

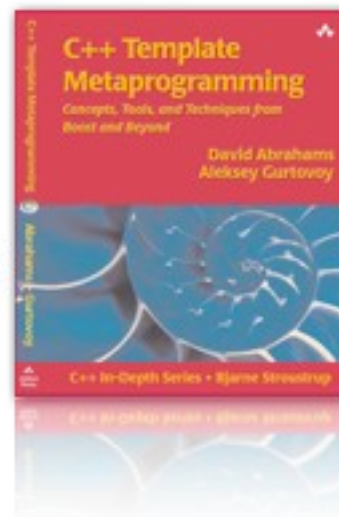
Higher Level C++ with The Boost Libraries

<http://github.com/boostpro/bbn-2012-11>



Dave Abrahams (me)

- C++ Committee member since 1996
- Founding member, Boost.org
- Founder, BoostPro Computing
- Trainer, consultant, software developer
- Author



My World ca. 1995

- Page Layout



- Printing



- GUI Design



- Asynchronous I/O (MIDI)



- AI for Transcription



- Portability

Infrastructure Requirements

- GUI framework
- Document Framework (undo/serialization)
- Dynamic Arrays
- Algorithms, e.g. Sort, Binary Search
- Fast Dynamic Memory
- Error Handling

Build It Yourself

- Evolves by accretion, not by design
- Limited in capability
- One-offs: not interoperable
- Undocumented
- Not speed-tested
- Buggy (it turns out)

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The Bottom Line

**A professional programmer
has a lot on his/her mind!**

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Enter: STL

- Reliable containers and algorithms
- Documented requirements/guarantees
- Choice of capability/performance tradeoffs
- Interoperability with low coupling
- Standardization → lingua franca
- Programming Paradigm → less thinking!

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Background:

Effective programmers focus on solving problems in their application's domain, not on writing reliable, efficient, general-purpose building blocks.

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But Enough About Me...

- Why are you here?
- What libraries are you using?
- What kinds of things do you work on?

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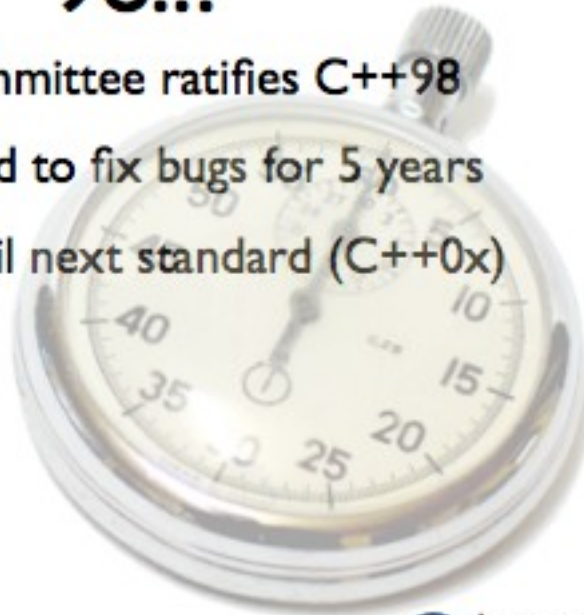
We Need High-Level Libraries

- Less code \Rightarrow Real productivity
 - Less to write
 - Less to debug
- More expressive code
 - Natural to write
 - More self-documenting
 - More likely to be correct the first time

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It All Started Back In '98...

- Standards committee ratifies C++98
- Only supposed to fix bugs for 5 years
- 10+ years until next standard (C++0x)



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It All Started Back In '98...

- Standards committee ratifies C++98
- Only supposed to fix bugs for 5 years
- 10+ years until next standard (C++0x)
- How will get the C++0x std:: libraries?
- Will they be based on "existing practice?"



Beman Dawes

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Standard Library **DEATHMATCH**



Python



Java



C++

CPAN
Perl



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- To Encourage Adoption (“Practice”):
 - Open Source
 - Peer Reviewed
 - Licensed Non-Virally
- Suitable for Standardization
 - Portable
 - Well Documented



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Where Are the Libraries?



