

ACCU
2022

C++ MYTHBUSTERS

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ACCU
2022



@ciura_victor

Victor Ciura
Principal Engineer



Abstract

The C++ community is very large and quite vocal when it comes to controversial issues. We're very fragmented on many topics, based on the breadth of the C++ ecosystem and the background/experience we each bring from our C++ niche.

From CppCoreGuidelines to opinionated best practices to established idioms, there's a lot of good information easily available. Mixed up with all of this there are also plenty of myths. Some myths stem from obsolete information, some from bad teaching materials.

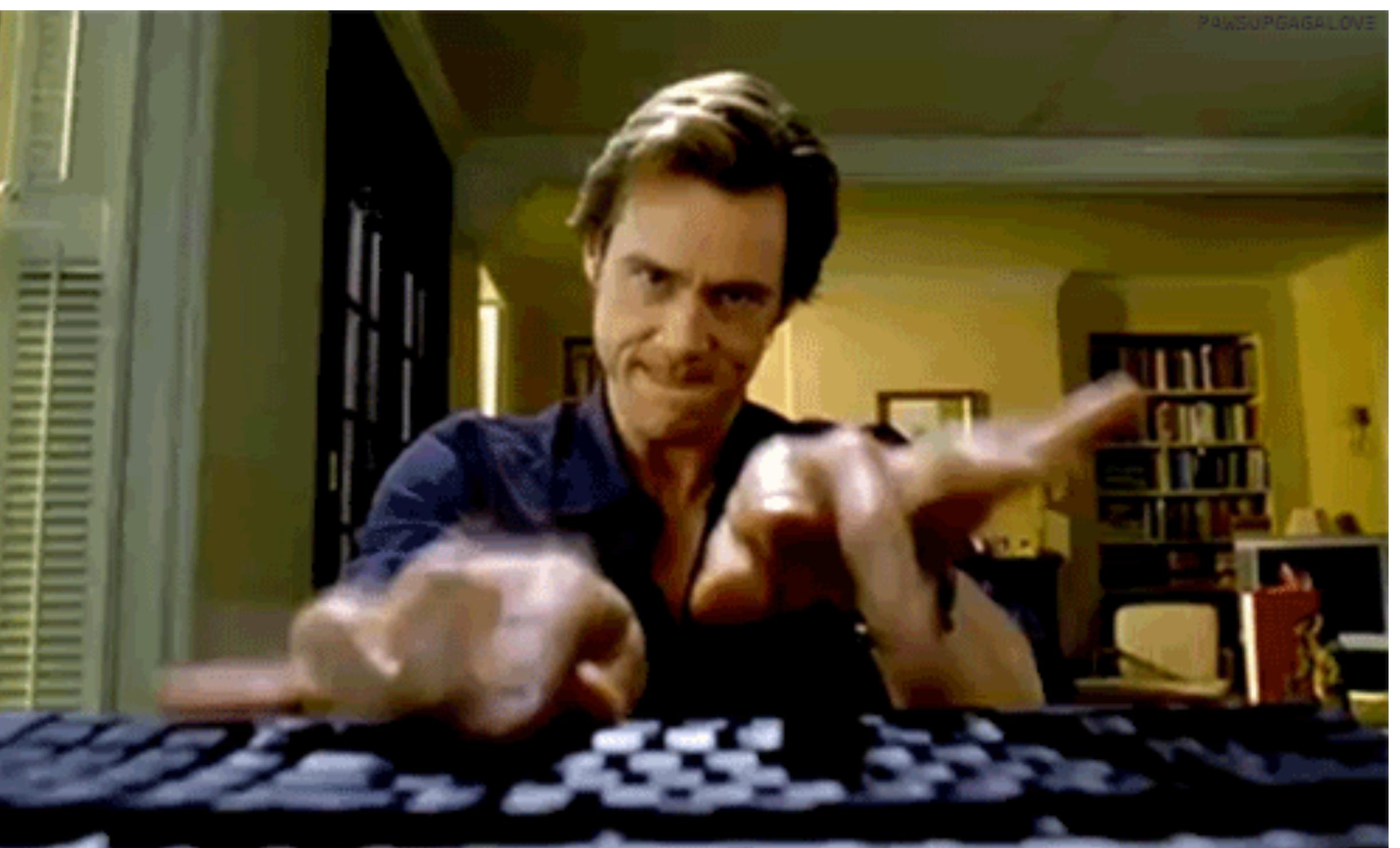
In this presentation, I will dissect a few of the most popular C++ myths to a level of detail not possible on Twitter... and without the stigma of newb/duplicate/eyeroll one might experience when asking these questions on StackOverflow.

Expect the familiar “Busted”, “Plausible”, or “Confirmed” verdicts on each myth and come prepared to chat about these.

Q & A

Do ask questions as we go along

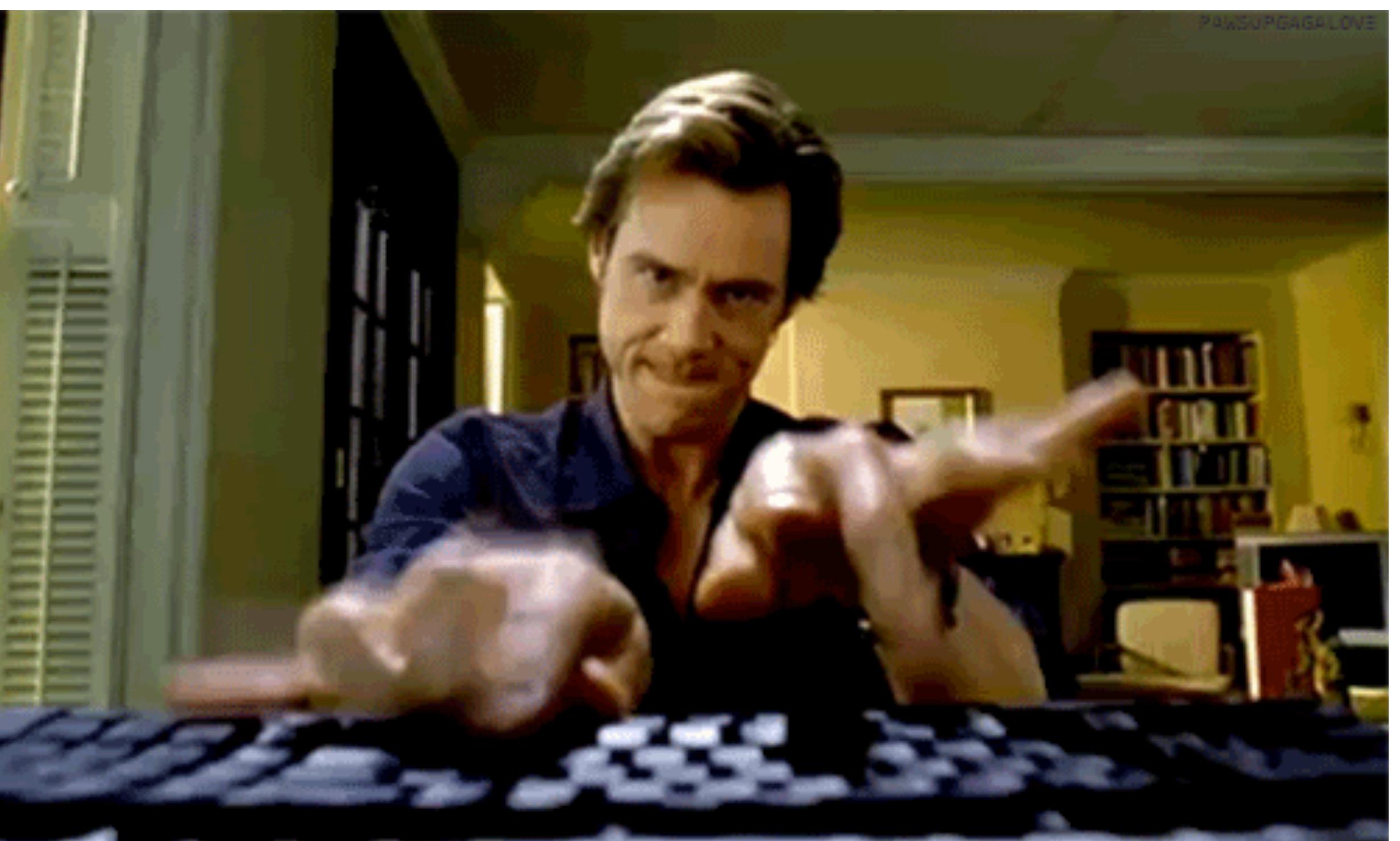
Comments are welcomed, too



Q & A

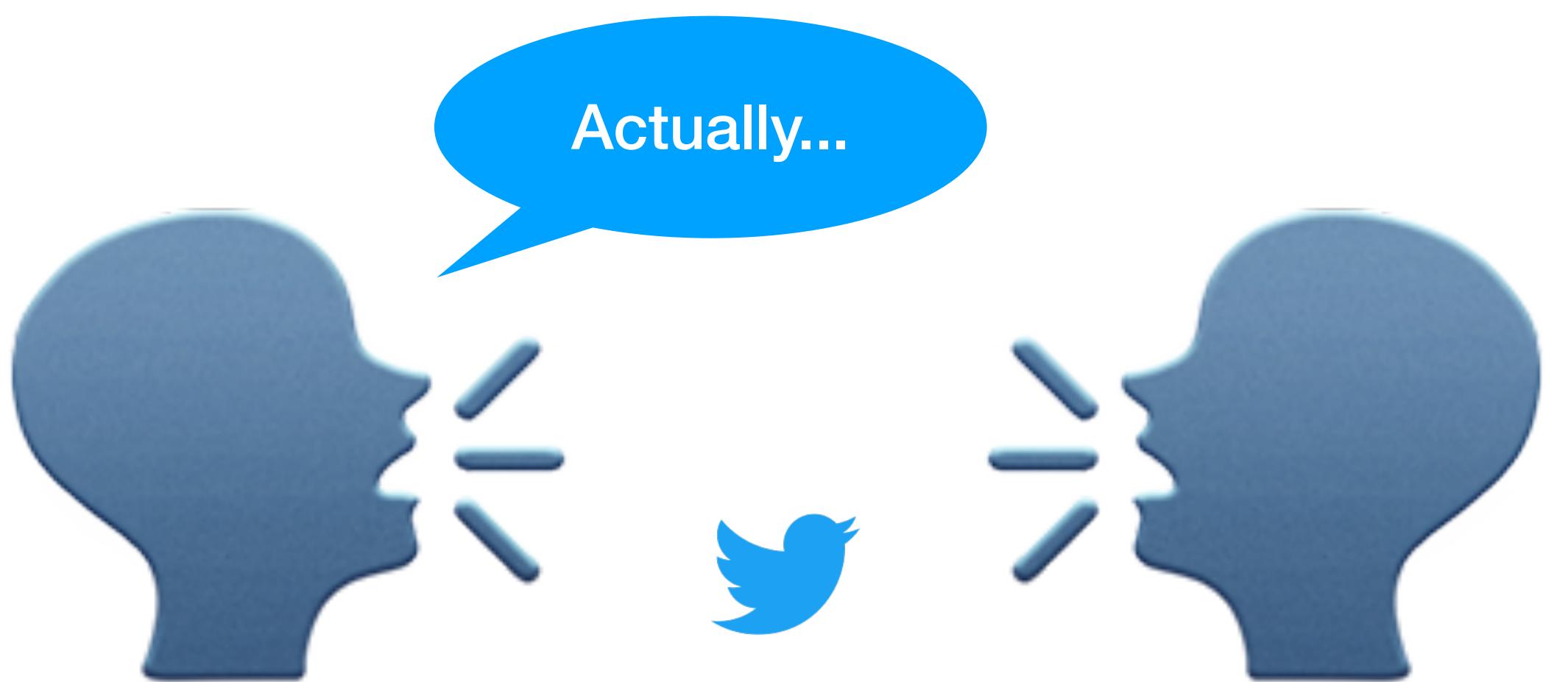
Do ask questions as we go along

Comments are welcomed, too



Actually, ...

