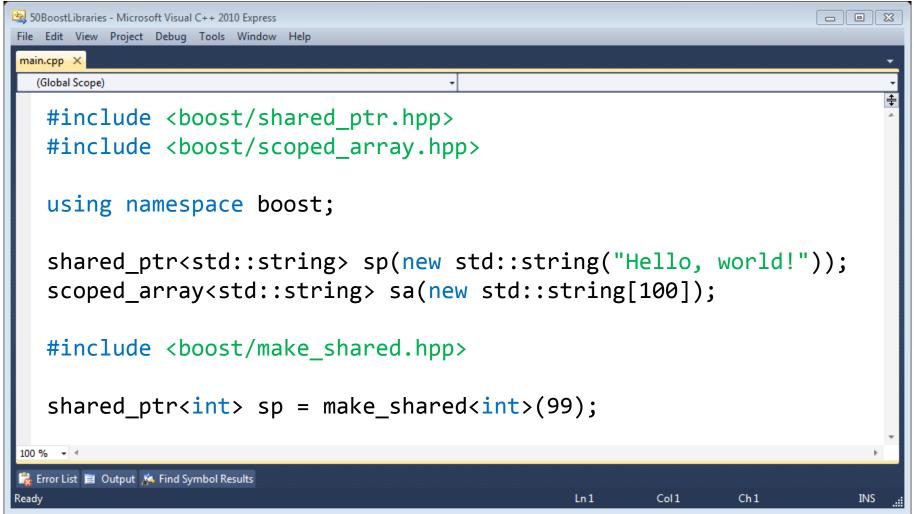
#### **Boost.CompressedPair**

boost::compressed\_pair<> like std::pair<> with
empty base class optimization



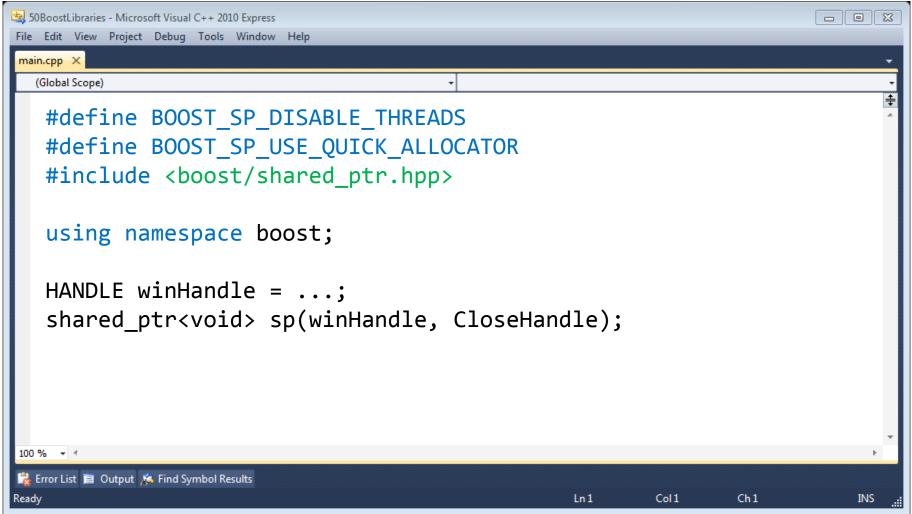


# **Boost.SmartPointers**



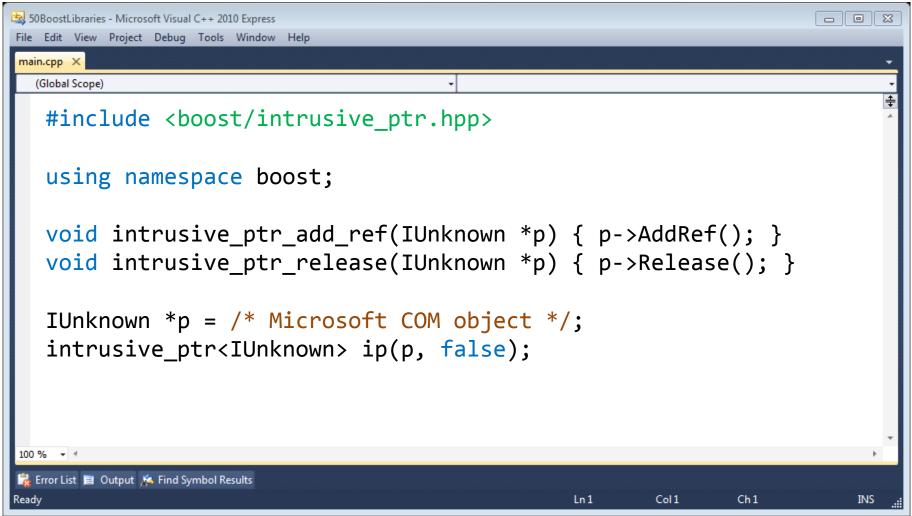


# Boost.SmartPointers





# Boost.SmartPointers



### **Boost.PointerContainer**



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main.cpp X
  (Global Scope)
   #include <boost/ptr container/ptr vector.hpp>
   using namespace boost;
   ptr vector<int> v;
   v.push back(new int(1));
   v.push_back(new int(2));
   #include <boost/ptr container/ptr set.hpp>
   ptr_set<int> s;
   s.insert(new int(1));
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# **Boost.Scop∈Exit**

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File Edit View Project Debug Tools Window Help
main.cpp X
  (Global Scope)
   #include <boost/scope exit.hpp>
   void foo() {
       int *i = new int(99);
      BOOST_SCOPE_EXIT((i)) {
         delete i;
       } BOOST_SCOPE_EXIT_END
      *i = 100;
       i = nullptr;
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```

### **Boost.Pool**



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main.cpp X
  (Global Scope)
   #include <boost/pool/pool alloc.hpp>
   #include <boost/pool/singleton pool.hpp>
   using namespace boost;
      std::vector<int, pool_allocator<int>> v;
      for (int i = 0; i < 1000000; ++i)
        v.push back(i);
   singleton_pool<pool_allocator_tag, sizeof(int)>::
      release memory();
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# Something with strings



### **Boost.StringAlgorithms**

Lots of free-standing functions to compare, find, replace, erase, trim ... strings

### **Boost.Spirit**

Parsing complex data formats using EBNF as a domain-specific language





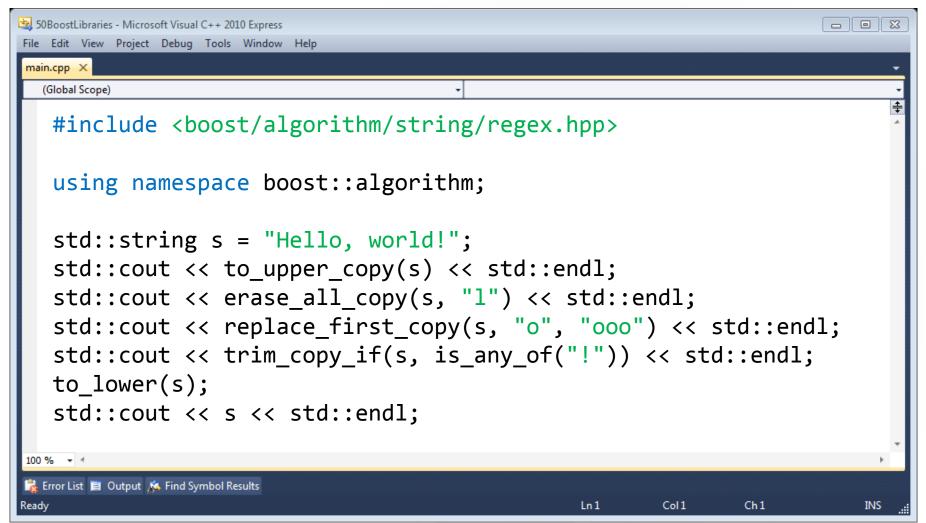
#### **Boost.Format**

Writing strings with a type-safe and extensible sprintf()-like function





# **Boost.StringAlgorithms**



# **Boost.Spirit**



```
50BoostLibraries - Microsoft Visual C++ 2010 Express
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File Edit View Project Debug Tools Window Help
main.cpp X
  (Global Scope)
   #include <boost/spirit/include/qi.hpp>
   using namespace boost::spirit::qi;
   template <typename Iterator>
   struct foo : grammar<Iterator>
      foo() : foo::base_type(obj) { obj = +int_ >> "foo"; }
      rule<Iterator> obj;
   foo<std::string::iterator> f;
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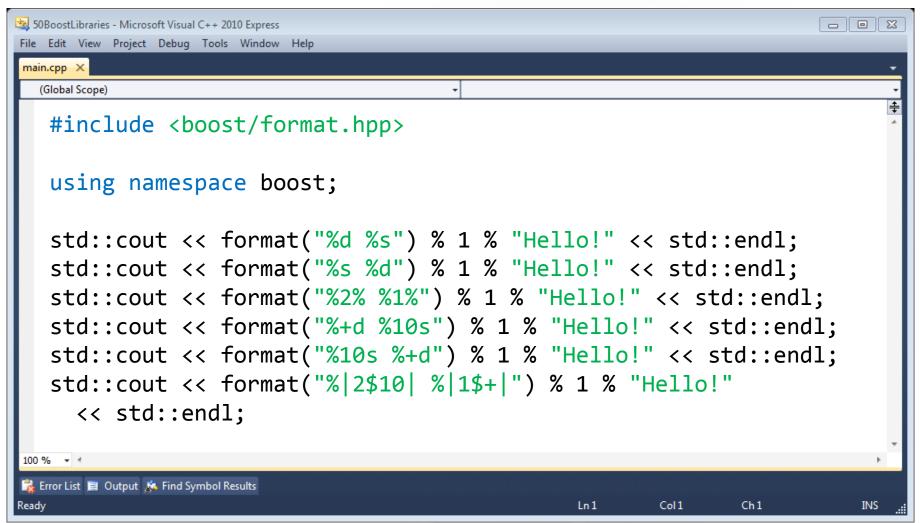
# **Boost.Spirit**