**Boost:
117 libraries
and growing!
(10 in C++11)**



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What's In Boost:

Domains

- Text Processing / Parsing
- Data Structures
- Iterators
- Algorithms
- Function Objects
- Generic Programming Utilities
- Concurrency
- Metaprogramming / Code Generation
- Numerics
- Correctness / Testing
- Input / Output
- Language Binding
- Memory Management
- Programming Interfaces
- ...etc.



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Who's Using Boost



- Adobe
- Microsoft
- RealNetworks
- CERN (Large Hadron Collider)
- SAP NetWeaver
- National Labs (LLNL, LBL, Sandia)
- ...etc.

FOSS Using Boost (Mac)

```
$ grep -r -l port:boost . | sed -e 's#\./.*\/(.*)/Portfile#\1#g'
```

LyX	flusspferd	cgal	vtk-devel	libtorrent-	gnuradio-
numble	json_spirit	agave	digikam	rasterbar	gruel
qtiplot	libbert	assimp	kdepinlibs4	libtorrent-	gnuradio-
ardour2	libnifalcon	enblend	kdesdk4	rasterbar-	onnithread
xms2	librets	exempi	kdevplatform	devel	iAIDA
mongodb	monotone	field3d	kgraphviewer	metaproxy	indi
mysql-	orocos-kdl	hugin-app	ktorrent4	mash	onpl
connector-	orocos-rtt	inkscape	libtorrent	murmur	peekabot-
cpp	thrift	inkscape-	rocs	yazproxy	client
simplevoc-	xmlwrapp	devel	prothon	./PortIndex	peekabot-
open	bitcoin	lib2geom	fityk	scribus	server
soci-devel	QuantLib	libopenraw	vowpal_wabbi	py-graph-	playerstage-
akonadi	encfs	mkhexgrid	t	tool	player
arabica	fife	ogre	mkvtoolnix	py26-mapnik	uhd
boost-build	glob2	openvml	XBMC	bali-phy	source-
boost-gil-	PlasmaClient	scantailor	cclive	collada-dom	highlight
numeric	wesnoth	vigra	deluge	cufflinks	zorba