The C++ community is very large and quite vocal
when it comes to controversial issues



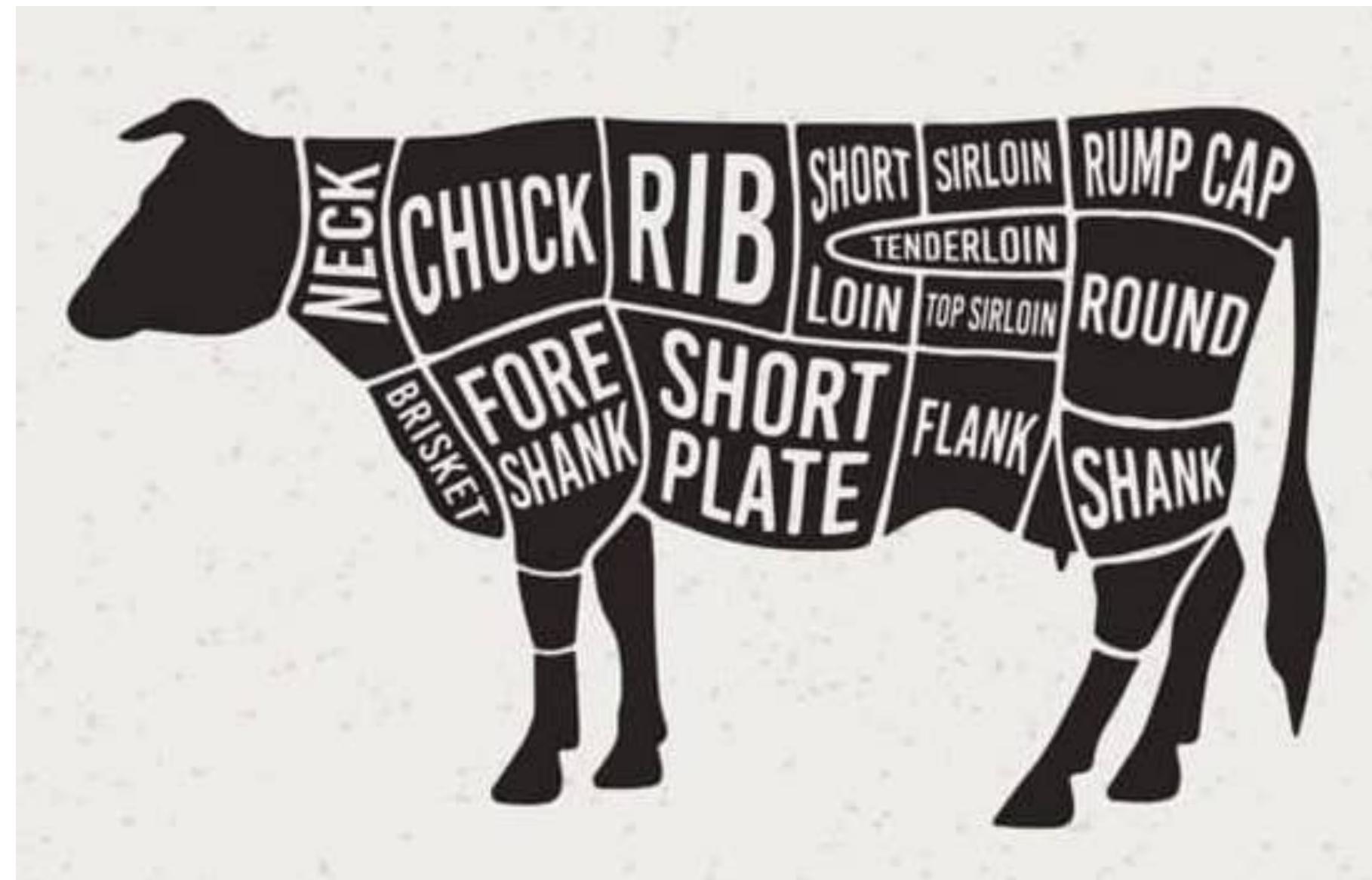
We're Different

We're very **fragmented** on many topics

- based on the **breadth** of the C++ ecosystem
- background/experience we each bring from our C++ **niche**

We're Different

We're very **fragmented** on many topics (Bjarne Stroustrup's 🐘 elephant metaphor)



Sources

A lot of good information easily available:

- CppCoreGuidelines
- (opinionated) best practices
- established idioms
- books
- conference presentations
- StackOverflow

🔥 Hot take typing

If it looks like a hot take, if it feels like a hot take... it probably is 😈



Myths

Mixed up with all of this, there are also plenty of myths

- some myths stem from obsolete information
- some from bad teaching materials



Let's talk about teaching C++

Not just about code reviews

Let's talk about teaching C++

Note that a few items might seem silly/obvious to you, but I've heard them and had to discuss them with [junior devs](#) or [interns](#) we hired fresh out of college.

Or questions I usually get when [lecturing](#) at my alma mater.

Not just about code reviews



#Programming #Cpp #AccuConf

C++ UNIverse - Victor Ciura [ACCU 2021]

youtube.com/watch?v=q0NJDr5hIW



StackOverflow

Mythbusting with Jason - unscripted improv

youtube.com/watch?v=Bu1AEze14Ns

C++ source #1 x

A Save/Load + Add new... Vim CppInsights Quick-bench C++

```
1 #include <fmt/format.h>
2
3 #include <array>
4 #include <cstdint>
5 #include <optional>
6
7 // std::optional<>?
8
9 std::optional<std::string> get_optional_value(const bool something) {
10     if (something) {
11         return "Hello World";
12     } else {
13         return std::nullopt;
14     }
15
16     std::size_t get_optional_string_size(const bool something) {
17         const auto optional_str = get_optional_value(something);
18         if (optional_str) {
19             return optional_str->size();
20         } else {
21             return std::string::npos;
22         }
23     }
24
25 }
```

Sponsors intel PC-lint SolidWorks Share Other Policies

x86-64 gcc (trunk) | Editor #1, Compiler #1 C++ x

x86-64 gcc (trunk) -std=c++20 -Wpedantic -Wall -Wextra

A Output... Filter... Libraries + Add new... Add tool...

```
7 .L5:
8     lea    rdx, [rdi+16]
9     mov    BYTE PTR [rdi+26], 100
10    movabs rcx, 8022916924116329800
11    mov    QWORD PTR [rdi], rdx
12    mov    edx, 27762
13    mov    QWORD PTR [rdi+16], rcx
14    mov    WORD PTR [rdi+24], dx
15    mov    QWORD PTR [rdi+8], 11
16    mov    BYTE PTR [rdi+27], 0
17    mov    BYTE PTR [rdi+32], 1
18    ret
19 get_optional_string_size(bool):
20     cmp    dil, 1
21     sbb    rax, rax
22     or     rax, 11
23     ret
```

C Output (0/0) x86-64 gcc (trunk) - 3231ms (3198646)
#1 with x86-64 gcc (trunk) x
A Wrap lines
Compiler returned: 0

▶ ▶ ⏪ 32:48 / 2:03:29

II CC ⚙

C++ Mythbusting with Victor and Jason

18,218 views • Streamed live on Jan 29, 2021

566

DISLIKE

SHARE

DOWNLOAD

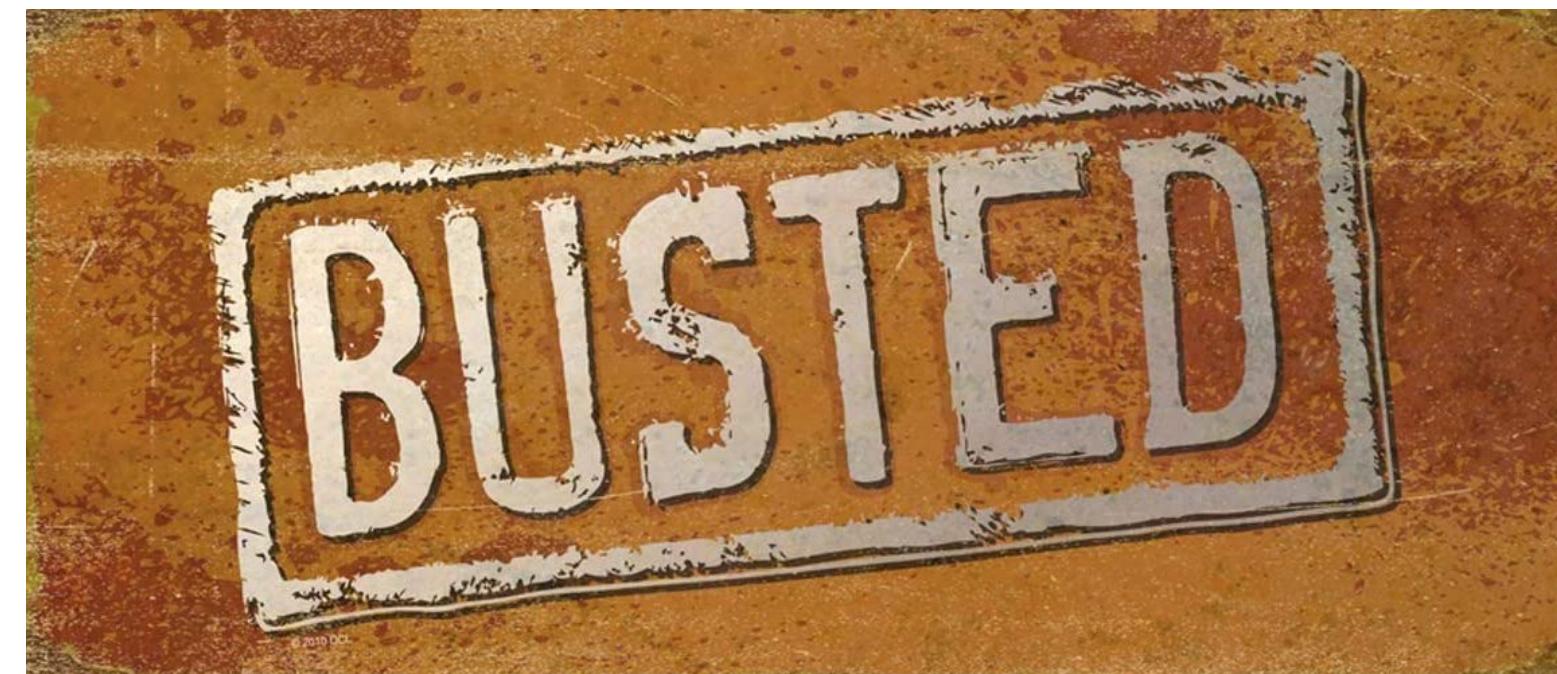
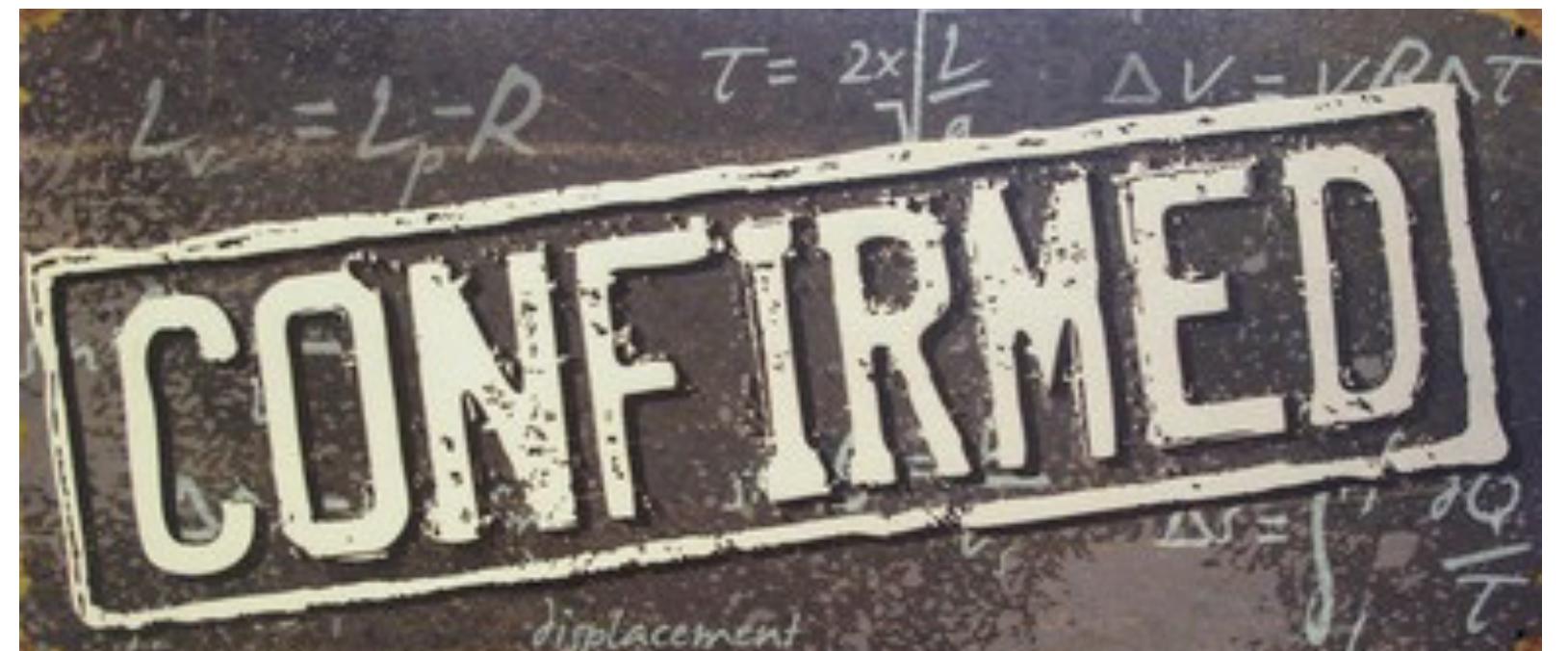
CLIP

SAVE ...

Top chat replay ▾

for templates I would like to require ↴

Verdict

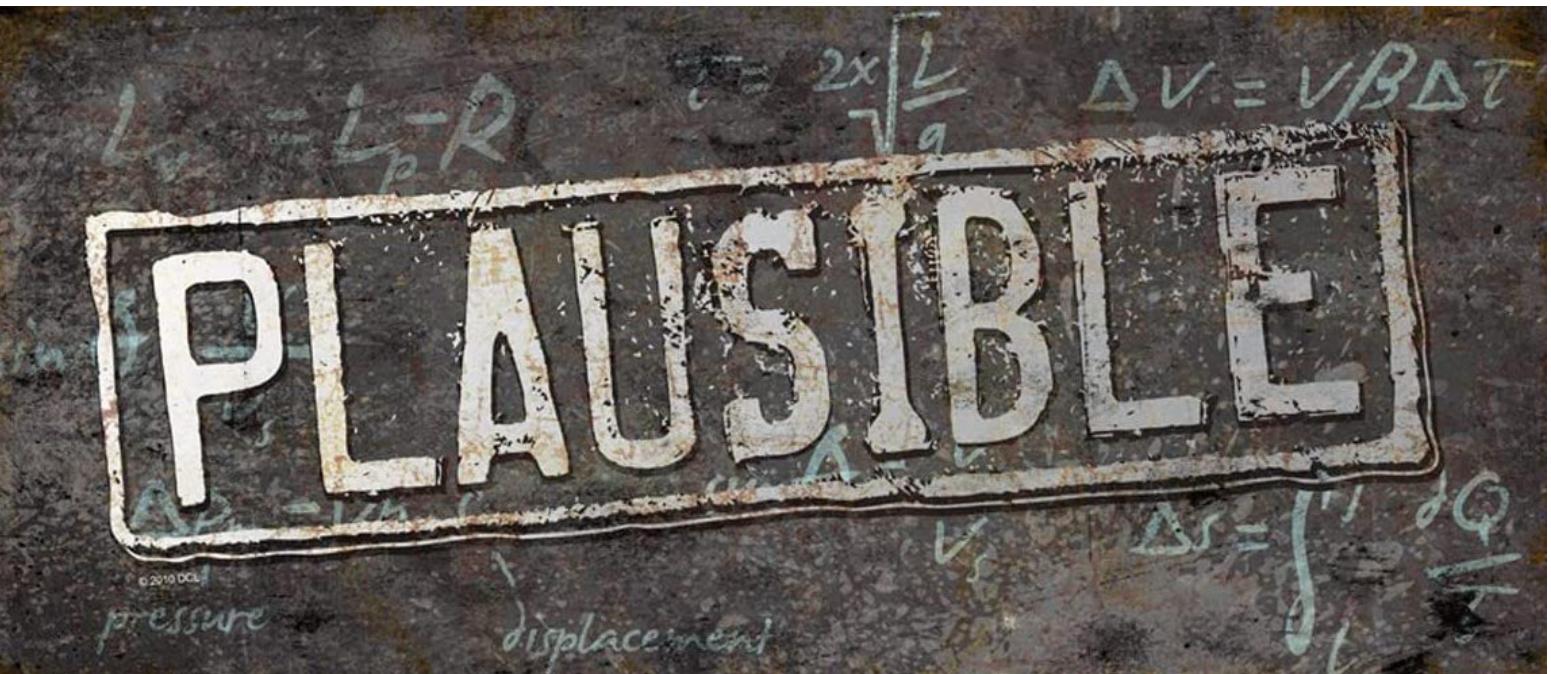


I want to instigate a healthy [dialog](#), so speak up

Verdict

A programmer's staple response:

"It depends..." 