```
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File Edit View Project Debug Tools Window Help
main.cpp X
  (Global Scope)
   std::string s = "123foo";
   bool b = parse(s.begin(), s.end(), f);
   std::cout << b << std::endl; // 1
   template <typename Iterator, typename Skipper>
   struct foo : grammar<Iterator, Skipper> ...
   foo<std::string::iterator, ascii::space type> f;
   s = "123 foo";
   bool b = parse phrase(s.begin(), s.end(), f, ascii::space);
   std::cout << b << std::endl; // 1</pre>
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### **Boost.Format**



### Regular expressions



#### **Boost.Regex**

The C++ regular expression library which became a part of the standard with C++11

#### **Boost.Xpressive**

Basically a copy of Boost.Regex to write regular expressions as C++ code (a bit like Boost.Spirit)





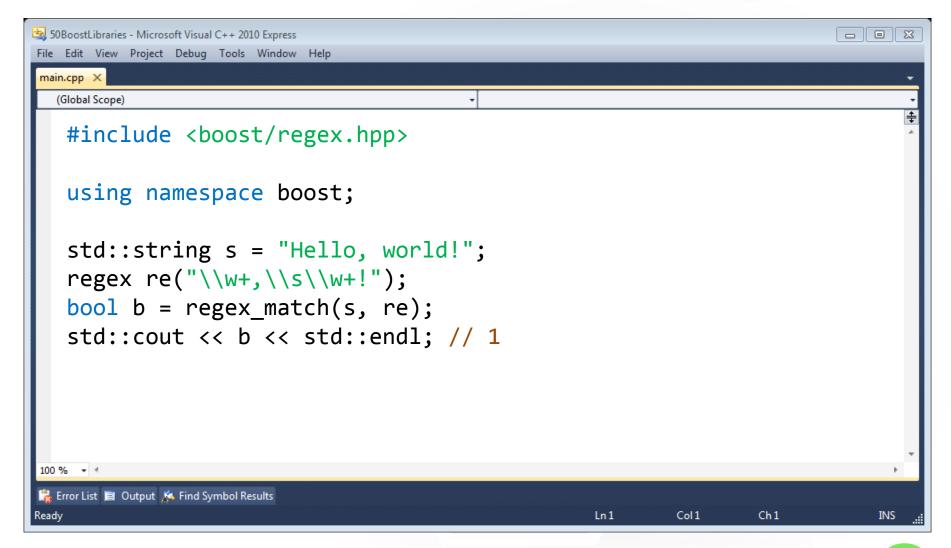
### **Boost.StringAlgorithms**

String processing functions based on the class boost::regex from Boost.Regex



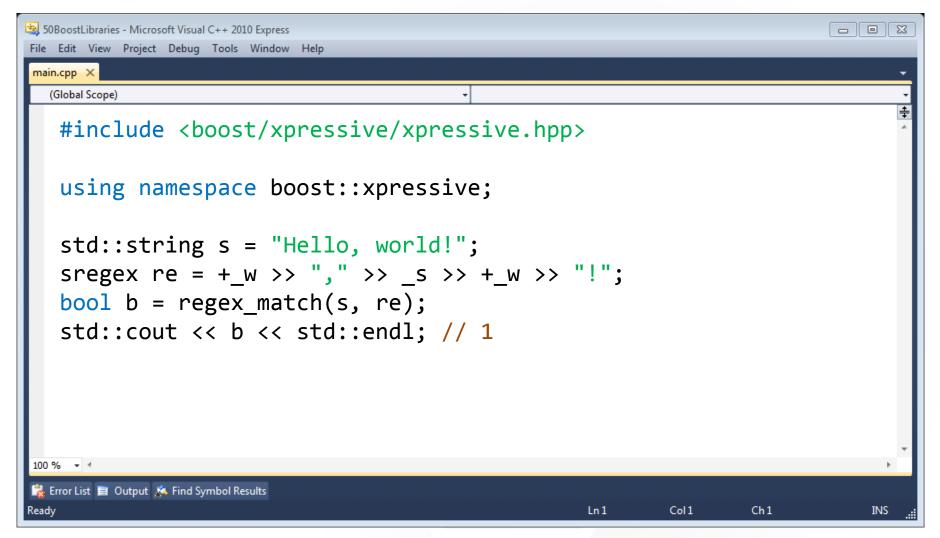
### Boost.Regex





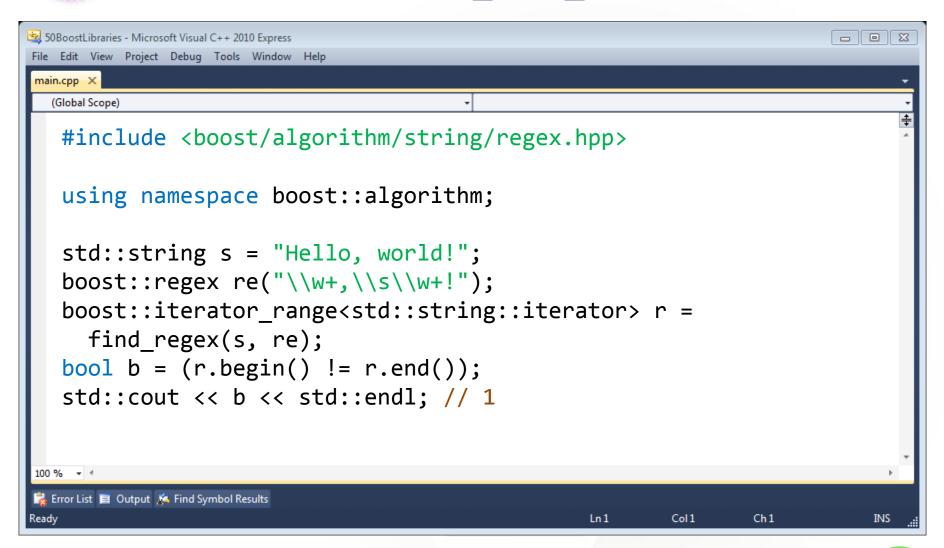


### **Boost.Xpressive**





### **Boost.StringAlgorithms**



### Tokenizers



#### **Boost.Tokenizer**

Container with a TokenizerFunction concept and a few implementations

### **Boost.StringAlgorithms**

Splitting a string with a function object and putting tokens into a container





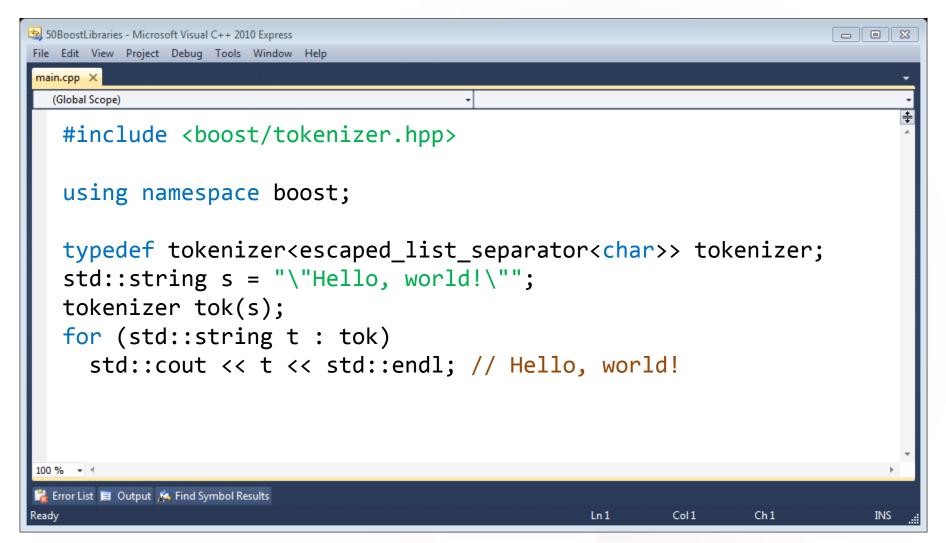
### **Boost.Regex (and Boost.Xpressive)**