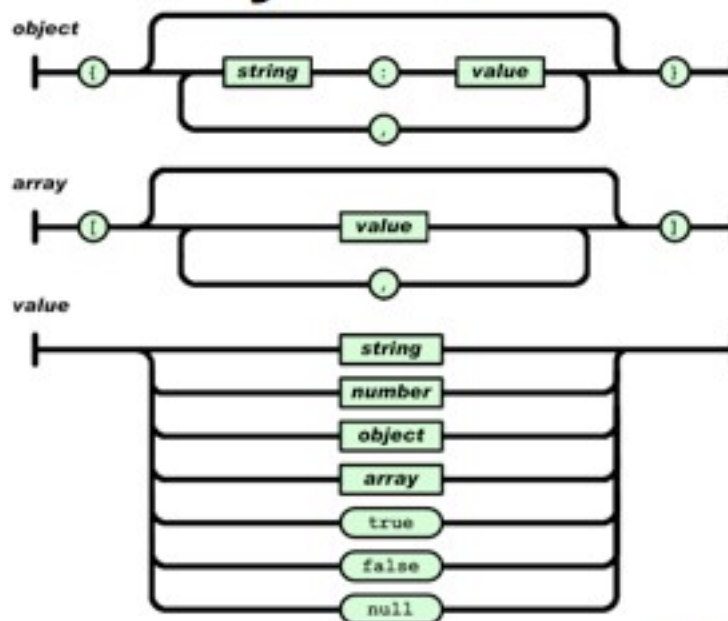
The Boost Core

Basics, Touchstones and Idioms

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JSON

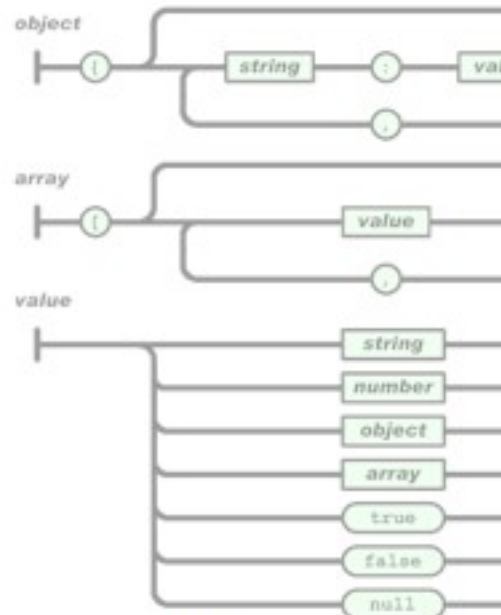


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JSON

```
{
  "first": "Dave",
  "last": "Abrahams",
  "age": 48.2,
  "sex": "M",
  "zip code": "02143",
  "registered": true,
  "catchphrase": null
  "interests": [
    "Jamming",
    "Biking",
    "Hacking"
  ]
}
```



Representation

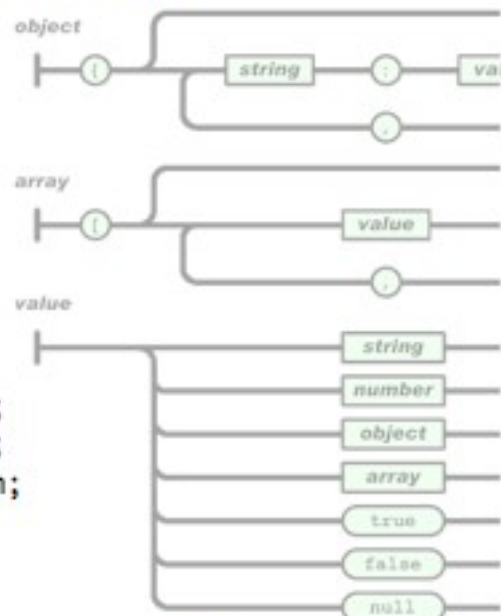
```
namespace json {

typedef
    std::map<std::string, value>
    object;

typedef std::vector<value> array;

typedef std::string      string;
typedef long double      number;
typedef bool             boolean;
typedef struct null {}   null;

}
```



Representation

```
#include <boost/any.hpp>
```

```
namespace json {
```

```
typedef boost::any value;
```

```
typedef
```

```
    std::map<std::string, value>
```

```
object;
```

```
typedef std::vector<value> array;
```

```
typedef std::string
```

```
typedef long double
```

```
typedef bool
```

```
typedef struct null {}
```

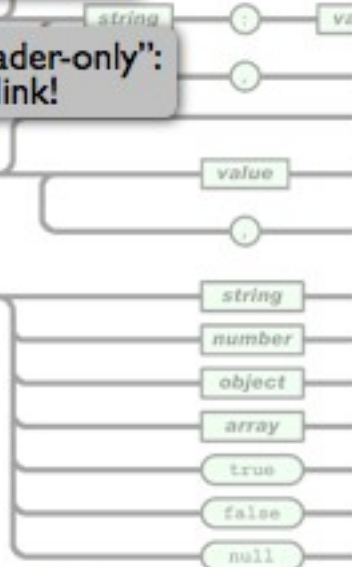
```
}
```

"Top-level" boost header

Boost.Any is "header-only":
nothing to build/link!

array

value



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Store Any Value...

```
#include <boost/any.hpp>
```

```
#include <vector>
```

```
#include <string>
```

```
int main()
```

```
{
```

```
    using boost::any;
```

```
    any x = 3;
```

```
    any y = 3.14f;
```

```
    any z = std::vector<int>(10, 42);
```

```
    z = x;
```

```
    z = "Hello, World!"
```

```
}
```

x stores an int: 3

y stores a float

z stores a vector

now z stores 3

Error; can't copy
char const[14]



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Store Any Value...

```
#include <boost/any.hpp>
#include <vector>
#include <string>

int main()
{
    using boost::any;
    any x = 3;
    any y = 3.14f;
    any z = std::vector<int>(10, 42);
    z = x;
    z = std::string("Hello, World!");
}
```