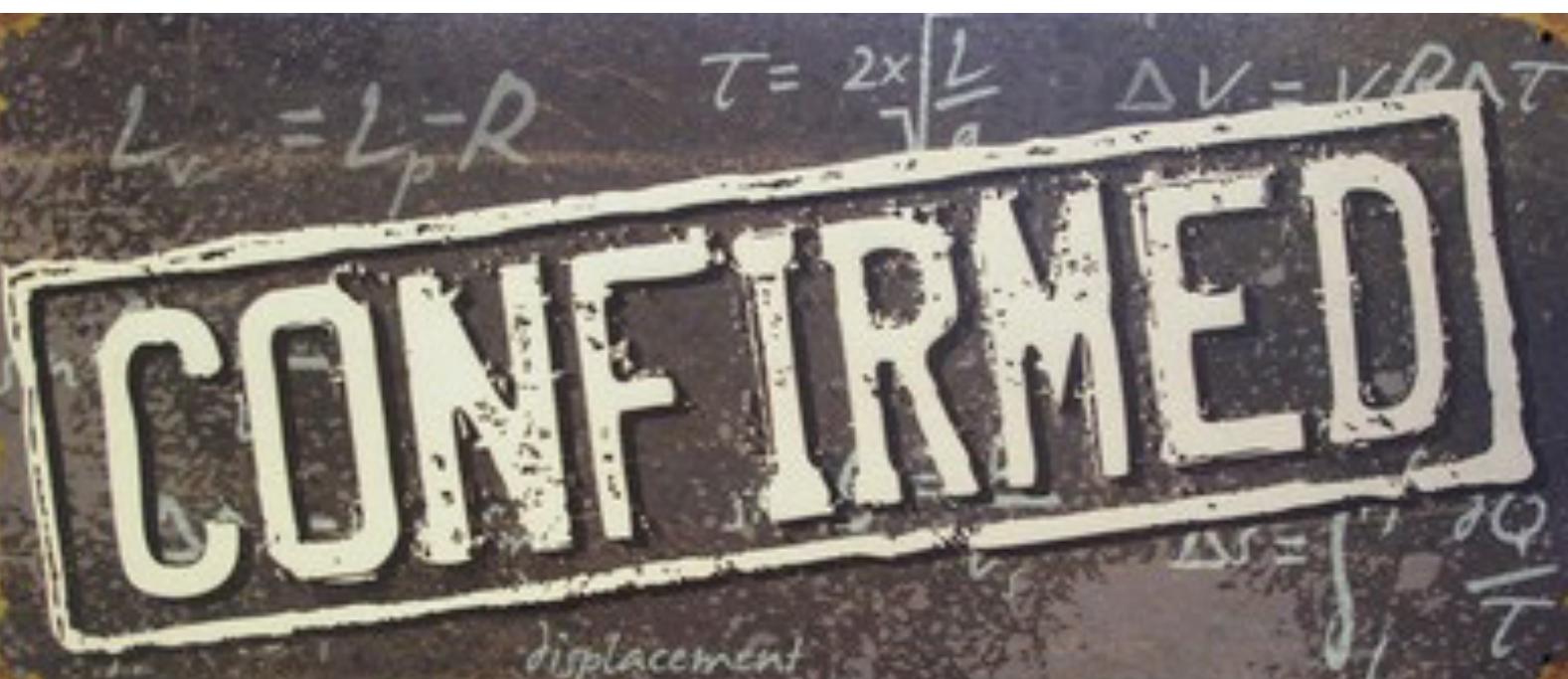
Verdict

Let's test this...



Myth

iostreams are slow

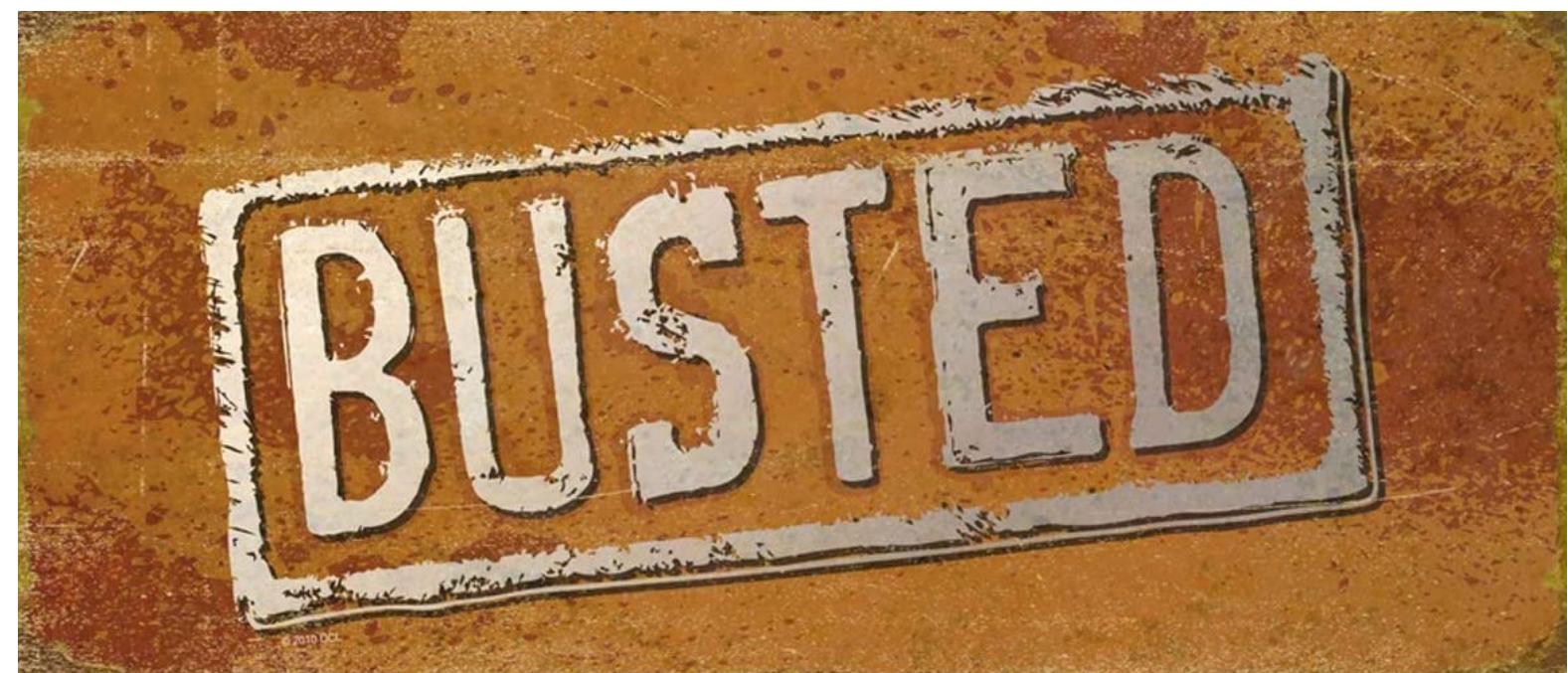


Just kidding 😊

It's not a myth, we've known this for years.

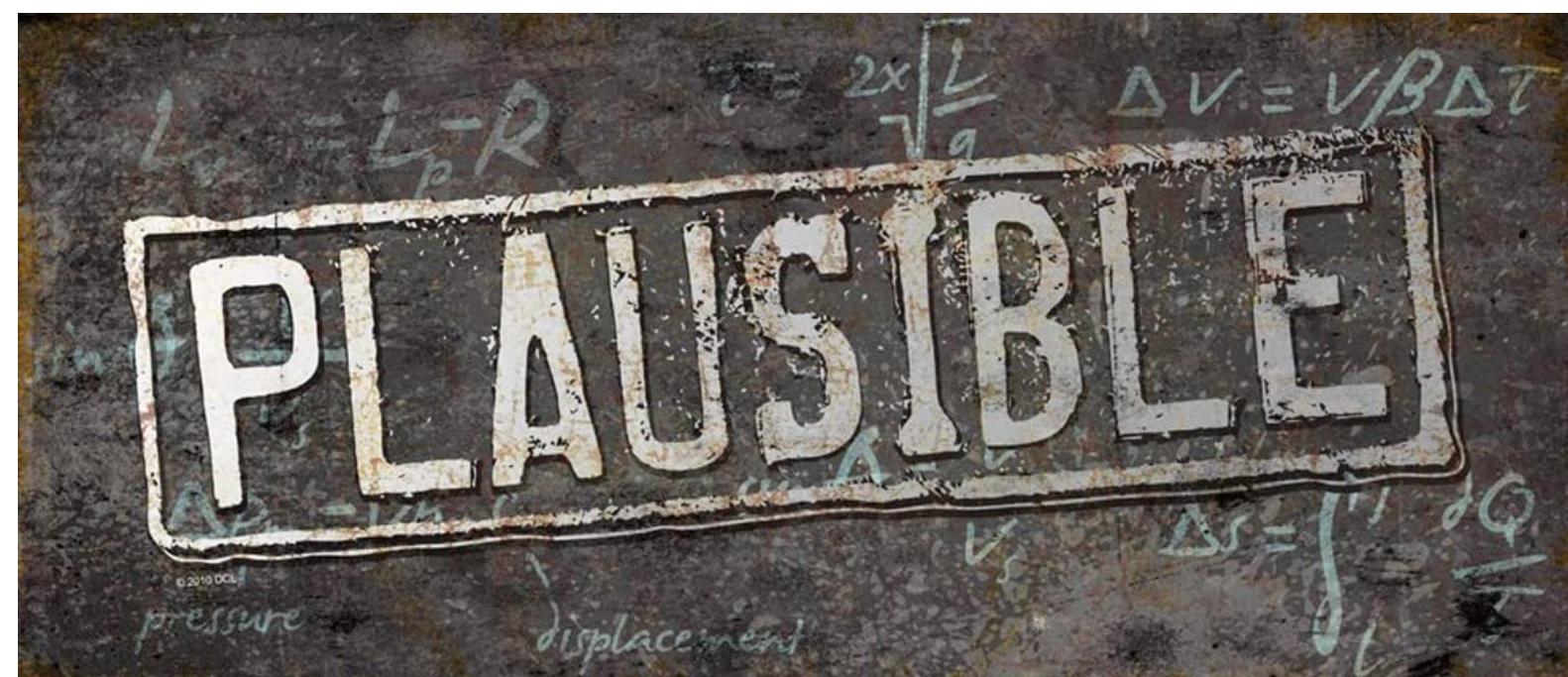
Myth

C++20 modules will solve all problems



Myth

coroutines shipped in C++20



No library support 😔

We're going to get a [generators](#) library in C++23



Mythbusting Series

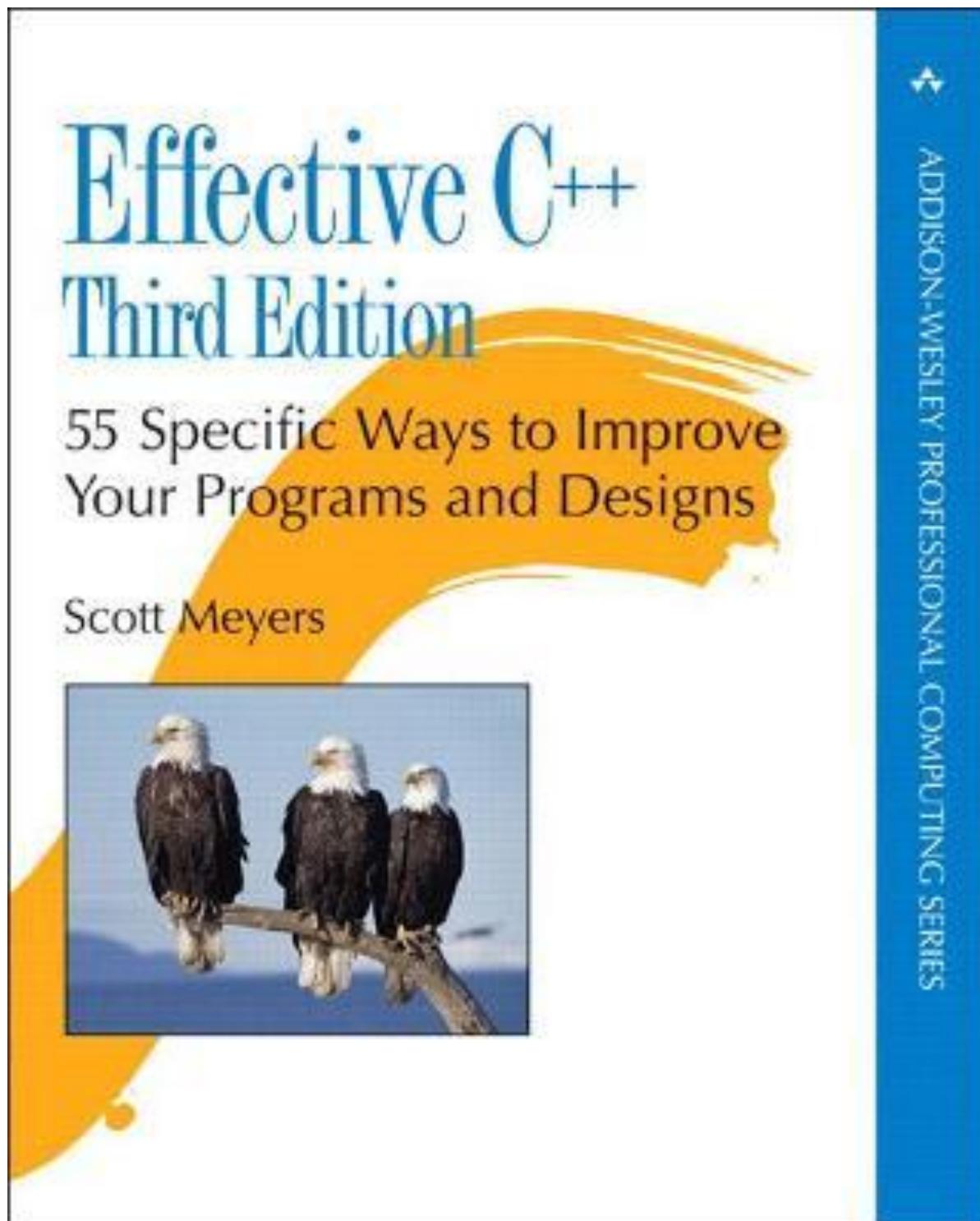
<Part 1 of N> presentation

Mythbusting Series

<Part 1 of N> presentation

I invite other speakers to **join** this C++ Mythbusting series

Scott Meyers indexing



66 Item 14

vector and string

The upshot of all this is simple. If you're dynamically allocating arrays, you're probably taking on more work than you need to. To lighten your load, use vectors or strings instead.