An iterator which returns a token based on a regular expression





### **Boost.Tokenizer**



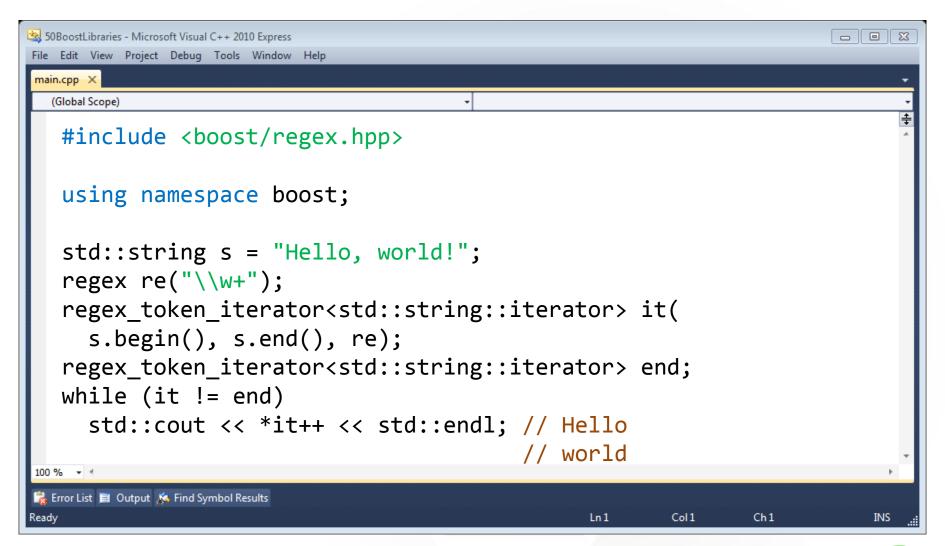
# **Boost.StringAlgorithms**



```
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File Edit View Project Debug Tools Window Help
main.cpp X
  (Global Scope)
   #include <boost/algorithm/string.hpp>
   using namespace boost::algorithm;
   std::string s = "Hello, world!";
   std::vector<std::string> v;
   split(v, s, is_space());
 100 % + 4
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### Boost.Regex



### **Containers**

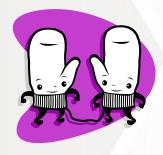


#### **Boost.Multiindex**

Create new containers which provide multiple interfaces to lookup items

#### **Boost.Bimap**

A ready-to-use container based on Boost. Multiindex with exactly two interfaces





#### **Boost.CircularBuffer**

A fixed-size container which overwrites items if you keep on inserting more

### Containers

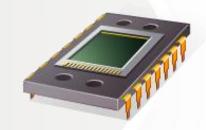


### **Boost.MultiArray**

Arrays with multiple dimensions (compile time) and arbitrarily long dimensions (run-time)

### **Boost.DynamicBitset**

Works exactly like std::bitset except that the size can be set (and modified) at run-time





#### **Boost.PropertyTree**

A tree container with key/value pairs which can be saved to and loaded from files

### Containers



#### **Boost.Intrusive**

Containers which don't allocate memory, copy no values and don't throw exceptions

#### **Boost.Container**

Same containers as in C++11 and a few more with move semantics



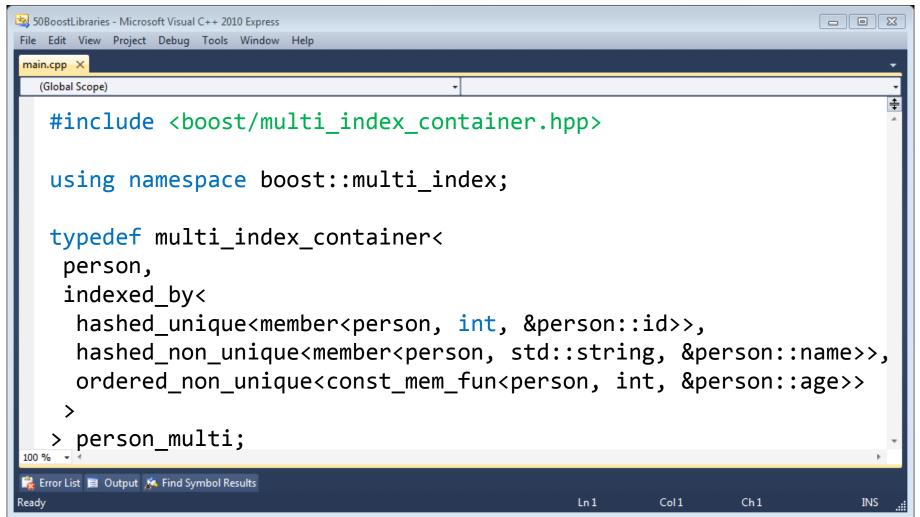


#### **Boost.Heap**

A priority queue like std::priority\_queue but with more functionality

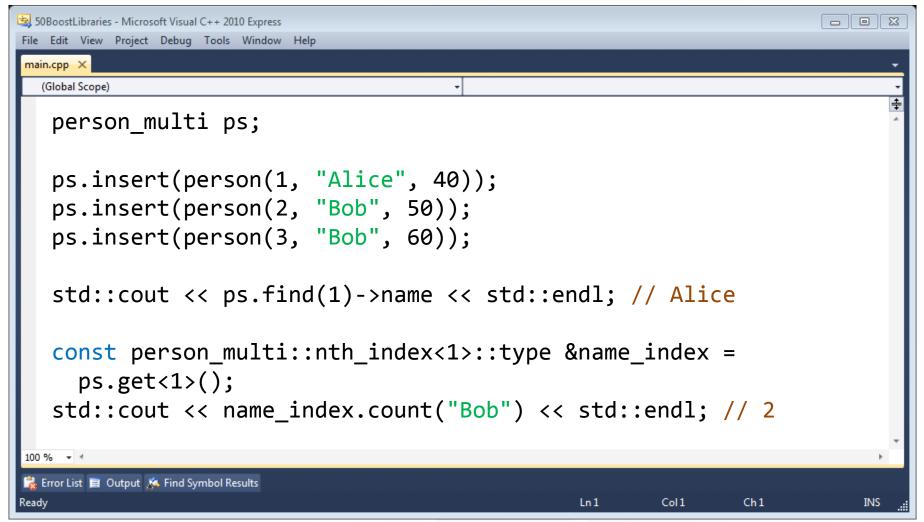


### **Boost.Multiindex**





### **Boost.Multiindex**



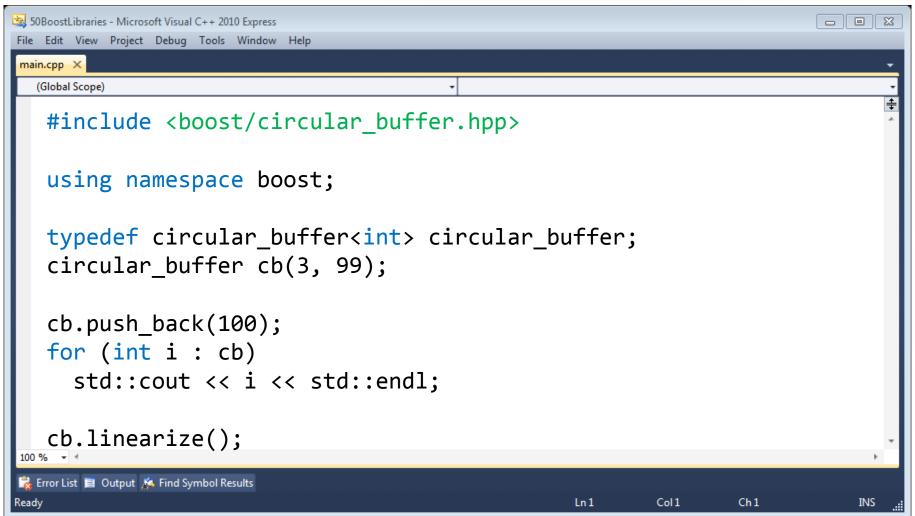
### **Boost.Bimap**



```
50BoostLibraries - Microsoft Visual C++ 2010 Express
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File Edit View Project Debug Tools Window Help
main.cpp X
  (Global Scope)
   #include <boost/bimap.hpp>
   #include <boost/bimap/suppport/lambda.hpp>
   using namespace boost::bimaps;
   typedef bimap<int, multiset of<double>> bimap;
   bimap bm;
   bm.insert(bimap::value_type(0, 0.1));
   bm.insert(bimap::value_type(1, 0.1));
   std::cout << bm.right.count(0.1) << std::endl;</pre>
   bm.left.modify_key(bm.left.find(0), key = 2);
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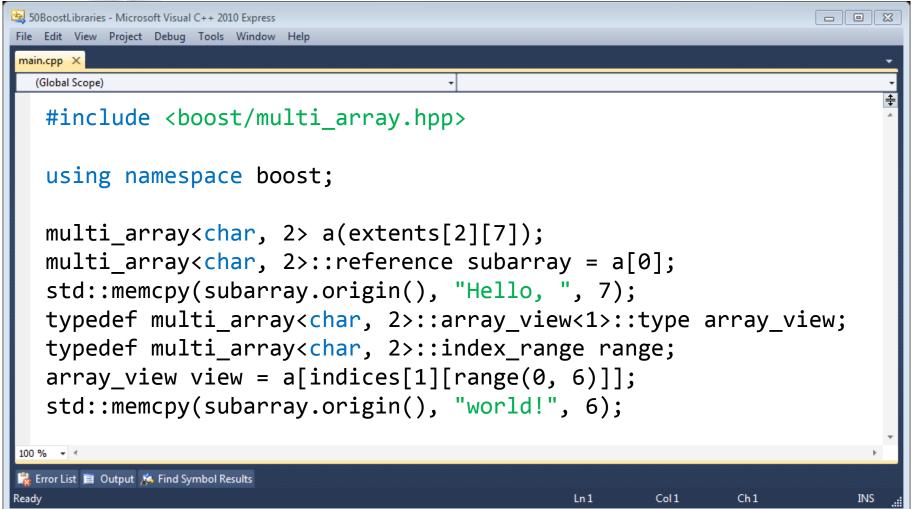