OK: std::string
is a value type



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...Retrieve Any Value

```
#include <boost/any.hpp>
#include <string>
#include <iostream>
using std::string; using boost::any; using boost::any_cast;

int main()
{
    any s1 = string("pumpkin"),
    s2 = s1;

    if ( string* p = any_cast<string>(&s1) ) {
        p->replace(0, 4, "Rumplestilts");
    }
    std::cout << any_cast<string>(s1) << " turned into a "
    << any_cast<string>(s2) << std::endl;
}
```

s1 and s2: both "pumpkin"

does s1 contain a string?

pointer in, pointer out



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...Retrieve Any Value

```
#include <boost/any.hpp>
using namespace boost;

int main()
{
    any s1 = string("pumpkin"),
        s2 = s1;
```

```
$ g++ -I /path/to/boost pumpkin.cpp -o test
$ ./test
Rumplestiltskin turned into a pumpkin
$
```

```
    if ( string* p = any_cast<string>(&s1) ) {
        p->replace(0, 4, "Rumplestilts");
    }
    std::cout << any_cast<string>(s1) << " turned into a "
        << any_cast<string>(s2) << std::endl;
```

reference in, reference
out; throws
bad_any_cast on failure



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A Value, not a Pointer

```
#include <boost/any.hpp>
using namespace boost;

int main()
{
    any s1 = string("pumpkin"),
        s2 = s1;
```

```
$ g++ -I /path/to/boost pumpkin.cpp -o test
$ ./test
Rumplestiltskin turned into a pumpkin
$
```

s1 and s2 are distinct objects

```
    if ( string* p = any_cast<string>(&s1) ) {
        p->replace(0, 4, "Rumplestilts");
    }
    std::cout << any_cast<string>(s1) << " turned into a "
        << any_cast<string>(s2) << std::endl;
```



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Creating Value

```
#include "json.hpp"

value dave()
{
    using namespace json;
    object me;
    me["first"] = string("Dave");
    me["last"] = string("Abrahams");
    me["age"] = 48.2;
    me["sex"] = string("M");
    me["zip code"] = string("02143");
    me["registered"] = true;
    me["catchphrase"] = null();
    array my_interests;
    my_interests.push_back(string("Jamming"));
    my_interests.push_back(string("Biking"));
    my_interests.push_back(string("Hacking"));
    me["interests"] = my_interests;
    return me;
}
```

```
{
  "first": "Dave",
  "last": "Abrahams",
  "age": 48.2,
  "sex": "M",
  "zip code": "02143",
  "registered": true,
  "catchphrase": null
  "interests": [
    "Jamming",
    "Biking",
    "Hacking"
  ]
}
```



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Highlights

- C++, STL, and much of Boost run on value semantics
- Boost.Any wraps values, exposing value semantics and erasing type information
- Just one of 100+ *header-only libraries* you can use without building or linking library binaries
- Find docs for library *xyzzzy* at <http://boost.org/libs/xyzzzy>
- Top-level headers: `#include <boost/xyzzzy.hpp>`
- Your include path (`-I whatever`) should contain a directory that contains a directory named `boost/`



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Exercise

- <http://github.com/boostpro/bbn-2012-11/tree/master/exercises/any-json>
- Create json.hpp using Boost.Any for values (hint: slide 25)
- Use it to compile the dave() function supplied
- Write operator<<(std::ostream&, json::value const&) using a chain of any_cast tests to discover the stored type
- Don't worry about formatting, escaping quotes, or unicode
- Call your print function on the result of dave()
- BONUS: Find and fix the bug in dave()

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The Bug

```
#include "json.hpp"
```

```
value dave()
```

```
{
    using namespace json;
    object me;
    me["first"] = string("Dave");
    me["last"] = string("Abrahams");
    me["age"] = 48.2;
    me["sex"] = string("M");
    me["zip code"] = string("02143");
    me["registered"] = true;
    me["catchphrase"] = null();
    array my_interests;
    my_interests.push_back(string("Jamming"));
    my_interests.push_back(string("Biking"));
    my_interests.push_back(string("Hacking"));
    me["interests"] = my_interests;
    return me;
}
```

stores a double, not a
json::number (a.k.a. long double)

```
{
  "first": "Dave",
  "last": "Abrahams",
  "age": 48.2,
  "sex": "M",
  "zip code": "02143",
  "registered": true,
  "catchphrase": null
  "interests": [
    "Jamming",
    "Biking",
    "Hacking"
  ]
}
```