Item 14: Use reserve to avoid unnecessary reallocations.

One of the most marvelous things about STL containers is that they automatically grow to accommodate as much data as you put into them, provided only that you don't exceed their maximum size. (To discover this maximum, just call the aptly named `max_size` member function.) For vector and string, growth is handled by doing the moral equivalent of a `realloc` whenever more space is needed. This `realloc`-like

GotW #

Myth #11

`printf/sprintf` are very fast

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`sprintf` uses the global locale

=> mutex lock 😞

Myth #11

`printf/sprintf` are very fast

`sprintf` uses the global locale

=> mutex lock 😞

On macOS, `sprintf` - that is in system libraries
ends up spending almost all the time inside a locale-related mutex lock 🔥

Myth #11

`printf/sprintf` are very fast

Blender case study: `sprintf => {fmt}`

- on macOS: **3-4x** speedup
- on Windows: **20%** speedup (due to a faster float/int formatter)

developer.blender.org/D13998

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Use C++20 `std::format` or `{fmt}` library - `fmt::print()`

Myth #11

`printf/sprintf` are very fast



Use C++20 `std::format` or `{fmt}` library - `fmt::print()`



Beware of standard functions that use `locale`

Myth #14

C++ is not easily toolable





Humans Depend on Tools



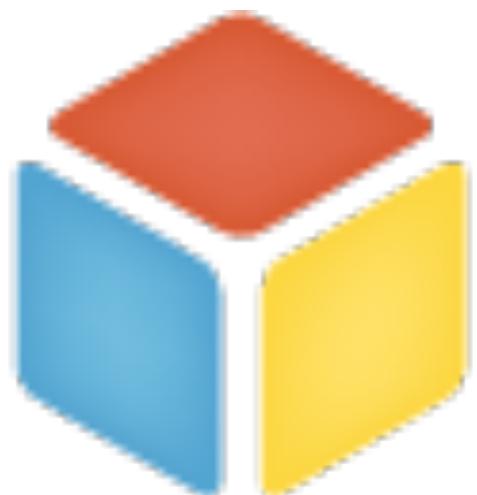
I'm a tool builder



[Advanced Installer](#)



[Clang Power Tools](#)



caphyon.github.io

Free/OSS



Programmers Depend on Tools

good code editor
(or IDE)

recent compiler(s)
[conformant/strict]

linter/formatter

perf profiler

powerful (visual) debugger

test framework

(automated) refactoring tools

build system

static analyzer

package manager

CI/CD service

dynamic analyzer

SCM client

code reviews platform

(runtime)

+ fuzzing

Myth #14

C++ is not easily toolable 



**Get to know your tools
well**

Myth #19

std::regex is too slow for production use

```
const auto r = std::regex(R"((\S+)\s*\=\s*(\S+))");
std::cmatch results;
const auto success = std::regex_match("x = 5", results, r);
fmt::print("Matched: {} '{}='{}'", success,
          string(results[0].first, results[0].second),
          string(results[1].first, results[1].second));
```

Myth #19

std::regex is too slow for production use

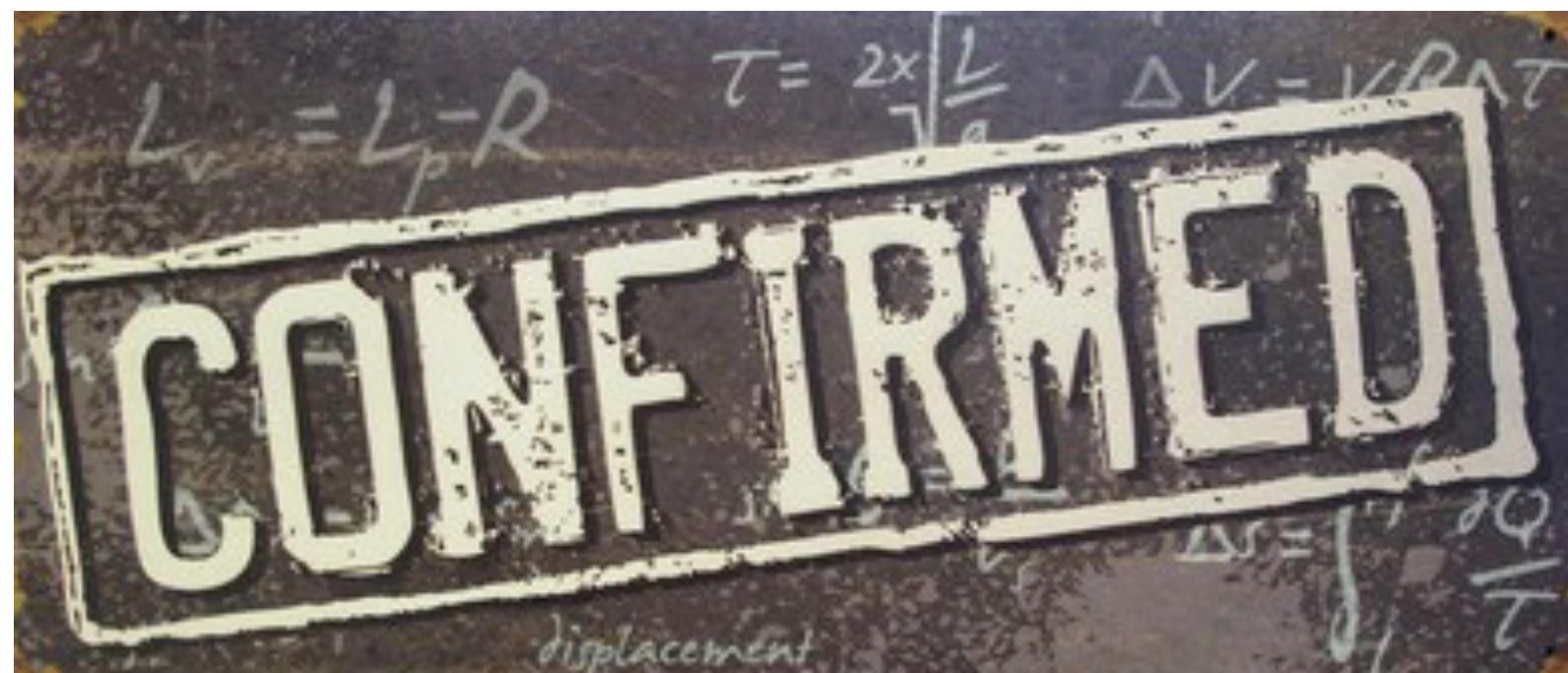
This short snippet is so slow to compile, it will actually timeout in CompilerExplorer 😊

```
const auto r = std::regex(R"((\S+)\s*\=\s*(\S+))");  
  
std::cmatch results;  
const auto success = std::regex_match("x = 5", results, r);  
  
fmt::print("Matched: {} '{}='{}'", success,  
          string(results[0].first, results[0].second),  
          string(results[1].first, results[1].second));
```

Myth #19

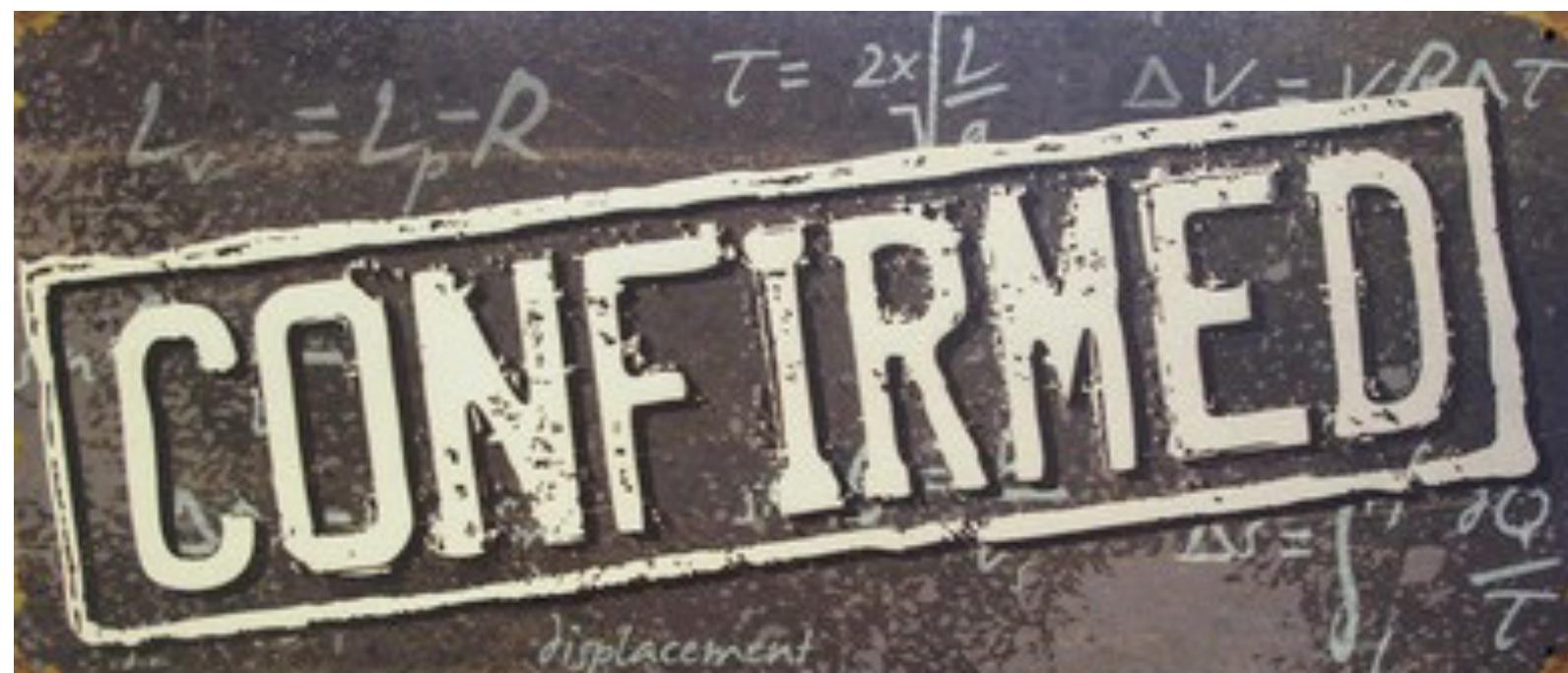
`std::regex` is too slow for production use

- difficult to use API
- very slow to compile
- very slow at runtime
- perf gotchas: regex c-tor, cmatch expensive



Myth #19

`std::regex` is too slow for production use



Use **CTRE** library instead:

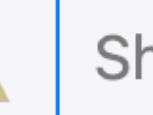
- very fast to compile
- much cleaner API
- supports `string_view`
- builds regular expressions automata at compile time
- github.com/hanickadot/compile-time-regular-expressions

Myth #24

`std::optional` inhibits optimizations
and complicates APIs

Let's see...