# **Boost.CircularBuffer**

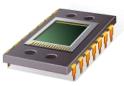




### **Boost.MultiArray**



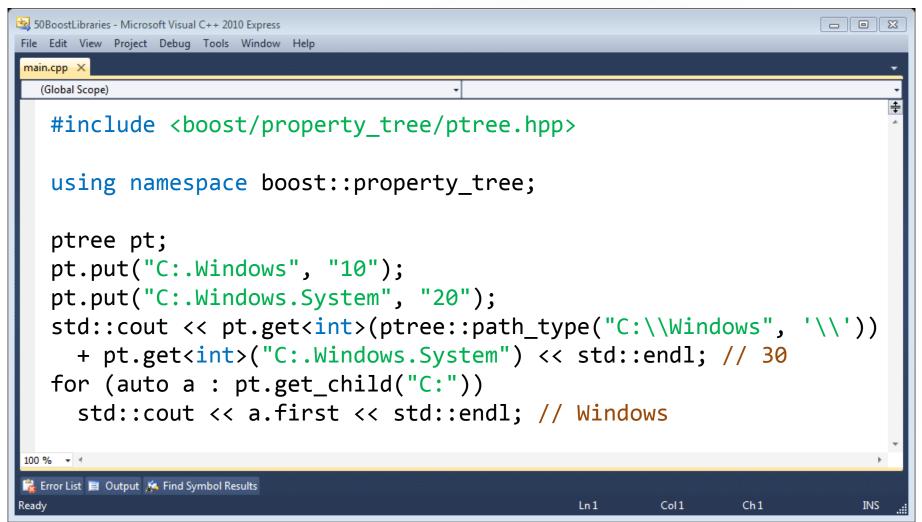
### Boost.DynamicBitset



```
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File Edit View Project Debug Tools Window Help
main.cpp X
  (Global Scope)
   #include <boost/dynamic bitset.hpp>
   using namespace boost;
   dynamic bitset<> db(3, 4);
   db.push back(true);
   std::cout << db.size() << std::endl;</pre>
   std::cout << db.count() << std::endl;</pre>
   std::cout << db.any() << std::endl;</pre>
   std::cout << db[0].flip() << std::endl;</pre>
   std::cout << ~db[0] << std::endl;
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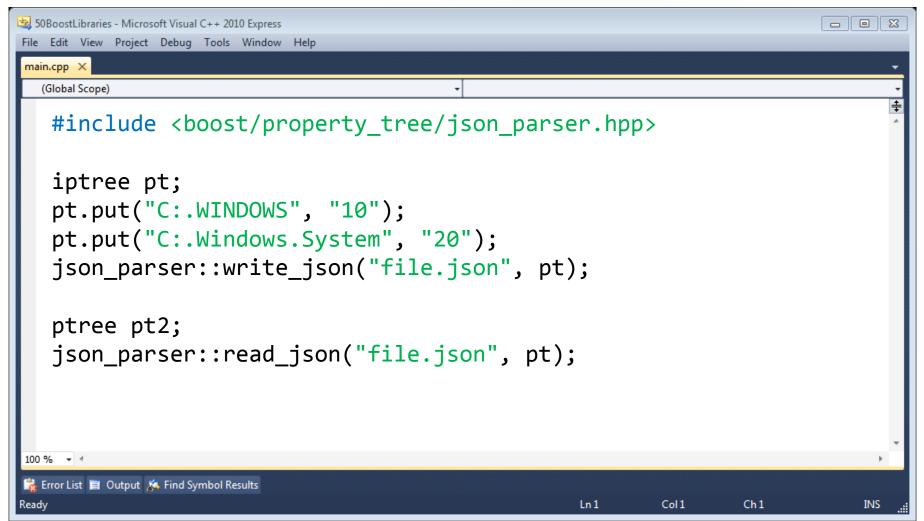


# **Boost.PropertyTree**



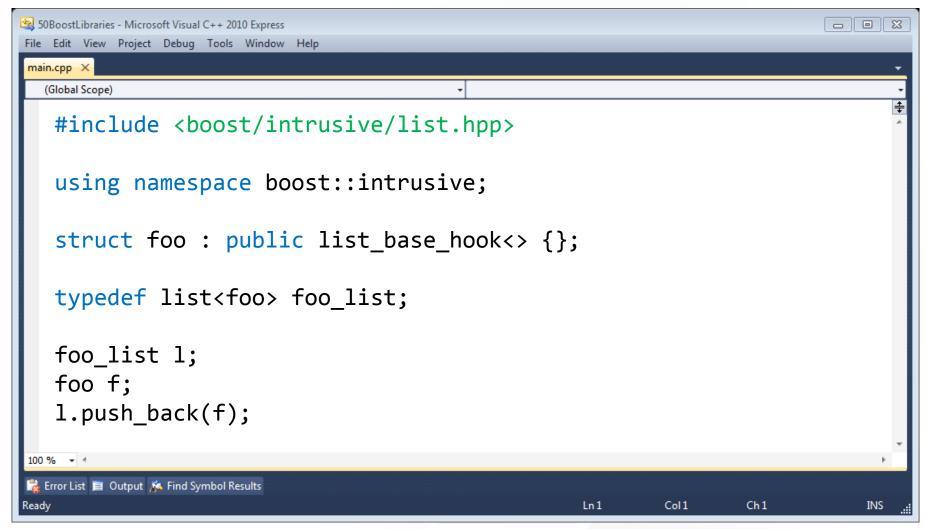


# **Boost.PropertyTree**



## **Boost.Intrusive**





## **Boost.Intrusive**



```
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File Edit View Project Debug Tools Window Help
main.cpp X
  (Global Scope)
   foo list 1;
   foo *f = new foo();
   1.push back(*f);
   1.pop back and dispose([](foo *f){ delete f; });
   struct foo : public list base hook<link mode<auto unlink>> {};
   typedef list<foo, constant time size<false>> foo list;
   foo list 1;
   { foo f; l.push back(f); }
   std::cout << l.empty() << std::endl; // 1
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```

## Data structures



### **Boost.Any**

A type which makes variables behave like typeless variables (eg. like in Javascript)

#### **Boost.Variant**

Similar to Boost.Any but with a restricted set of types





### **Boost.Uuid**

Create universally unique identifiers (like the ones used by Microsoft COM)

## Data structures



### **Boost.Optional**

Makes it possible to set a variable to NULL even if it's not a pointer

#### **Boost.Tribool**

Like bool but with a third possible state of indeterminate

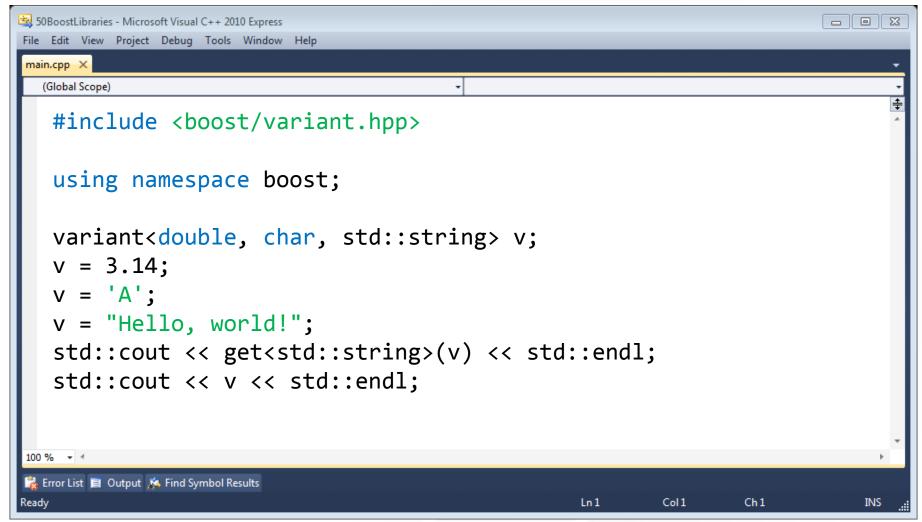




```
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main.cpp X
  (Global Scope)
   #include <boost/any.hpp>
   using namespace boost;
   any a = 1;
   a = 3.14;
   a = true;
   a = std::string("Hello, world!");
   if (!a.empty())
      std::cout << any_cast<std::string>(a) << std::endl;</pre>
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## **Boost.Variant**





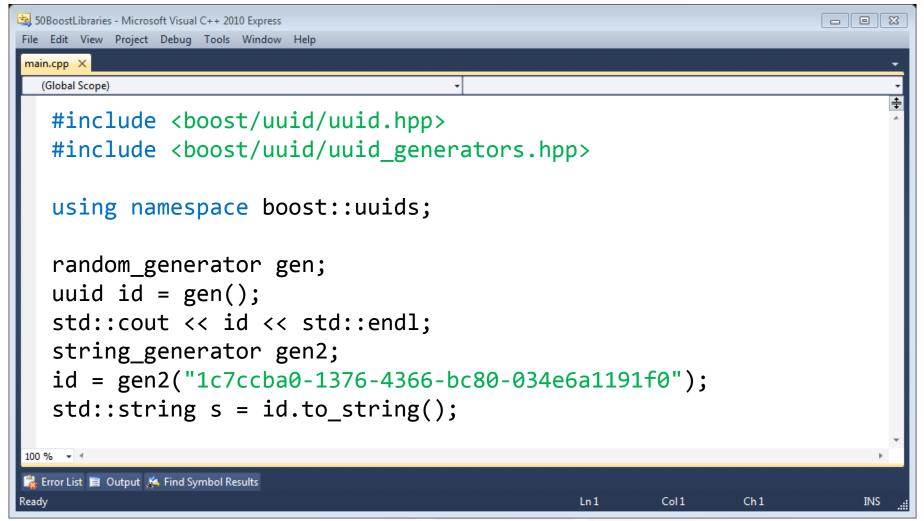
## **Boost.Variant**



```
50BoostLibraries - Microsoft Visual C++ 2010 Express
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File Edit View Project Debug Tools Window Help
main.cpp X
  (Global Scope)
   #include <boost/variant.hpp>
   using namespace boost;
   struct visitor : public static visitor<>
      template <typename T>
      void operator()(T &t) const { std::cout << t << std::endl; }</pre>
   variant<double, char, std::string> v;
   apply_visitor(visitor(), v);
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## **Boost.Uuid**



# **Boost.Optional**



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File Edit View Project Debug Tools Window Help
main.cpp X
  (Global Scope)
   #include <boost/optional.hpp>
   using namespace boost;
   optional<int> i = 1;
   i = none;
   if (i)
      std::cout << *i << std::endl;</pre>
   if (i.is initialized())
      std::cout << i.get() << std::endl;</pre>
   std::cout << get_optional_value_or(i, 0) << std::endl; // 0</pre>
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```