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The Fix

```
#include "json.hpp"

value dave()
{
    using namespace json;
    object me;
    me["first"] = string("Dave");
    me["last"] = string("Abrahams");
    me["age"] = number(48.2);
    me["sex"] = string("M");
    me["zip code"] = string("02143");
    me["registered"] = true;
    me["catchphrase"] = null();
    array my_interests;
    my_interests.push_back(string("Jamming"));
    my_interests.push_back(string("Biking"));
    my_interests.push_back(string("Hacking"));
    me["interests"] = my_interests;
    return me;
}
```

OK

but casting is getting painful...

```
{
  "first": "Dave",
  "last": "Abrahams",
  "age": 48.2,
  "sex": "M",
  "zip code": "02143",
  "registered": true,
  "catchphrase": null
  "interests": [
    "Jamming",
    "Biking",
    "Hacking"
  ]
}
```



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What We Want

```
#include "json.hpp"

value dave()
{
    using namespace json;
    object me;
    me["first"] = "Dave";
    me["last"] = "Abrahams";
    me["age"] = 48.2;
    me["sex"] = "M";
    me["zip code"] = "02143";
    me["registered"] = true;
    me["catchphrase"] = null();
    array my_interests;
    my_interests.push_back("Jamming");
    my_interests.push_back("Biking");
    my_interests.push_back("Hacking");
    me["interests"] = my_interests;
    return me;
}
```

```
{
  "first": "Dave",
  "last": "Abrahams",
  "age": 48.2,
  "sex": "M",
  "zip code": "02143",
  "registered": true,
  "catchphrase": null
  "interests": [
    "Jamming",
    "Biking",
    "Hacking"
  ]
}
```



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Asserting Control

```
namespace json {  
  
    typedef boost::any          value;  
    typedef std::map<std::string, value> object;  
    typedef std::vector<value>   array;  
    typedef std::string          string;  
    typedef long double          number;  
    typedef bool                 boolean;  
    typedef struct null {}       null;
```

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Asserting Control

```
namespace json {  
  
    struct          value;  
    typedef std::map<std::string, value> object;  
    typedef std::vector<value>   array;  
    typedef std::string          string;  
    typedef long double          number;  
    typedef bool                 boolean;  
    typedef struct null {}       null;  
  
    struct value  
    {  
        value(object const& x);  
        value(array const& x);  
        ...  
    }
```

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Asserting Control

```
struct value
{
    value(object const& x) : stored(x) {}
    value(array const& x)  : stored(x) {}
    value(string const& x) : stored(x) {}
    value(number const& x) : stored(x) {}
    value(boolean const& x) : stored(x) {}
    value(null const& x)   : stored(x) {}

    friend std::ostream& operator<<(  
        std::ostream& s, value const& x);
private:
    boost::any stored;
};
```

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Compile It!

```
$ clang++ -I ~/src/boost-1.51 test.cpp
test.cpp:15:17: error: conversion from 'double' to 'const
json::value' is ambiguous
    me["age"] = 48.2;           // "age": 48.2,
                   ^
./json.hpp:33:5: note: candidate constructor
    value(number const& x) : stored(x) {}
    ^
./json.hpp:34:5: note: candidate constructor
    value(boolean const& x) : stored(x) {}
    ^
$
```

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Asserting Control

```
struct value
{
    value(object const& x) : stored(x) {}
    value(array const& x) : stored(x) {}
    value(string const& x) : stored(x) {}
    value(number const& x) : stored(x) {}
    value(boolean const& x) : stored(x) {}
    value(null const& x) : stored(x) {}

    friend std::ostream& operator<<(  
        std::ostream& s, value const& x);
private:
    boost::any stored;
};
```