Myth #24

Get cool gear in the [Compiler Explorer shop](#) sponsors   

Share ▾

C++ source #1 x

A ▾ + v 🔍 ⚡

C++ ▾

```
1 #include <optional>
2 #include <cstdint>
3 #include <string>
4
5 std::optional<std::string> get_value(bool condition)
6 {
7     if (condition)
8         return "Hello";
9     else
10        return std::nullopt;
11 }
12
13 std::size_t get_size(bool condition)
14 {
15     const auto str = get_value(condition);
16     if (str)
17         return str->size();
18     else
19         return std::string::npos;
20 }
21
22 int main()
23 {
24     return get_size(true);
25 }
```

x86-64 gcc 11.2 (C++, Editor #1, Compiler #1) x

x86-64 gcc 11.2 ▾ -O3 -std=c++20 -Wall -Wextra -Wpedantic

A ▾ Output... ▾ Filter... ▾ Libraries + Add new... ▾ Add tool... ▾

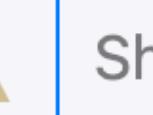
```
1 get_value[abi:cxx11](bool):
2     mov    rax, rdi
3     test   sil, sil
4     jne   .L5
5     mov    BYTE PTR [rdi+32], 0
6     ret
7 .L5:
8     lea    rdx, [rdi+16]      1819043144 = 0x6C6C6548
9     mov    DWORD PTR [rdi+16], 1819043144
10    mov   QWORD PTR [rdi], rdx
11    mov    BYTE PTR [rdi+20], 111
12    mov   QWORD PTR [rdi+8], 5
13    mov    BYTE PTR [rdi+21], 0
14    mov    BYTE PTR [rdi+32], 1
15    ret
16 get_size(bool):
17    cmp    dil, 1
18    sbb    rax, rax
19    or     rax, 5
20    ret
```

Output (0/0) x86-64 gcc 11.2 - 3272ms (298483B) ~19264 lines filtered

Output of x86-64 gcc 11.2 (Compiler #1) x

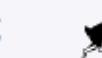
A ▾ □ Wrap lines

Myth #24

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C++ source #1 x

A     

C++ ▾

```
1 #include <optional>
2 #include <cstdint>
3 #include <string>
4
5 std::optional<std::string> get_value(bool condition)
6 {
7     if (condition)
8         return "Hello";
9     else
10        return std::nullopt;
11 }
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15     const auto str = get_value(condition);
16     if (str)
17         return str->size();
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22 int main()
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x86-64 gcc 11.2 (C++, Editor #1, Compiler #1) x

x86-64 gcc 11.2 ▾ -O3 -std=c++20 -Wall -Wextra -Wpedantic

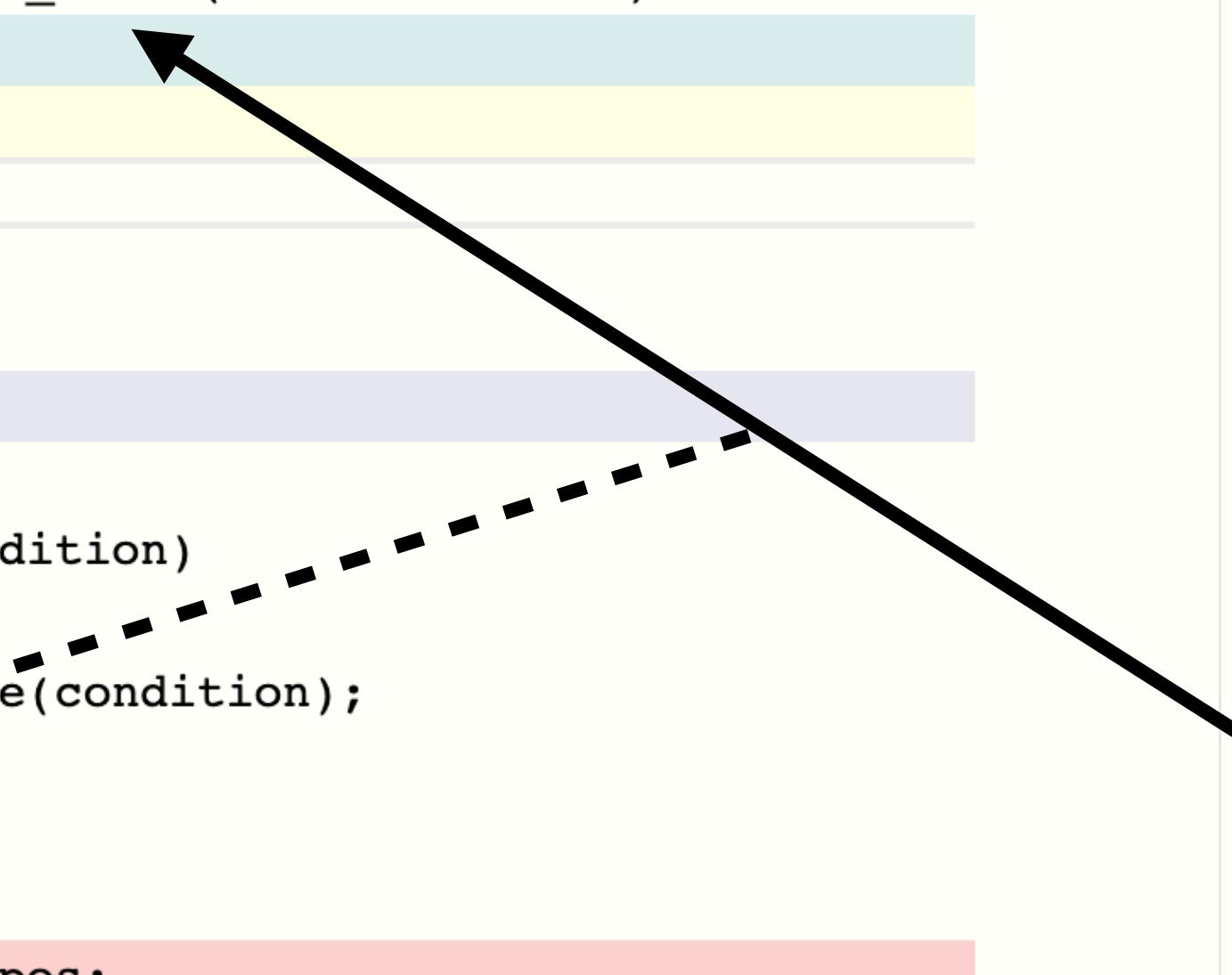
A   Output... ▾  Libraries + Add new... ▾ 

```
1 get_value[abi:cxx11](bool):
2     mov    rax, rdi
3     test   sil, sil
4     jne   .L5
5     mov    BYTE PTR [rdi+32], 0
6     ret
7 .L5:
8     lea    rdx, [rdi+16]
9     mov    DWORD PTR [rdi+16], 1819043144
10    mov    QWORD PTR [rdi], rdx
11    mov    BYTE PTR [rdi+20], 111
12    mov    QWORD PTR [rdi+8], 5
13    mov    BYTE PTR [rdi+21], 0
14    mov    BYTE PTR [rdi+32], 1
15    ret
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19    or     rax, 5
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```

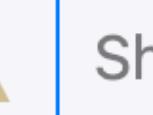
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Output of x86-64 gcc 11.2 (Compiler #1) x

A Wrap lines



Myth #24

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C++ source #1 x

A ▾ + v 🔍 ⚡

C++ ▾

```
1 #include <optional>
2 #include <cstdint>
3 #include <string>
4
5 std::optional<std::string> get_value(bool condition)
6 {
7     if (condition)
8         return "Hello";
9     else
10        return std::nullopt;
11 }
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14 {
15     const auto str = get_value(condition);
16     if (str)
17         return str->size();
18     else
19         return std::string::npos;
20 }
21
22 int main()
23 {
24     return get_size(true);
25 }
```

x86-64 gcc 11.2 (C++, Editor #1, Compiler #1) x

x86-64 gcc 11.2 ▾ -O3 -std=c++20 -Wall -Wextra -Wpedantic

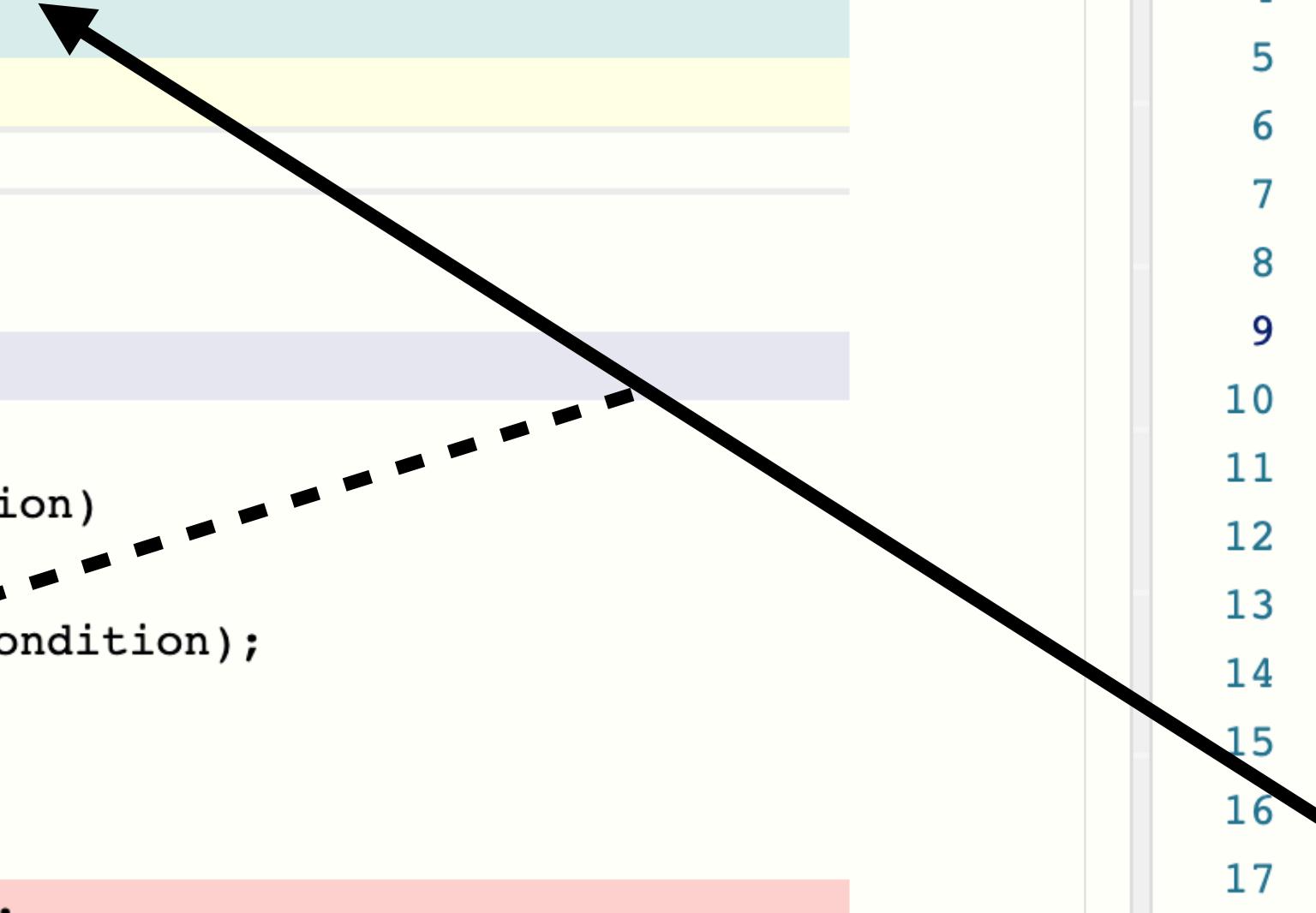
A ▾ Output... ▾ Filter... ▾ Libraries + Add new... ▾ Add tool... ▾

```
1 get_value[abi:cxx11](bool):
2     mov    rax, rdi
3     test   sil, sil
4     jne   .L5
5     mov    BYTE PTR [rdi+32], 0
6     ret
7 .L5:
8     lea    rdx, [rdi+16]           1819043144 = 0x6C6C6548
9     mov    DWORD PTR [rdi+16], 1819043144
10    mov   QWORD PTR [rdi], rdx
11    mov    BYTE PTR [rdi+20], 111
12    mov   QWORD PTR [rdi+8], 5
13    mov    BYTE PTR [rdi+21], 0
14    mov    BYTE PTR [rdi+32], 1
15    ret
16 get_size(bool):
17    cmp    dil, 1
18    sbb    rax, rax
19    or     rax, 5
20    ret
```

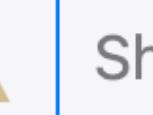
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Output of x86-64 gcc 11.2 (Compiler #1) x

A ▾ Wrap lines

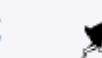


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C++ source #1 x

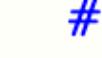
A     

C++ ▾

```
1 #include <optional>
2 #include <cstdint>
3 #include <string>
4
5 std::optional<std::string> get_value(bool condition)
6 {
7     if (condition)
8         return "Hello";
9     else
10        return std::nullopt;
11 }
12
13 std::size_t get_size(bool condition)
14 {
15     const auto str = get_value(condition);
16     if (str)
17         return str->size();
18     else
19         return std::string::npos;
20 }
21
22 int main()
23 {
24     return get_size(true);
25 }
```