## **Boost.Tribool**



```
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File Edit View Project Debug Tools Window Help
main.cpp X
  (Global Scope)
   #include <boost/logic/tribool.hpp>
   using namespace boost::logic;
   tribool b;
   b = true;
   b = false;
   b = indeterminate;
   if (b) ...
   else if (!b) ...
   else ...
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# Design patterns



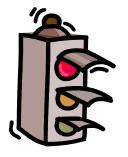
### **Boost.Flyweight**

Flyweight pattern: Sharing common data between objects to minimize memory usage

#### **Boost.Asio**

Reactor pattern: Demultiplexing requests and dispatching them to request handlers





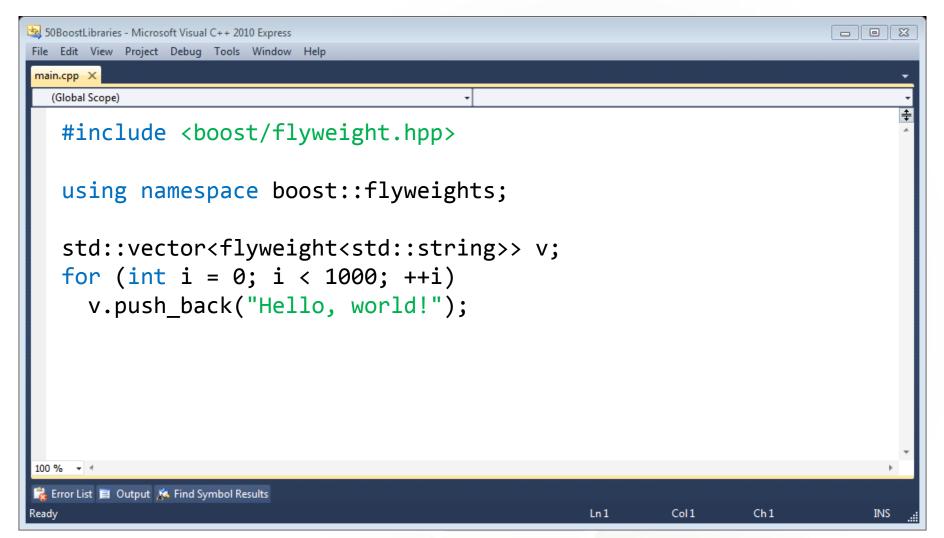
### **Boost.Signals2**

Observer pattern: Notifying observers about state changes in a subject



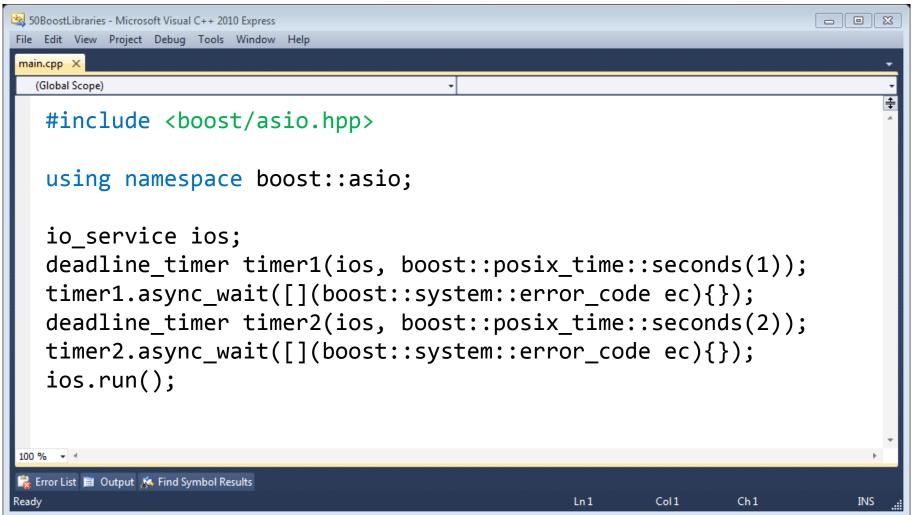


# Boost.Flyweight



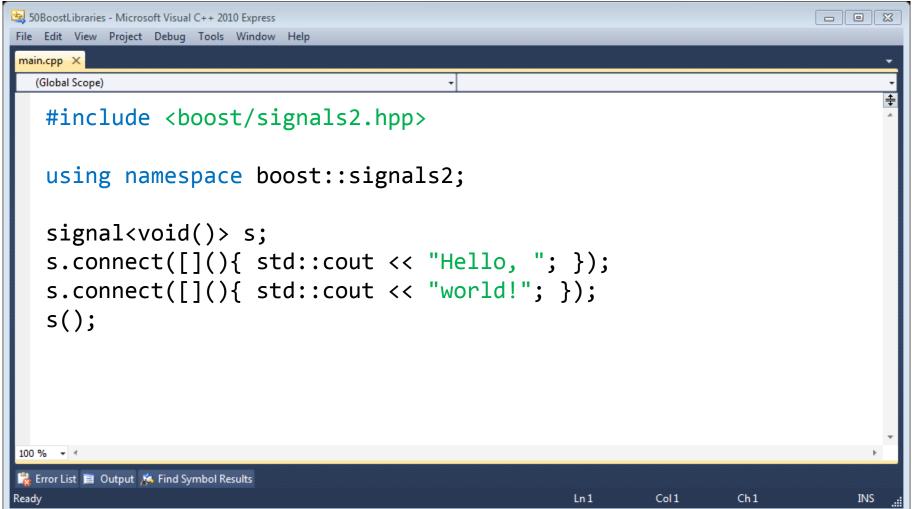


## **Boost.Asio**





# Boost.Signals2



## Communication



#### **Boost.Asio**

Asynchronous I/O for network programming and OS-specific operations

### **Boost.Interprocess**

Creating and accessing shared memory to communicate with other processes





#### **Boost.MPI**

A runtime environment for parallel computing with multiple instances of a program



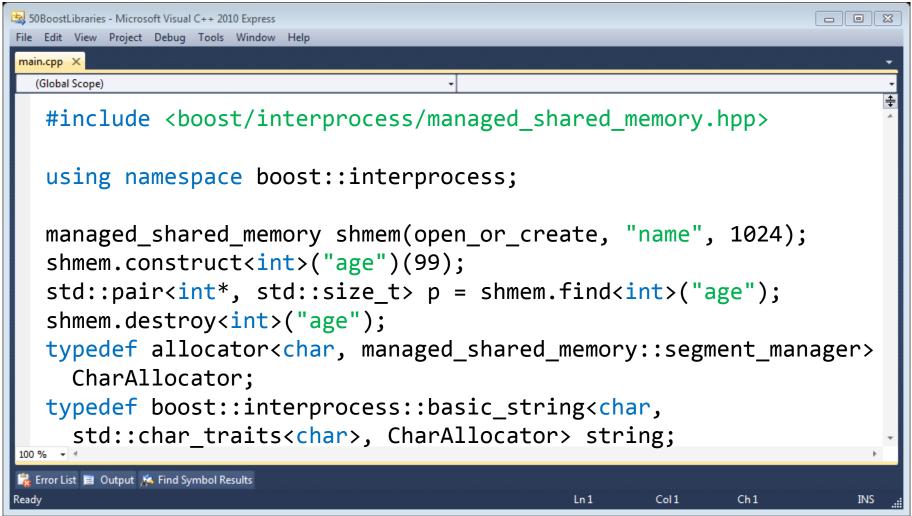
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File Edit View Project Debug Tools Window Help
main.cpp X
  (Global Scope)
   #include <boost/asio.hpp>
   using namespace boost::asio;
   io service ios;
   ip::tcp::endpoint endpoint(ip::tcp::v4(), 1234);
   ip::tcp::acceptor acceptor(ios, endpoint);
   ip::tcp::socket sock(ios);
   acceptor.listen();
   acceptor.async_accept(sock, [](boost::system::error_code&){});
   ios.run();
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File Edit View Project Debug Tools Window Help
main.cpp X
  (Global Scope)
   #include <boost/asio/windows/object handle.hpp>
   using namespace boost::asio;
   io service ios;
   PROCESS INFORMATION pi;
   CreateProcess("program.exe", ..., &pi);
   windows::object_handle handle(ios, pi.hProcess);
   handle.async wait([](boost::system::error code ec){});
   ios.run();
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# **Boost.Interprocess**







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File Edit View Project Debug Tools Window Help
main.cpp X
  (Global Scope)
   #include <boost/mpi.hpp>
   using namespace boost::mpi;
   environment env;
   communicator world;
   std::string s;
   if (world.rank() == 0)
      s = "Hello, world!";
   broadcast(world, s, 0);
   // Run with: mpiexec -n 4 sample.exe
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File Edit View Project Debug Tools Window Help
main.cpp X
  (Global Scope)
   environment env;
   communicator world;
   std::vector<std::string> v =
      { "Hello, world!", "Hello, moon!", "Hello, sun!" };
   std::string s;
   scatter(world, v, s, 0);
   std::string min(const std::string &lhs, const std::string &rhs)
      return lhs.size() < rhs.size() ? lhs : rhs;</pre>
   std::string result;
   reduce(world, s, result, min, 0);
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# Application development



### **Boost.ProgramOptions**

Define command line options and evaluate command line arguments

### **Boost.Log**

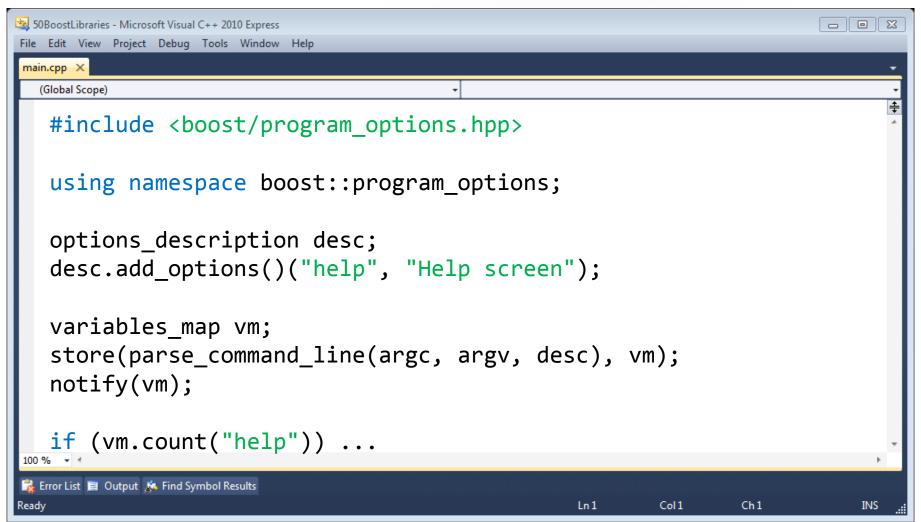
A logging library reviewed and accepted but not yet shipped with the Boost libraries







# **Boost.ProgramOptions**



# **S**ystem



### **Boost.Filesystem**

Process paths and access the filesystem (not only files but also directories)

### **Boost.Thread**

Create threads just like with C++11;
Boost.Thread has interruptable threads though





# Boost.Filesystem

```
50BoostLibraries - Microsoft Visual C++ 2010 Express
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File Edit View Project Debug Tools Window Help
main.cpp X
  (Global Scope)
   #include <boost/filesystem.hpp>
   using namespace boost::filesystem;
   path p(R"(C:\test)");
   std::cout << p.generic string() << std::endl; // C:/test</pre>
   create directory(p);
   rename(p, R"(C:\test2)");
   remove(R"(C:\test2)");
   directory_iterator it(current_path());
   while (it != directory iterator())
      std::cout << *it++ << std::endl;</pre>
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```

## Boost.Thread



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File Edit View Project Debug Tools Window Help
main.cpp X
  (Global Scope)
   #include <boost/thread.hpp>
   using namespace boost;
   thread t([](){
      try {
         while (true) {
            this_thread::sleep(boost::posix_time::seconds(1));
      } catch (thread_interrupted&) {}
   });
   t.interrupt();
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```