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Asserting Control

```
struct value
{
    value(object const& x) : stored(x) {}
    value(array const& x) : stored(x) {}
    value(string const& x) : stored(x) {}
    template <class Number>
    value(Number const& x) : stored(x) {}
    value(boolean const& x) : stored(x) {}
    value(null const& x) : stored(x) {}

    friend std::ostream& operator<<(  
        std::ostream& s, value const& x);
private:
    boost::any stored;
};
```

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Compile It!

```
$ clang++ -I ~/src/boost-1.51 test.cpp
In file included from test.cpp:4:
./json.hpp:39:16: error: functional-style cast from 'const char *' to
'number' (aka 'long double')
    is not allowed
    ) : stored(number(x)) {}
      ^
test.cpp:13:19: note: in instantiation of function template
specialization
    'json::value::value<char [5]>' requested here
    me["first"] = "Dave";           // "first": "Dave",
      ^
In file included from test.cpp:4:
./json.hpp:39:16: error: functional-style cast from 'const char *' to
'number' (aka 'long double')
    is not allowed
```

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Asserting Control

```
struct value
{
    value(object const& x) : stored(x) {}
    value(array const& x) : stored(x) {}
    value(string const& x) : stored(x) {}
    template <class Number>
    value(Number const& x) : stored(x) {}
    value(boolean const& x) : stored(x) {}
    value(null const& x) : stored(x) {}

    friend std::ostream& operator<<(std::ostream& os, const value& v)
    {
        os << v.stored;
        return os;
    }

private:
    boost::any stored;
};
```

Had relied on this one for conversion from "..."

but now, Number is deduced as char[5] — a perfect match!

Want to keep it from being chosen unless Number is really a number

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Two Tools

- Boost.TypeTraits—Compile-Time Type Info (CTTI)

```
#include <boost/type_traits/is_arithmetic.hpp>
```

compile-time constant

```
bool const x = is_arithmetic<Number>::value;
```

```
typedef is_arithmetic<Number>::type x_t;
```

```
bool const xprime = x_t::value;
```

same as x

- Boost.EnableIf—Enabling/disabling templates

```
#include <boost/utility/enable_if.hpp>
```

```
enable_if<is_arithmetic<T>, U>::type
```

U if T is arithmetic, otherwise not a type

true_type
or
false_type



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Two Tools

- Boost.TypeTraits—Compile-Time Type Info (CTTI)

```
#include <boost/type_traits/is_arithmetic.hpp>
```

```
bool const x = is_arithmetic<Number>::value;
```

```
typedef is_arithmetic<Number>::type x_t;
```

```
bool const xprime = x_t::value;
```

- Boost.EnableIf—Enabling/disabling templates

```
#include <boost/utility/enable_if.hpp>
```

```
enable_if<is_arithmetic<T> >::type
```

void if T is arithmetic, otherwise not a type



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Aside: Dispatching with Traits

- Boolean-valued traits derive from `true_type` and `false_type`

```
template <class T>
struct is_pointer : false_type {};
template <class T>
struct is_pointer<T*> : true_type {};
```

- Use this fact to select overloads:

```
template <class T>
T f_impl(T x, true_type) { /* handle floating point */ }
template <class T>
T f_impl(T x, false_type) { /* handle other types */ }

T f(T x) { return f_impl(x, is_floating_point<T>()); }
```

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Asserting Control

```
struct value
{
    value(object const& x) : stored(x) {}
    value(array const& x) : stored(x) {}
    value(string const& x) : stored(x) {}
    template <class Number>
    value(Number const& x) : stored(x) {}
    value(boolean const& x) : stored(x) {}
    value(null const& x) : stored(x) {}

    friend std::ostream& operator<< (
        std::ostream& s, value const& x);
private:
    boost::any stored;
};
```

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Asserting Control

```
struct value
{
    value(object const& x) : stored(x) {}
    value(array const& x) : stored(x) {}
    value(string const& x) : stored(x) {}
    template <class Number>
    value(Number const& x,
         typename boost::enable_if<
             boost::is_arithmetic<T> >::type* = 0)
        : stored(x) {}
    value(boolean const& x) : stored(x) {}
    value(null const& x) : stored(x) {}

    friend std::ostream& operator<<(</pre>
```