x86-64 gcc 11.2 (C++, Editor #1, Compiler #1) x

x86-64 gcc 11.2 ▾ -O3 -std=c++20 -Wall -Wextra -Wpedantic

A   Output... ▾  Libraries + Add new... ▾ 

```
1 get_value[abi:cxx11](bool):
2     mov    rax, rdi
3     test   sil, sil
4     jne   .L5
5     mov    BYTE PTR [rdi+32], 0
6     ret
7 .L5:
8     lea    rdx, [rdi+16]
9     mov    DWORD PTR [rdi+16], 1819043144
10    mov    QWORD PTR [rdi], rdx
11    mov    BYTE PTR [rdi+20], 111
12    mov    QWORD PTR [rdi+8], 5
13    mov    BYTE PTR [rdi+21], 0
14    mov    BYTE PTR [rdi+32], 1
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```

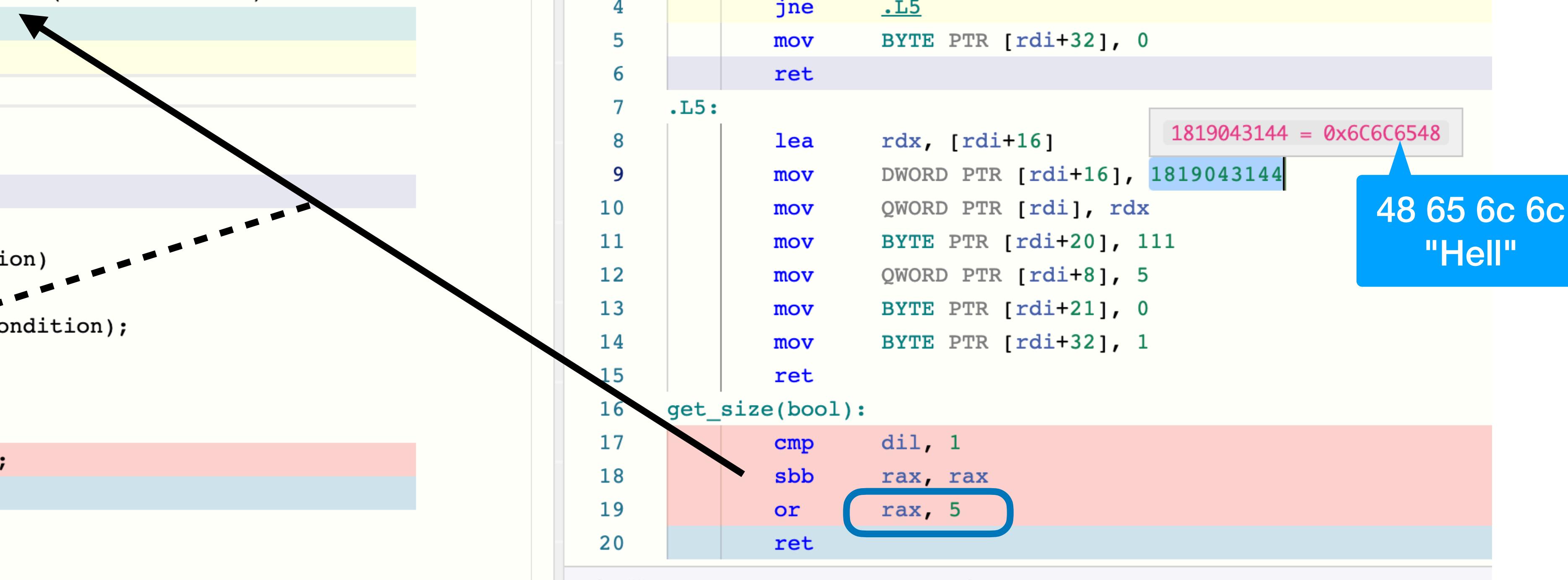
Output (0/0) x86-64 gcc 11.2 - 3272ms (298483B) ~19264 lines filtered

Output of x86-64 gcc 11.2 (Compiler #1) x

A Wrap lines

1819043144 = 0x6C6C6548

48 65 6c 6c
"Hell"

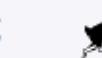


Myth #24

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C++ source #1 x

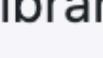
A    

C++ ▾

```
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2 #include <cstdint>
3 #include <string>
4
5 std::optional<std::string> get_value(bool condition)
6 {
7     if (condition)
8         return "Hello";
9     else
10        return std::nullopt;
11 }
12
13 std::size_t get_size(bool condition)
14 {
15     const auto str = get_value(condition);
16     if (str)
17         return str->size();
18     else
19         return std::string::npos;
20 }
21
22 int main()
23 {
24     return get_size(true);
25 }
```

x86-64 gcc 11.2 (C++, Editor #1, Compiler #1) x

x86-64 gcc 11.2 ▾ -O3 -std=c++20 -Wall -Wextra -Wpedantic

A   Output... ▾  Libraries + Add new... ▾  Add tool... ▾

```
1 get_value[abi:cxx11](bool):
2     mov    rax, rdi
3     test   sil, sil
4     jne   .L5
5     mov    BYTE PTR [rdi+32], 0
6     ret
7 .L5:
8     lea    rdx, [rdi+16]
9     mov    DWORD PTR [rdi+16], 1819043144
10    mov    QWORD PTR [rdi], rdx
11    mov    BYTE PTR [rdi+20], 111
12    mov    QWORD PTR [rdi+8], 5
13    mov    BYTE PTR [rdi+21], 0
14    mov    BYTE PTR [rdi+32], 1
15    ret
16 get_size(bool):
17    cmp    dil, 1
18    sbb    rax, rax
19    or     rax, 5
20    ret
```

Output (0/0) x86-64 gcc 11.2 - 3272ms (298483B) ~19264 lines filtered

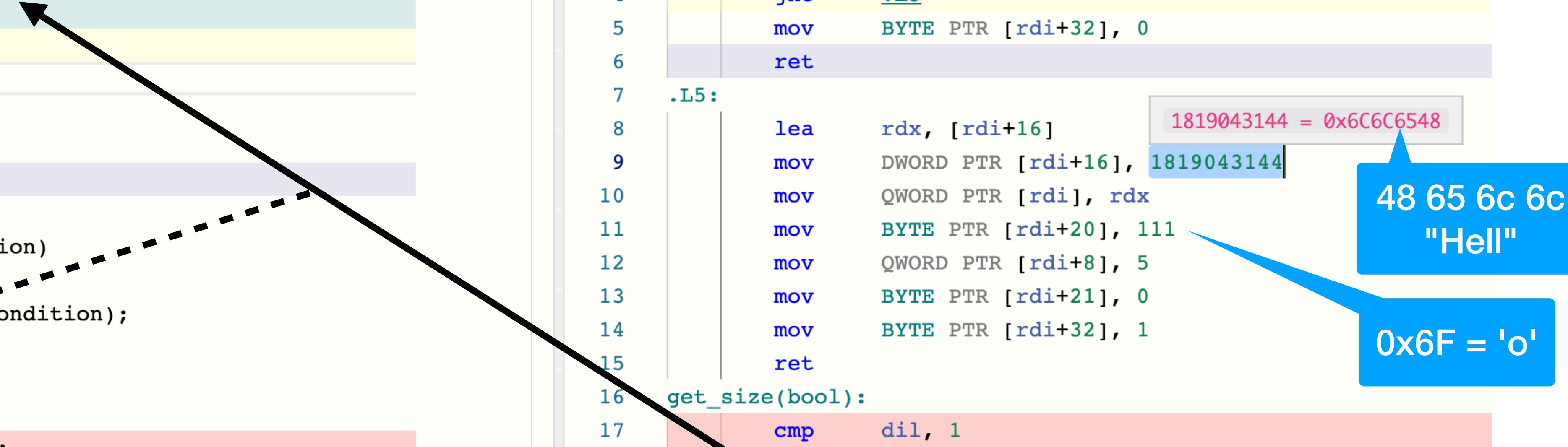
Output of x86-64 gcc 11.2 (Compiler #1) x

A  Wrap lines

1819043144 = 0x6C6C6548

48 65 6c 6c
"Hell"

0x6F = 'O'



Myth #24

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C++ source #1 x C++ x x86-64 gcc 11.2 (C++, Editor #1, Compiler #1) x

A      C++ 

```
1 #include <optional>
2 #include <cstdint>
3 #include <string>
4
5 std::optional<std::string> get_value(bool condition)
6 {
7     if (condition)
8         return "This is a longer string";
9     else
10        return std::nullopt;
11 }
12
13 std::size_t get_size(bool condition)
14 {
15     const auto str = get_value(condition);
16     if (str)
17         return str->size();
18     else
19         return std::string::npos;
20 }
21
22 int main()
23 {
24     return get_size(true);
25 }
```

no more SSO

x86-64 gcc 11.2 x -O3 -std=c++20 -Wall -Wextra -Wpedantic

A   Output...  Libraries + Add new... 

Line	Op	Operands
35	sub	rsp, 56
36	mov	edi, 24
37	lea	rax, [rsp+16]
38	mov	QWORD PTR [rsp], rax
39	call	operator new(unsigned long)
40	mov	esi, 24
41	mov	BYTE PTR [rsp+32], 0
42	movdqa	xmm0, XMMWORD PTR .LC0[rip]
43	mov	DWORD PTR [rax+16], 1920234272
44	mov	rdi, rax
45	movups	XMMWORD PTR [rax], xmm0
46	mov	QWORD PTR [rsp], rax
47	mov	eax, 28265
48	mov	WORD PTR [rdi+20], ax
49	mov	BYTE PTR [rdi+22], 103
50	mov	BYTE PTR [rdi+23], 0
51	mov	QWORD PTR [rsp+16], 23
52	mov	QWORD PTR [rsp+8], 23
53	call	operator delete(void*, unsigned long)
54	mov	eax, 23

C Output (0/0) x86-64 gcc 11.2 - 2548ms (341058B) ~22151 lines filtered 

Output of x86-64 gcc 11.2 (Compiler #1) x

Myth #24

Get cool gear in the Compiler Explorer shop  Share

C++ source #1 x C++ x x86-64 gcc 11.2 (C++, Editor #1, Compiler #1) x

A     

C++ source code:

```
1 #include <optional>
2 #include <cstdint>
3 #include <string>
4
5 std::optional<std::string> get_value(bool condition)
6 {
7     if (condition)
8         return "This is a longer string";
9     else
10        return std::nullopt;
11 }
12
13 std::size_t get_size(bool condition)
14 {
15     const auto str = get_value(condition);
16     if (str)
17         return str->size();
18     else
19         return std::string::npos;
20 }
21
22 int main()
23 {
24     return get_size(true);
25 }
```

no more SSO

x86-64 gcc 11.2 x -O3 -std=c++20 -Wall -Wextra -Wpedantic

A   Output...  Libraries  Add new... 

Assembly output:

```
35 sub    rsp, 56
36 mov    edi, 24
37 lea    rax, [rsp+16]
38 mov    QWORD PTR [rsp], rax
39 call   operator new(unsigned long)
40 mov    esi, 24
41 mov    BYTE PTR [rsp+32], 0
42 movdqa xmm0, XMMWORD PTR .LC0[rip]
43 mov    DWORD PTR [rax+16], 1920234272
44 mov    rdi, rax
45 movups XMMWORD PTR [rax], xmm0
46 mov    QWORD PTR [rsp], rax
47 mov    eax, 28265
48 mov    WORD PTR [rdi+20], ax
49 mov    BYTE PTR [rdi+22], 103
50 mov    BYTE PTR [rdi+23], 0
51 mov    QWORD PTR [rsp+16], 23
52 mov    QWORD PTR [rsp+8], 23
53 call   operator delete(void*, unsigned long)
54 mov    eax, 23
```

Output (0/0) x86-64 gcc 11.2 - 2548ms (341058B) ~22151 lines filtered

Output of x86-64 gcc 11.2 (Compiler #1) x

Myth #24

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C++ source #1 x C++ x86-64 gcc 11.2 (C++, Editor #1, Compiler #1) x

A + v 🔍 ↻ -O3 -std=c++20 -Wall -Wextra -Wpeda

```
1 #include <optional>
2 #include <cstdint>
3 #include <string>
4
5 std::optional<std::string> get_value(bool condition)
6 {
7     if (condition)
8         return "This is a longer string";
9     else
10        return std::nullopt;
11 }
12
13 std::size_t get_size(bool condition)
14 {
15     const auto str = get_value(condition);
16     if (str)
17         return str->size();
18     else
19         return std::string::npos;
20 }
21
22 int main()
23 {
24     return get_size(true);
25 }
```

no more SSO

compiler still sees through it and inlines it

x86-64 gcc 11.2 x86-64 gcc 11.2 -O3 -std=c++20 -Wall -Wextra -Wpeda

A Output... Filter... Libraries + Add new... Add tool...

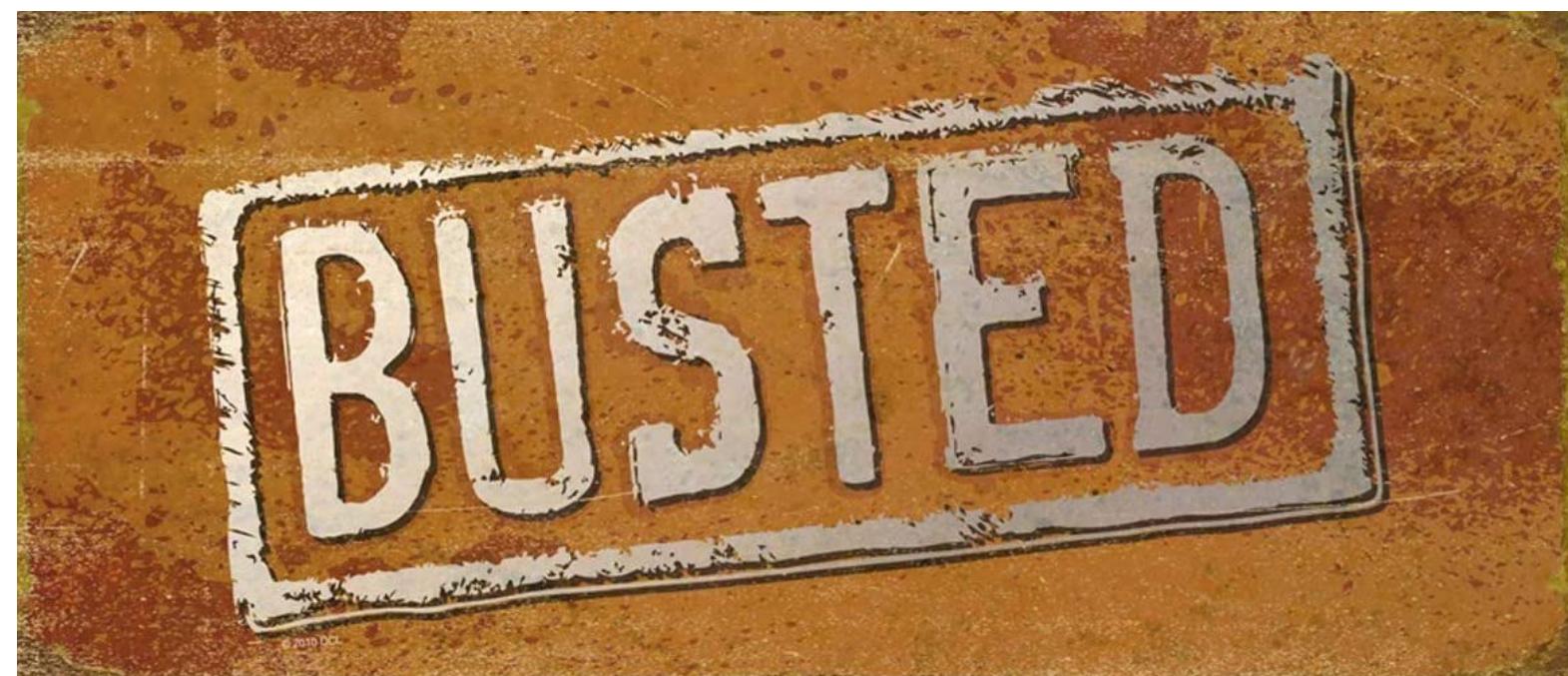
```
35 sub    rsp, 56
36 mov    edi, 24
37 lea    rax, [rsp+16]
38 mov    QWORD PTR [rsp], rax
39 call   operator new(unsigned long)
40 mov    esi, 24
41 mov    BYTE PTR [rsp+32], 0
42 movdqa xmm0, XMMWORD PTR .LC0[rip]
43 mov    DWORD PTR [rax+16], 1920234272
44 mov    rdi, rax
45 movups XMMWORD PTR [rax], xmm0
46 mov    QWORD PTR [rsp], rax
47 mov    eax, 28265
48 mov    WORD PTR [rdi+20], ax
49 mov    BYTE PTR [rdi+22], 103
50 mov    BYTE PTR [rdi+23], 0
51 mov    QWORD PTR [rsp+16], 23
52 mov    QWORD PTR [rsp+8], 23
53 call   operator delete(void*, unsigned long)
54 mov    eax, 23
```

Output (0/0) x86-64 gcc 11.2 - 2548ms (341058B) ~22151 lines filtered

Output of x86-64 gcc 11.2 (Compiler #1) x

Myth #24

`std::optional` inhibits optimizations



Myth #24

`std::optional` inhibits optimizations



However...

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C++ source #1 X C++ source #2 X

A ▾ C++ ▾