# Error handling



### **Boost.System**

Four classes for error codes, error categories and errors as exceptions

### **Boost.Exception**

An exception class information can be easily added to after it has been thrown







# Boost.Syst∈m

```
50BoostLibraries - Microsoft Visual C++ 2010 Express
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File Edit View Project Debug Tools Window Help
main.cpp X
  (Global Scope)
   #include <boost/system/error code.hpp>
   #include <boost/system/system error.hpp>
   using namespace boost;
   error code ec = make error code(errc::too many file open);
   std::cout << ec.value() << std::endl; // 24</pre>
   const error_category &cat = ec.category();
   std::cout << cat.name() << std::endl; // generic</pre>
   error_condition con = ec.default_error_condition();
   std::cout << con.value() << std::endl; // 24</pre>
   throw system error(ec);
🕏 Error List 🔳 Output 🙇 Find Symbol Results
                                                      Ln1
                                                              Col 1
                                                                      Ch1
Ready
                                                                                  INS
```

# **Boost. Exception**



```
50BoostLibraries - Microsoft Visual C++ 2010 Express
                                                                                      - D X
File Edit View Project Debug Tools Window Help
main.cpp X
  (Global Scope)
   #include <boost/exception/all.hpp>
   using namespace boost;
   typedef error info<struct tag errmsg, std::string> errmsg info;
   try {
      throw exception();
   catch (exception &ex) {
      ex << errmsg info("Now I know why it failed");
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🕏 Error List 🗏 Output 🔉 Find Symbol Results
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                                                                                          INS
Ready
```

# **Boost.Exception**



```
50BoostLibraries - Microsoft Visual C++ 2010 Express
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File Edit View Project Debug Tools Window Help
main.cpp X
  (Global Scope)
   try {
      try {
         BOOST_THROW_EXCEPTION(user_defined_exception());
      catch (exception &ex) {
         ex << errmsg info("Now I know why it failed");
   catch (exception &ex) {
      diagnostic_information(ex);
      std::cout << get error info<errmsg info>(ex) << std::endl;</pre>
100 % 🕶
🔀 Error List 🧧 Output 🚜 Find Symbol Results
                                                           Ln1
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Ready
                                                                                         INS
```

## Time



#### **Boost.DateTime**

A library for calendar dates and times with extensive support for flexible input and output

#### **Boost.Chrono**

Provides a lot of clocks to measure wall clock time, process time, monotonic time ...





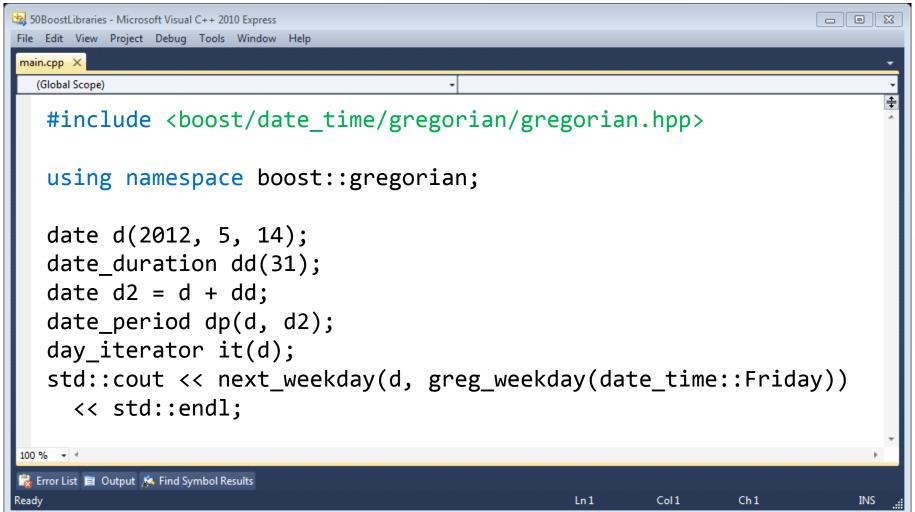
#### **Boost.Timer**

Based on a particular clock from Boost.Chrono to profile code



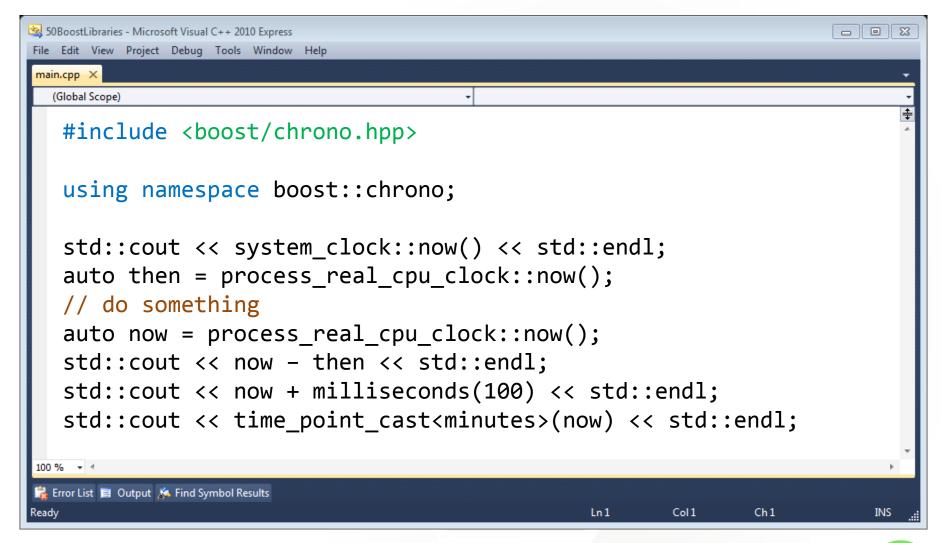


## **Boost.Dat∈Tim∈**



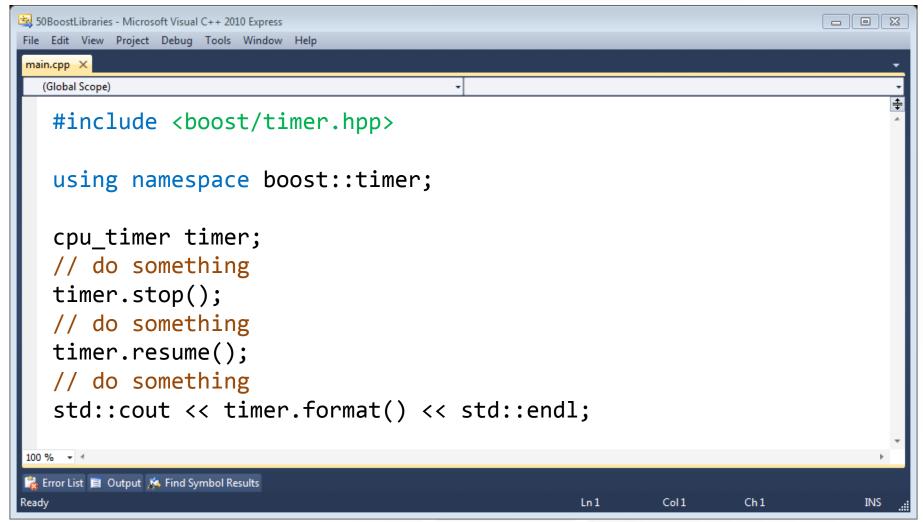
## Boost.Chrono







## **Boost.Timer**



### Math



### **Boost.Integer**

Integer types with exact, minimum and fast sizes

#### **Boost.Random**

Random number generators with distributors to generate numbers with restrictions

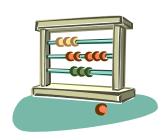




### **Boost.Accumulators**

Containers which calculate new results whenever a new value is pushed into them

### Math



### **Boost.Rational**

Use exact representations of rational numbers like 1/3 in C++

### **Boost.MathCommonFactor**

Find the greatest common divisor and least common multiple



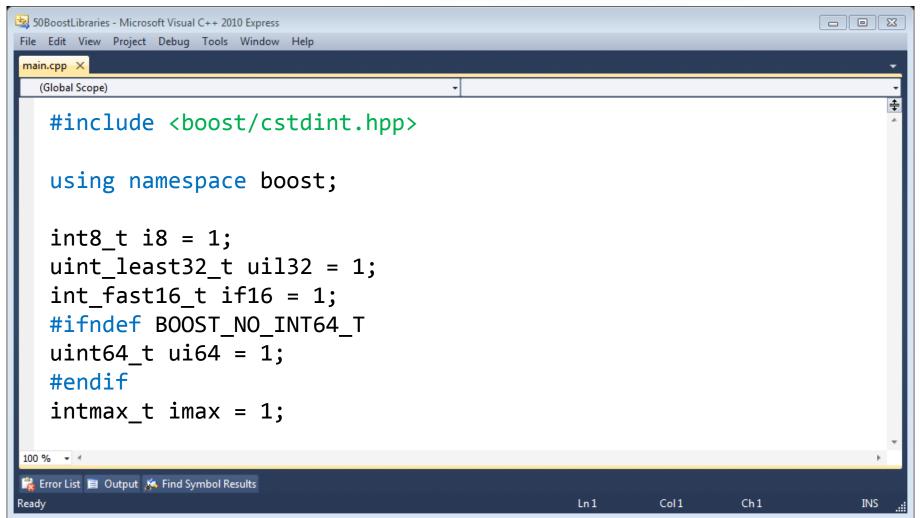


### **Boost.Graph**

A library to solve problems like finding the shortest route between two subway stations