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Compile It!

```
$ clang++ -I ~/src/boost-1.51 test.cpp -o tst && ./tst
{ "age": 48.2, "catchphrase": null, "first": true,
  "interests": [ true, true, true ], "last": true,
  "registered": true, "sex": true, "zip code": true }
$
```



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Exercise

- <http://github.com/boostpro/bbn-2012-11/tree/master/exercises/wrapped-any-json>
- Use the `is_convertible<T,U>` type trait to make a `json::value` constructor that catches types convertible to `json::string`
- Use it to fix the example so it yields:

```
{ "age": 48.2, "catchphrase": null, "first": "Dave", "interests":  
[ "Reading", "Biking", "Hacking" ], "last": "Abrahams",  
"registered": true, "sex": "M", "zip code": "02143" }  
$
```

- BONUS: there solution file contains a way to get the desired result with `NO_ENABLE_IF`. What cases might this approach fail to handle?



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Type Traits Foundations

```
struct true_type  
{  
    typedef true_type type;  
    static bool const value = true;  
};  
  
struct false_type  
{  
    typedef false_type type;  
    static bool const value = false;  
};
```

`T::type` is just `T`

`T::value` is the corresponding compile-time constant



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Container Printing

```
#include <ostream>

template <class Cont>
void print(std::ostream& os, Cont const& x)
{
    char const* prefix = "[ ";

    typedef typename Cont::const_iterator iter;
    for (iter p = x.begin(); p != x.end(); ++p)
    {
        os << prefix << *p;
        prefix = ", ";
    }
    os << " ]";
}
```

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Container Printing

```
#include <boost/foreach.hpp>
#include <ostream>

template <class Cont>
void print(std::ostream& os, Cont const& x)
{
    char const* prefix = "[ ";

    typedef typename Cont::value_type elt;
    BOOST_FOREACH( elt const& e, x )
    {
        os << prefix << e;
        prefix = ", ";
    }
    os << " ]";
}
```

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Range Printing

```
#include <boost/foreach.hpp>
#include <boost/range.hpp>
#include <ostream>
template <class Cont>
void print(std::ostream& os, Cont const& x)
{
    char const* prefix = "[ ";

    typedef typename boost::range_value<Cont>::type elt;
    BOOST_FOREACH( elt const& e, x )
    {
        os << prefix << e;
        prefix = ", ";
    }
    os << " ]";
}
```

We'll come back to Boost.Range



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Yes, We Can

```
int rng[3] = { 42, 314, 77 };
BOOST_FOREACH( int var, rng )
{
    ...
}
```



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Yes, We Can

```
std::vector<int> rng;  
BOOST_FOREACH( int var, rng )  
{  
    ...  
}
```

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Yes, We Can

```
std::vector<int> rng;  
BOOST_FOREACH( float var, rng )  
{  
    ...  
}
```

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Yes, We Can

```
YourType rng;  
BOOST_FOREACH( int var, rng )  
{  
    ...  
}
```

59



Yes, We Can

```
BOOST_FOREACH( int var, rng )  
{  
    continue;  
}
```

60



Yes, We Can

```
BOOST_FOREACH( int var, rng )  
{  
    break;  
}
```


61

Yes, We Can

```
BOOST_FOREACH( int var, rng )  
{  
    return;  
}
```

62

Yes, We Can



```
BOOST_FOREACH( int var, rng )  
{  
    goto considered_harmful;  
}
```

google it

63



Yes, We Can

```
int var;  
BOOST_FOREACH( var, rng )  
{  
    ...  
}  
  
use_last_value_of(var);
```

64



Yes, We Can

```
BOOST_FOREACH( int& var, rng )  
{  
    var += 2;  
}
```

65

Yes, We Can

```
extern std::vector<int> get_ints();  
BOOST_FOREACH( int var, get_ints() )  
{  
    ...  
}
```

66

Exercise

(this one's a “gimme”)

- Use Boost.ForEach to re-implement JSON array and object printing
- Play around with it. Can you think of places to apply it in your work?