```

5 std::optional<std::string> get_value(bool condition)
6 {
7     std::string value = "This is a longer string";
8     if (condition)
9         return value;
10    else
11        return std::nullopt;
12 }
13
14 std::size_t get_size(bool condition)
15 {
16     const auto str = get_value(condition);
17     if (str)
18         return str->size();
19     else
20         return std::string::npos;
21 }
22
23 int main()
24 {
25     return get_size(true);
26 }

```

x86-64 gcc 11.2 (C++, Editor #2, Compiler #2) X

x86-64 gcc 11.2 ▾ -O3 -std=c++20 -Wall -Wextra -Wpedantic ▾

A ▾ Output... ▾ Filter... ▾ Libraries + Add new... ▾ Add tool... ▾

```

1 get_value[abi:cxx11](bool):
2     push    r12
3     mov     r12, rdi
4     test    sil, sil
5     jne    .T6

```

Diff Viewer x86-64 gcc 11.2 vs x86-64 gcc 11.2 X

A ▾ Left: x86-64 gcc 11.2 -O3 -std=c++20 ▾ Assembly ▾

Right: x86-64 gcc 11.2 -O3 -std=c++20 ▾ Assembly ▾

Left Line	Left Address	Left Assembly	Right Line	Right Address	Right Assembly
50		mov BYTE PTR [rdi+23], 0	66		call operator delete(void*, uns)
51		mov QWORD PTR [rsp+16], 23	67+		add rsp, 88
52		mov QWORD PTR [rsp+8], 23	68+		mov rax, r12
53		call operator delete(void*, uns)	69+		pop rbx
54		mov eax, 23	70+		pop r12
55		add rsp, 56	71+		ret
			72+.L10:		
			73+		mov esi, 24
			74+		mov r12d, 23
			75+		call operator delete(void*, uns)
			76+		add rsp, 88
			77+		mov rax, r12
			78+		pop rbx
			79+		pop r12
			80		ret
56		ret	81 main:		
57	main:		82		sub rsp, 8
58		sub rsp, 8	83		mov edi, 1
59		mov edi, 1	84		call get_size(bool)
60		call get_size(bool)	85		add rsp, 8
61		add rsp, 8	86		ret
62		ret	87 .LC0:		
63 .LC0:			88+		.quad 23
			89+		.quad 23
			90+.LC1:		
64		.quad 2338328219631577172	91		.quad 2338328219631577172
65		.quad 8243108416984981601	92		.quad 8243108416984981601

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C++ source #1 X C++ source #2 X

A ▾ C++ A ▾

```

5 std::optional<std::string> get_value(bool condition)
6 {
7     std::string value = "This is a longer string";
8     if (condition)
9         return value;
10    else
11        return std::nullopt;
12 }
13
14 std::size_t get_size(bool condition)
15 {
16     const auto str = get_value(condition);
17     if (str)
18         return str->size();
19     else
20         return std::string::npos;
21 }
22
23 int main()
24 {
25     return get_size(true);
26 }
```

x86-64 gcc 11.2 (C++, Editor #2, Compiler #2) X

x86-64 gcc 11.2 ▾ -O3 -std=c++20 -Wall -Wextra -Wpedantic ▾

A ▾ Output... ▾ Filter... ▾ Libraries + Add new... ▾ Add tool... ▾

```

1 get_value[abi:cxx11](bool):
2     push    r12
3     mov     r12, rdi
4     test    sil, sil
5     jne    .T6
```

Diff Viewer x86-64 gcc 11.2 vs x86-64 gcc 11.2 X

A ▾ Left: x86-64 gcc 11.2 -O3 -std=c++20 ▾ Assembly

Right: x86-64 gcc 11.2 -O3 -std=c++20 ▾ Assembly

Left Line	Left Assembly	Right Line	Right Assembly
50	mov BYTE PTR [rdi+23], 0	66	call operator delete(void*, uns)
51	mov QWORD PTR [rsp+16], 23	67+	add rsp, 88
52	mov QWORD PTR [rsp+8], 23	68+	mov rax, r12
53	call operator delete(void*, uns)	69+	pop rbx
54	mov eax, 23	70+	pop r12
55	add rsp, 56	71+	ret
		72+.L10:	
		73+	mov esi, 24
		74+	mov r12d, 23
		75+	call operator delete(void*, uns)
		76+	add rsp, 88
		77+	mov rax, r12
		78+	pop rbx
		79+	pop r12
56	ret	80	ret
57 main:		81 main:	
58 sub rsp, 8		82	sub rsp, 8
59 mov edi, 1		83	mov edi, 1
60 call get_size(bool)		84	call get_size(bool)
61 add rsp, 8		85	add rsp, 8
62 ret		86	ret
63 .LC0:		87 .LC0:	
		88+	.quad 23
		89+	.quad 23
		90+.LC1:	
64 .quad 2338328219631577172		91	.quad 2338328219631577172
65 .quad 8243108416984981601		92	.quad 8243108416984981601

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C++ source #1 X C++ source #2 X

A ▾ C++ A ▾

```

5 std::optional<std::string> get_value(bool condition)
6 {
7     std::string value = "This is a longer string";
8     if (condition)
9         return value;
10    else
11        return std::nullopt;
12 }
13
14 std::size_t get_size(bool condition)
15 {
16     const auto str = get_value(condition);
17     if (str)
18         return str->size();
19     else
20         return std::string::npos;
21 }
22
23 int main()
24 {
25     return get_size(true);
26 }
```

x86-64 gcc 11.2 (C++, Editor #2, Compiler #2) X

x86-64 gcc 11.2 ▾ -O3 -std=c++20 -Wall -Wextra -Wpedantic

A ▾ Output... ▾ Filter... ▾ Libraries + Add new... ▾ Add tool... ▾

```

1 get_value[abi:cxx11](bool):
2     push    r12
3     mov     r12, rdi
4     test    sil, sil
5     jne    .T6
```

Diff Viewer x86-64 gcc 11.2 vs x86-64 gcc 11.2 X

A ▾ Left: x86-64 gcc 11.2 -O3 -std=c++20 -Wall -Wextra -Wpedantic Assembly

Right: x86-64 gcc 11.2 -O3 -std=c++20 -Wall -Wextra -Wpedantic Assembly

Left Line	Left Instruction	Right Line	Right Instruction
50	mov BYTE PTR [rdi+23], 0	66	call operator delete(void*, uns)
51	mov QWORD PTR [rsp+16], 23	67+	add rsp, 88
52	mov QWORD PTR [rsp+8], 23	68+	mov rax, r12
53	call operator delete(void*, uns)	69+	pop rbx
54	mov eax, 23	70+	pop r12
55	add rsp, 56	71+	ret
		72+.L10:	
		73+	mov esi, 24
		74+	mov r12d, 23
		75+	call operator delete(void*, uns)
		76+	add rsp, 88
		77+	mov rax, r12
		78+	pop rbx
		79+	pop r12
56	ret	80	ret
57 main:		81 main:	
58 sub rsp, 8		82	sub rsp, 8
59 mov edi, 1		83	mov edi, 1
60 call get_size(bool)		84	call get_size(bool)
61 add rsp, 8		85	add rsp, 8
62 ret		86	ret
63 .LC0:		87 .LC0:	
		88+	.quad 23
		89+	.quad 23
		90+.LC1:	
64 .quad 2338328219631577172		91	.quad 2338328219631577172
65 .quad 8243108416984981601		92	.quad 8243108416984981601

~40% more instructions

Compiler Explorer

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C++ source #1 C++ source #2

A

C++

```

5 std::optional<std::string> get_value(bool condition)
6 {
7     std::string value = "This is a longer string";
8     if (condition)
9         return value;
10    else
11        return std::nullopt;
12 }
13
14 std::size_t get_size(bool condition)
15 {
16     const auto str = get_value(condition);
17     if (str)
18         return str->size();
19     else
20         return std::string::npos;
21 }
22
23 int main()
24 {
25     return get_size(true);
26 }
```

x86-64 gcc 11.2 (C++, Editor #2, Compiler #2)

x86-64 gcc 11.2 -O3 -std=c++20 -Wall -Wextra -Wpedantic

A Output... Filter... Libraries + Add new... Add tool...

```

1 get_value[abi:cxx11](bool):
2     push    r12
3     mov     r12, rdi
4     test    sil, sil
5     jne    .T6
```

Diff Viewer x86-64 gcc 11.2 vs x86-64 gcc 11.2

A Left: x86-64 gcc 11.2 -O3 -std=c++20 -Wall -Wextra -Wpedantic Right: x86-64 gcc 11.2 -O3 -std=c++20 -Wall -Wextra -Wpedantic Assembly

	Left:	Right:	Assembly
50		mov BYTE PTR [rdi+23], 0	
51		mov QWORD PTR [rsp+16], 23	
52		mov QWORD PTR [rsp+8], 23	
53		call operator delete(void*, uns)	66 call operator delete(void*, uns)
54		mov eax, 23	67+ add rsp, 88
55		add rsp, 56	68+ mov rax, r12
			69+ pop rbx
			70+ pop r12
			71+ ret
72+	L10:		72+.L10:
73+		mov esi, 24	73+ mov r12d, 23
74+		mov r12d, 23	74+ call operator delete(void*, uns)
75+			75+ add rsp, 88
76+			76+ mov rax, r12
77+			77+ pop rbx
78+			78+ pop r12
79+			79+ ret
56	ret		80 ret
57	main:		81 main:
58		sub rsp, 8	82 sub rsp, 8
59		mov edi, 1	83 mov edi, 1
60		call get_size(bool)	84 call get_size(bool)
61		add rsp, 8	85 add rsp, 8
62	ret		86 ret
63	.LC0:		87 .LC0:
64		.quad 2338328219631577172	88+.quad 23
65		.quad 8243108416984981601	89+.quad 23
			90+.LC1:
66			91 .quad 2338328219631577172
67			92 .quad 8243108416984981601

copy constructing a string

~40% more instructions

Myth #24