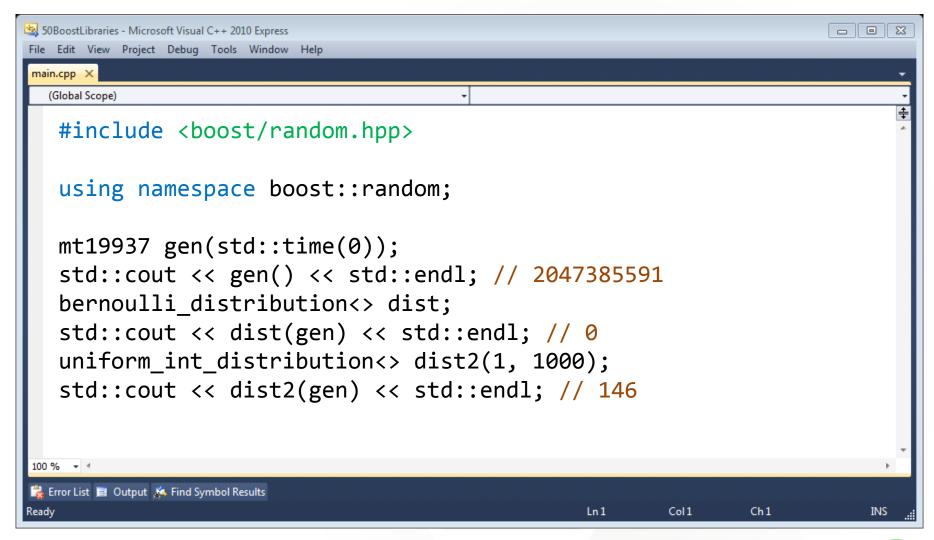


# Boost.Integer



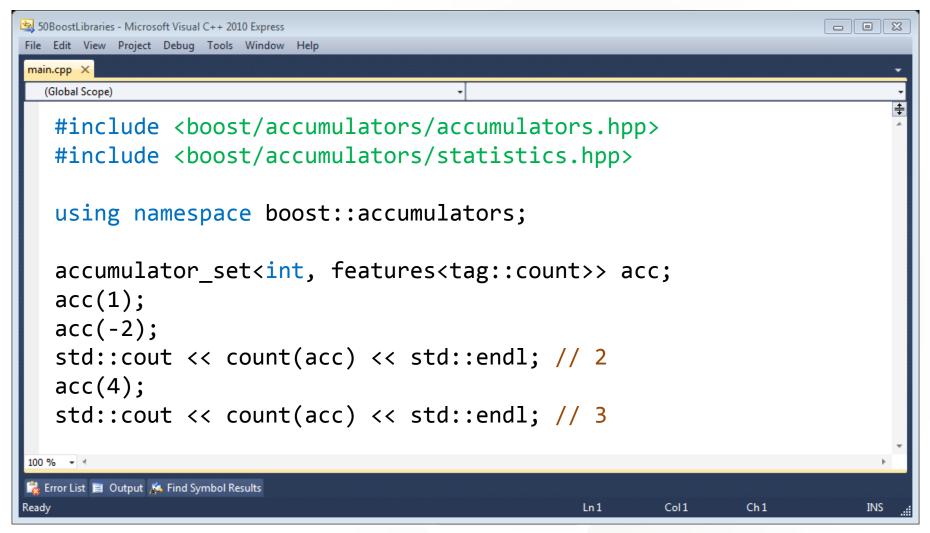
## **Boost.Random**



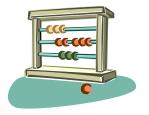




## **Boost.Accumulators**



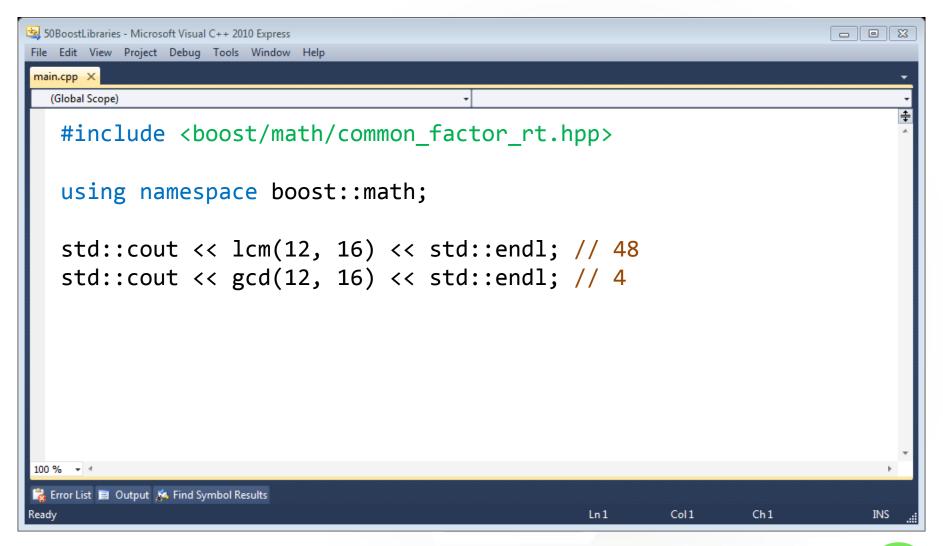
## **Boost.Rational**



```
50BoostLibraries - Microsoft Visual C++ 2010 Express
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File Edit View Project Debug Tools Window Help
main.cpp X
  (Global Scope)
   #include <boost/rational.hpp>
   using namespace boost;
   rational<int> r(1, 2);
   std::cout << r << std::endl; // 1/2
   std::cout << r + r << std::endl; // 1/1
   std::cout << r * r << std::endl; // 1/4
   std::cout << rational_cast<float>(r) << std::endl; // 0.5</pre>
100 % + 4
🕏 Error List 🗏 Output 🔉 Find Symbol Results
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```

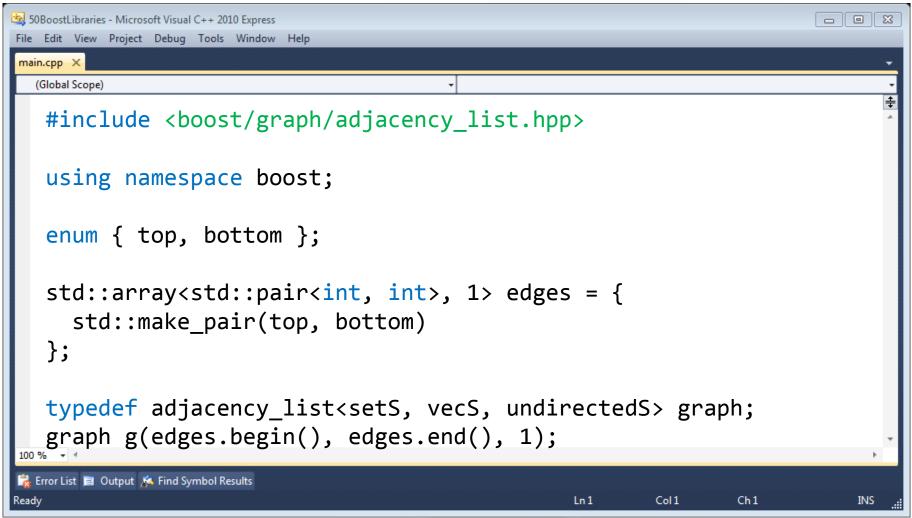


# **Boost.MathCommonFactor**



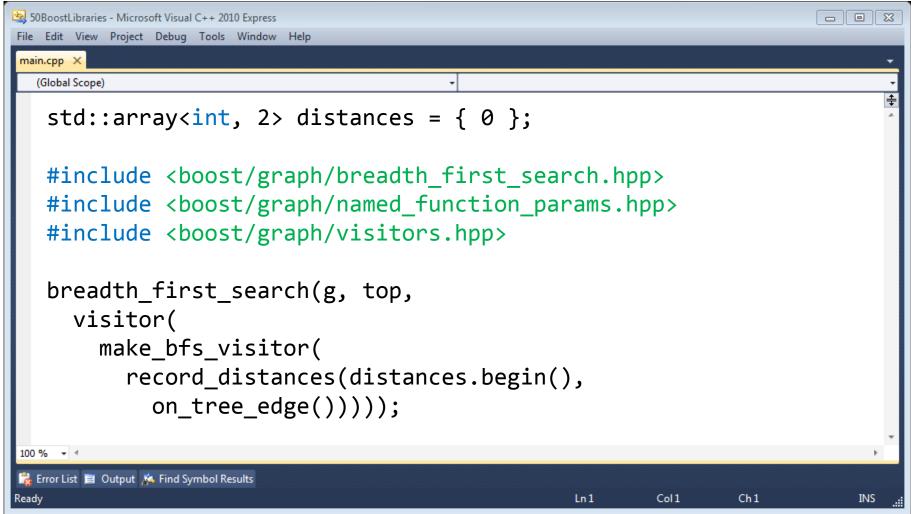
# **Boost.Graph**





# **Boost.Graph**





# Cast Operators



### **Boost.Conversion**

Three cast operators for numbers and polymorphic types

#### **Boost.NumericConversion**

A cast operator to detect overflows when converting from big to small numeric types

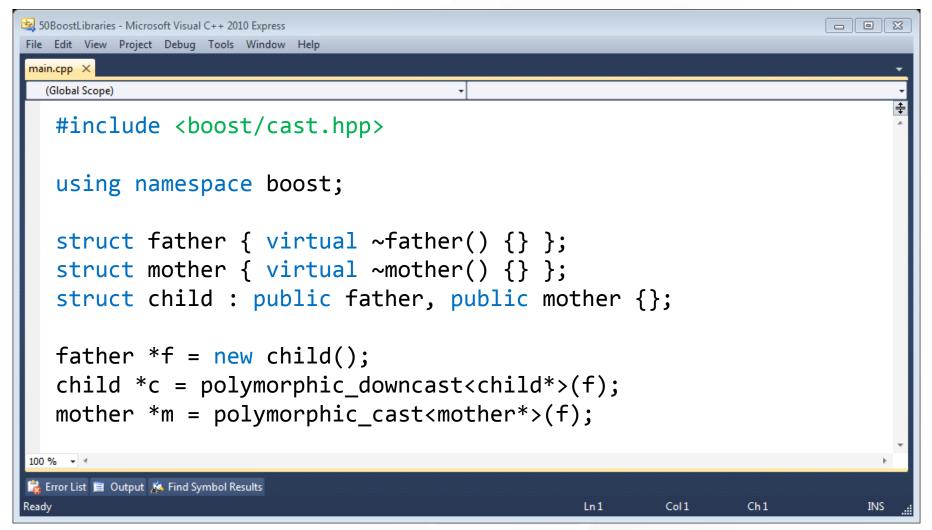


More cast operators in Boost.Rational (rational\_cast<>), Boost.Chrono (time\_point\_cast<>, duration\_cast<>), Boost.Any (any\_cast<>) ...





## **Boost.Conversion**





## **Boost.Conversion**

```
50BoostLibraries - Microsoft Visual C++ 2010 Express
                                                                                        - © X
File Edit View Project Debug Tools Window Help
main.cpp X
  (Global Scope)
   #include <boost/cast.hpp>
   using namespace boost;
   std::string s = lexical_cast<std::string>(123);
   int i = lexical cast<int>(s);
   try
      lexical cast<int>("abc");
   catch (bad_lexical_cast &e) {}
🕏 Error List 🗏 Output 🔉 Find Symbol Results
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```

# **Boost.NumericConversion**



```
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                                                                                             - © X
File Edit View Project Debug Tools Window Help
 main.cpp X
  (Global Scope)
   #include <boost/numeric/conversion/cast.hpp>
   using namespace boost;
   try
      int i = 0 \times 10000;
       short s = numeric_cast<short>(i);
   catch (numeric::bad_numeric_cast &e) {}
 100 % + 4
🕏 Error List 🔳 Output 🔉 Find Symbol Results
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                                                                Ln1
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```

## **Utilities**



### **Boost.Utility**

Small utilities which were too small for their own libraries

### **Boost.Assign**

Initialize containers and add multiple values without calling push\_back() dozens of times





#### **Boost.StaticAssert**

Check the size of a type at compile time

### **Utilities**



### **Boost.Operators**

Add operators to your class by deriving from helper classes which define them for you

#### **Boost.MinMax**

Find the minimum and maximum of two or multiple values with one function call





#### **Boost.Swap**

Like std::swap() but uses optimized swap implementations for many Boost libraries



## **Utilities**



#### **Boost.Hash**

Classes and functions to return hash values and to build your own for user-defined types

There are many more small Boost libraries which could be put into this section of the presentation

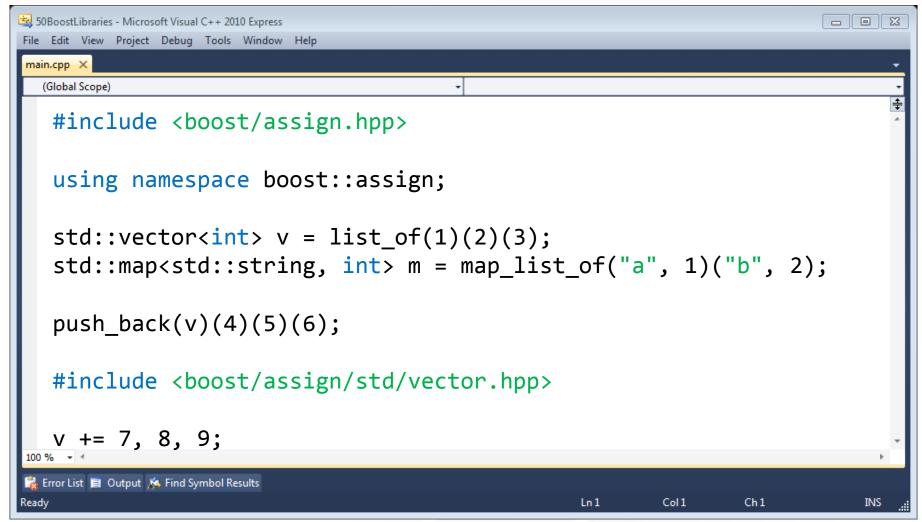




```
50BoostLibraries - Microsoft Visual C++ 2010 Express
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File Edit View Project Debug Tools Window Help
main.cpp X
  (Global Scope)
   #include <boost/next prior.hpp>
   array<int, 4> a = { 1, 2, 3, 4 };
   std::cout << *next(a.begin()) << *prior(a.end()) << std::endl;</pre>
   #include <boost/noncopyable.hpp>
   struct x : boost::noncopyable {};
   #include <boost/utility/binary.hpp>
   std::cout << BOOST BINARY(1010) << std::endl;</pre>
🔀 Error List 🧧 Output 🚜 Find Symbol Results
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```

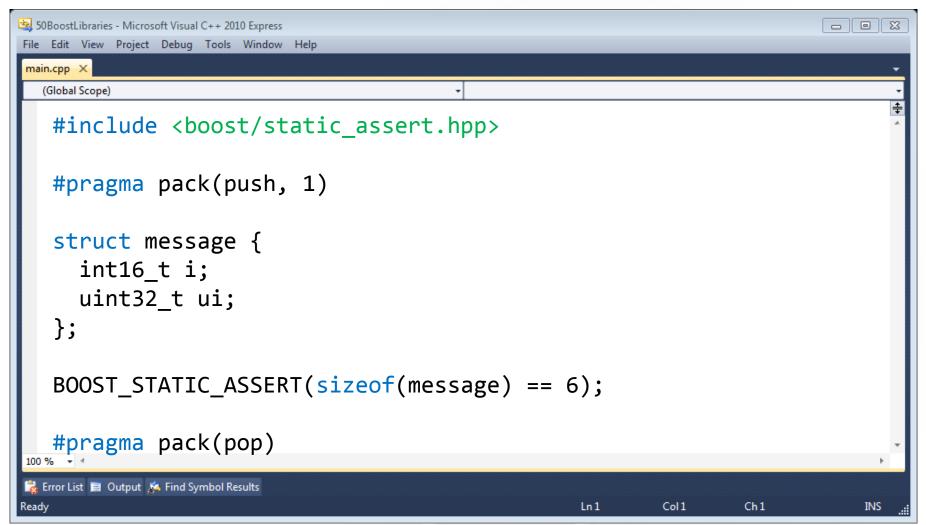
# **Boost.Assign**







# **Boost.StaticAssert**



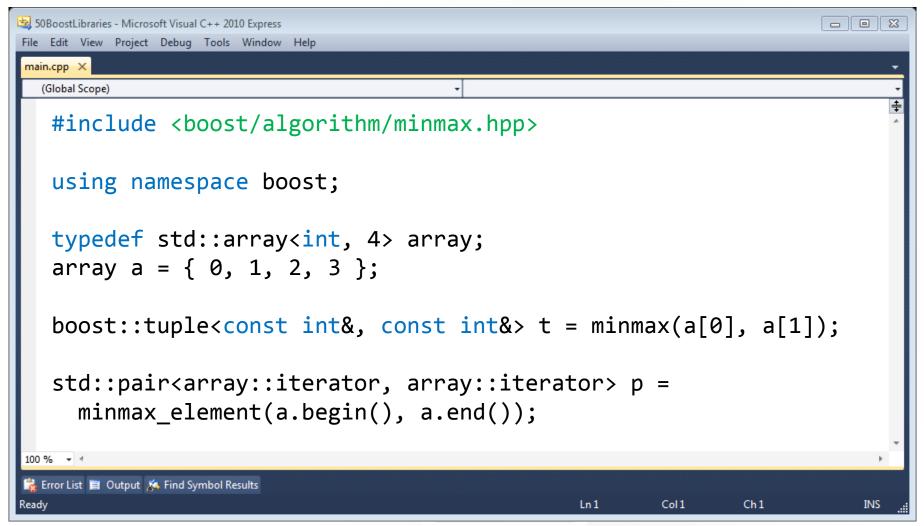


# **Boost.Operators**

```
50BoostLibraries - Microsoft Visual C++ 2010 Express
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File Edit View Project Debug Tools Window Help
main.cpp X
  (Global Scope)
   #include <boost/operators.hpp>
   using namespace boost;
   struct foo : public equality_comparable<foo> {
      bool operator==(const foo &f) const {
         return true;
   foo f1, f2;
   std::cout << (f1 != f2) << std::endl; // 0
🕏 Error List 🗏 Output 🔉 Find Symbol Results
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```

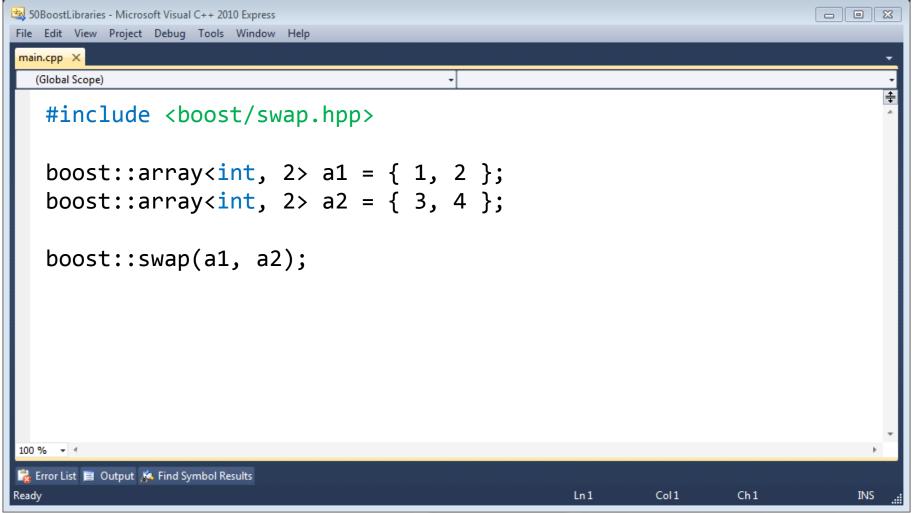
# **Boost.MinMax**





# **Boost.Swap**







## **Boost.Hash**

```
50BoostLibraries - Microsoft Visual C++ 2010 Express
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File Edit View Project Debug Tools Window Help
main.cpp X
  (Global Scope)
   #include <boost/functional/hash.hpp>
   using namespace boost;
   struct foo { std::string s; int i; };
   std::size t hash value(const foo &f) {
      std::size t seed = 0;
      hash_combine(seed, f.s);
      hash_combine(seed, f.i);
      return seed;
100 % -
🕏 Error List 🗏 Output 🔉 Find Symbol Results
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```

## More information



Boost documentation:

http://www.boost.org/doc/libs

Presentations from BoostCons:

http://boostcon.boost.org/presentations/

Online book:

http://en.highscore.de/cpp/boost/
http://www.highscore.de/cpp/boost/ (German)
http://zh.highscore.de/cpp/boost/ (Chinese)

References to blogs, books, articles:

http://svn.boost.org/trac/boost/wiki/References