```
template <class U = T>
constexpr optional(U && value);
```

Constructs an optional object that contains a value, initialized **as if** direct-initializing (but not direct-list-initializing) an object of type T with `std::forward<U>(value)`

- this constructor does not participate in overload resolution unless `std::is_constructible_v<T, U&&>` is *true* and `std::remove_cvref_t<U>` is neither `std::in_place_t` nor `std::optional<T>`
- this constructor is **explicit** iff `std::is_convertible_v<U&&, T>` is *false*

Myth #24

`std::optional` complicates APIs

Myth #24

`std::optional` complicates APIs

- ➊ don't look inside the  box
- ➋ don't use optional for error handling
- ➌ when in doubt, draw inspiration from other APIs:
Haskell ([Maybe](#)) or Rust ([Option<T>](#))

Myth #24

`std::optional` complicates APIs

- don't look inside the 📦 box
- don't use optional for error handling
- when in doubt, draw inspiration from other APIs:

Haskell ([Maybe](#)) or Rust ([Option<T>](#))



Myth #24

`std::optional` complicates APIs

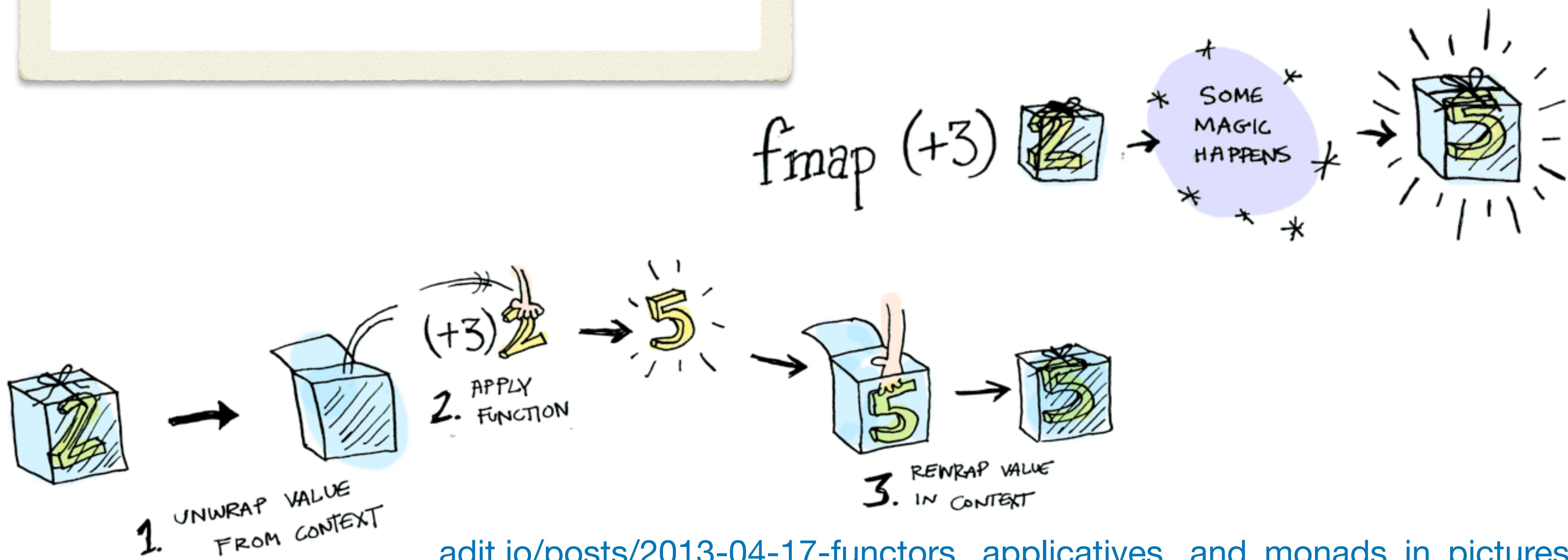
- don't look inside the 📦 box
- don't use optional for error handling
- when in doubt, draw inspiration from other APIs:
Haskell ([Maybe](#)) or Rust ([Option<T>](#))



[adit.io/posts/2013-04-17-functors, applicatives, and monads in pictures](https://adit.io/posts/2013-04-17-functors,_applicatives,_and_monads_in_pictures)

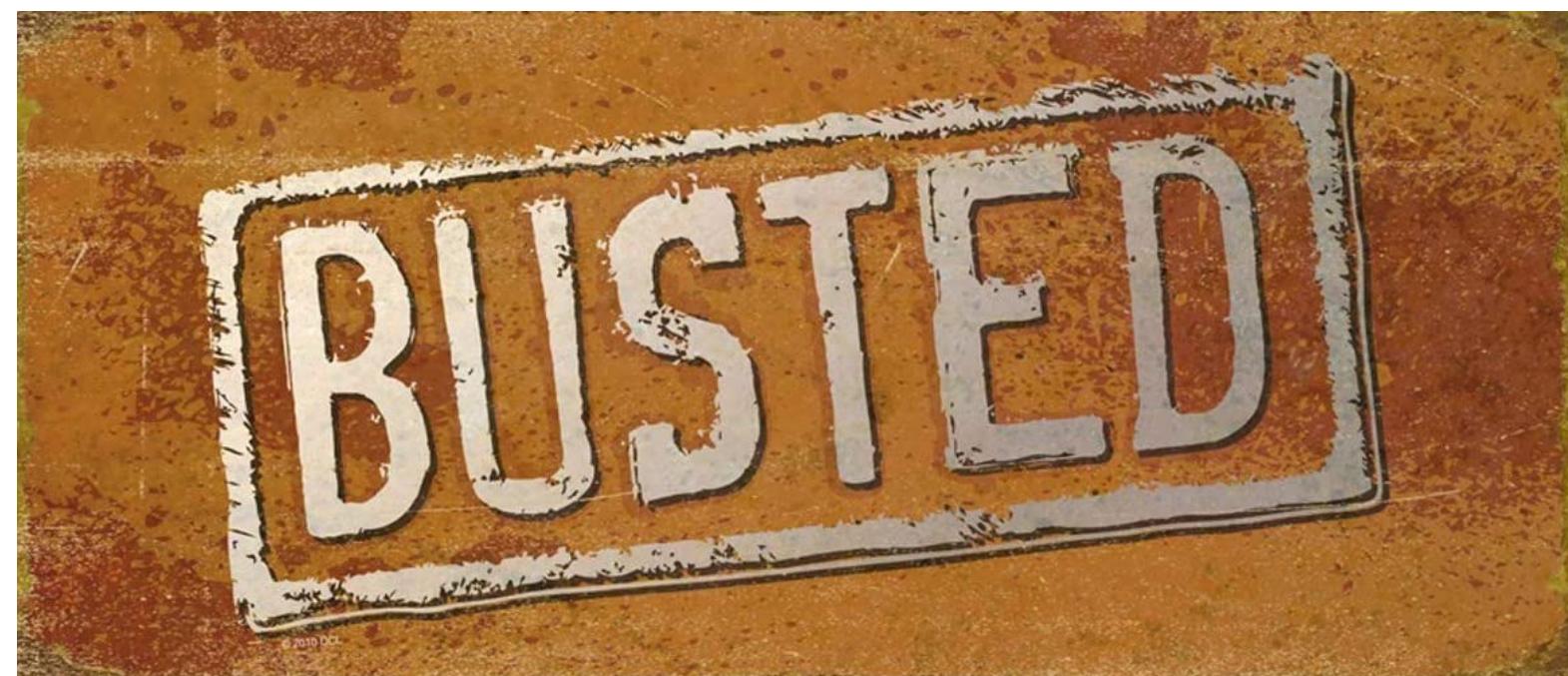
Myth #24

`std::optional` complicates APIs



Myth #24

`std::optional` complicates APIs



Myth #31

`std::move()` moves ?

Myth #31

`std::move()` moves ?

```
void echo(const std::string & first, const std::string & second)
{
    fmt::print("{}{},{}", first, second);
}

int main()
{
    std::string greeting{"Hello from a long string"};
    echo(greeting, greeting);
}
```

Myth #31

`std::move()` moves ?

```
void echo(const std::string & first, const std::string & second)
{
    fmt::print("{}{},{}", first, second);
}
```

```
int main()
{
    std::string greeting{"Hello from a long string"};
    echo(greeting, greeting);
}
```

```
'Hello from a long string','Hello from a long string'
```

Myth #31

`std::move()` moves ?

```
void echo(const std::string & first, const std::string & second)
{
    fmt::print("{}{},{}", first, second);
}

int main()
{
    std::string greeting{"Hello from a long string"};
    echo(std::move(greeting), greeting);
}
```

Myth #31

`std::move()` moves ?

```
void echo(const std::string & first, const std::string & second)
{
    fmt::print("{}{},{}", first, second);
}
```

```
int main()
{
    std::string greeting{"Hello from a long string"};
    echo(std::move(greeting), greeting);
}
```

```
'Hello from a long string','Hello from a long string'
```

Myth #31

`std::move()` moves ?

```
void echo(const std::string & first, const std::string & second)
{
    fmt::print("{}{},{}", first, second);
}

int main()
{
    std::string greeting{"Hello from a long string"};
    echo(std::move(greeting), std::move(greeting));
```



Myth #31

`std::move()` moves ?

```
void echo(const std::string & first, const std::string & second)
{
    fmt::print("{}{},{}", first, second);
}
```

```
int main()
{
    std::string greeting{"Hello from a long string"};
    echo(std::move(greeting), std::move(greeting));
```



'Hello from a long string', 'Hello from a long string'

Myth #31

`std::move()` moves ?

```
void echo(const std::string & first, const std::string & second)
{
    fmt::print("{}{},{}", first, second);
}

int main()
{
    std::string greeting{"Hello from a long string"};
    echo(std::move(greeting), std::move(greeting));
}
```

`string && => const string &`



'Hello from a long string', 'Hello from a long string'

Myth #31

`std::move()` moves ?

```
void echo(const std::string& first, const std::string& second)
{
    fmt::print("{}{}, {}", first, second);
}

int main()
{
    std::string greeting{"Hello from a long string"};
    echo(std::move(greeting), std::move(greeting));
}
```

Myth #31

`std::move()` moves ?

```
void echo(const std::string first, const std::string second)
{
    fmt::print("{}{},{}", first, second);
}
```

```
int main()
{
    std::string greeting{"Hello from a long string"};
    echo(std::move(greeting), std::move(greeting));
}
```

```
'Hello from a long string',''
```

Myth #31

std::move() moves ?

```
void echo(const std::string& first, const std::string& second)
{
    fmt::print("{}{},{}", first, second);
}

int main()
{
    std::string greeting{"Hello from a long string"};
    echo(std::move(greeting), std::move(greeting));
}
```

string(std::move(greeting))

'Hello from a long string',''

Myth #31

std::move() moves ?

```
void echo(const std::string& first, const std::string& second)
{
    fmt::print("{}{}, {}", first, second);
}

int main()
{
    std::string greeting{"Hello from a long string"};
    echo(std::move(greeting), std::move(greeting));
}
```

string(std::move(greeting))

clang

'Hello from a long string', ''

Myth #31

std::move() moves ?

```
void echo(const std::string& first, const std::string& second)
{
    fmt::print("{}{},{}", first, second);
}

int main()
{
    std::string greeting{"Hello from a long string"};
    echo(std::move(greeting), std::move(greeting));
}
```

string(std::move(greeting))

gcc

' ', 'Hello from a long string'

Myth #31

`std::move()` moves ?



Myth #36

Always pass input arguments
by const reference

```
void echo(const std::string & first, const std::string & second);
```

Myth #36

```
class Widget
{
    std::string id;

public:

    Widget(const std::string & new_id)
        : id(new_id) {}

    Widget(std::string && new_id)
        : id(std::move(new_id)) {}

};
```

Myth #36

```
class Widget
{
    std::string id;
    std::string name;

public:

Widget(const std::string & new_id, const std::string & new_name)
: id(new_id), name(new_name) {}

Widget(std::string && new_id, std::string && new_name)
: id(std::move(new_id)), name(std::move(new_name)) {}

Widget(const std::string & new_id, std::string && new_name)
: id(new_id), name(std::move(new_name)) {}

Widget(std::string && new_id, const std::string & new_name)
: id(std::move(new_id)), name(new_name) {}

};
```



Myth #36

```
class Widget
{
    std::string id;
    std::string name;

public:

    Widget(std::string new_id, std::string new_name)
        : id(std::move(new_id)), name(std::move(new_name)) {}

};
```

when we take ownership (sink)

by value

Myth #36

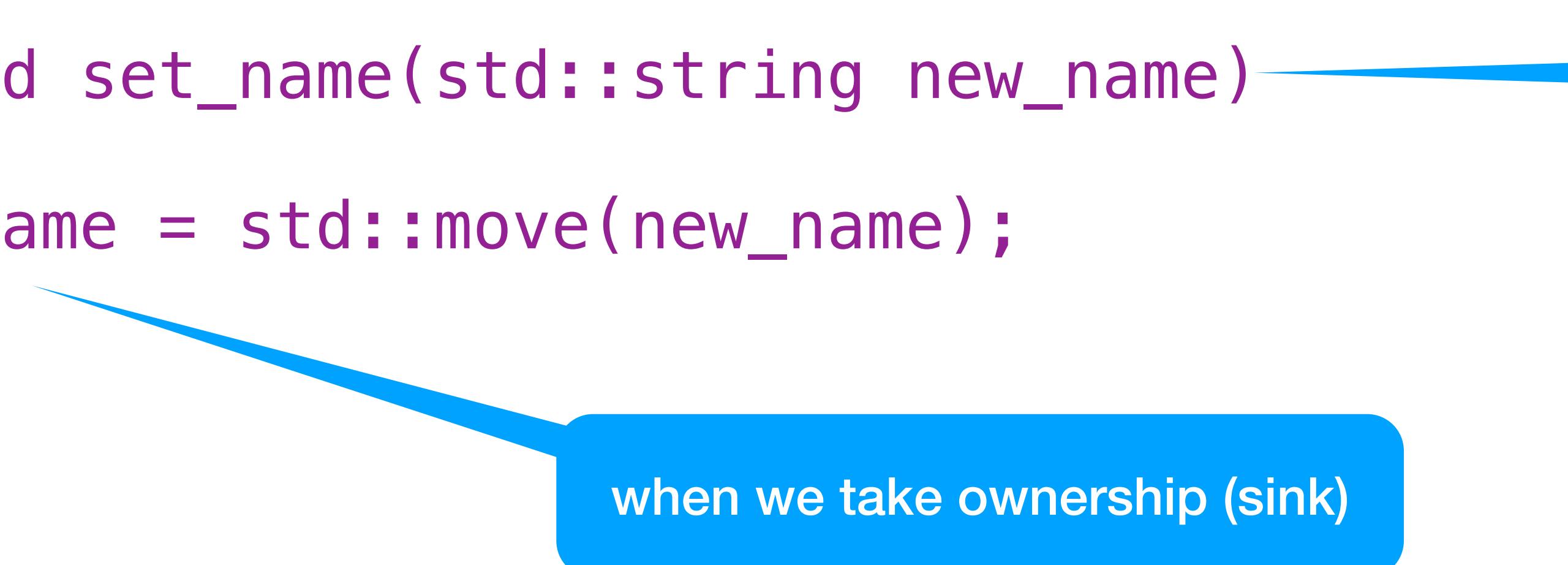
```
class Widget
{
    std::string id;
    std::string name;

public:

    void set_name(std::string new_name)           by value
    {
        name = std::move(new_name);
    }

};
```

when we take ownership (sink)



Myth #36

```
class Widget
{
    std::string id;
    std::string name;

public:

    void set_name(std::string new_name)
    {
        name = std::move(new_name);
    }
};

Widget w;
w.set_name("Hello from a long string");
```

- create the string with the literal value
- move assignment into data member

Myth #36

```
class Widget
{
    std::string id;
    std::string name;

public:

    void set_name(std::string new_name)
    {
        name = std::move(new_name);
    }
};

Widget w;
std::string name{"Hello from a long string"};
w.set_name(name);
```

- create the string with the literal value
- make a copy of the string
- move assignment into data member

Myth #36

```
class Widget
{
    std::string id;
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public:

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    }
};

Widget w;
std::string name{"Hello from a long string"};
w.set_name(std::move(name));
```

- create the string with the literal value
- move construct the string
- move assignment into data member

Myth #36

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class Widget
{
    std::string name;

public:

    void set_name(const std::string & new_name)
    {
        name = new_name;
    }
    void set_name(std::string && new_name)
    {
        name = std::move(new_name);
    }
};
```

```
Widget w;
std::string name{"Hello from a long string"};
w.set_name(name);
```

- create the string with the literal value
- make a copy of the string

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class Widget
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public:

    void set_name(const std::string & new_name)
    {
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    }
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    {
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    }
};
```

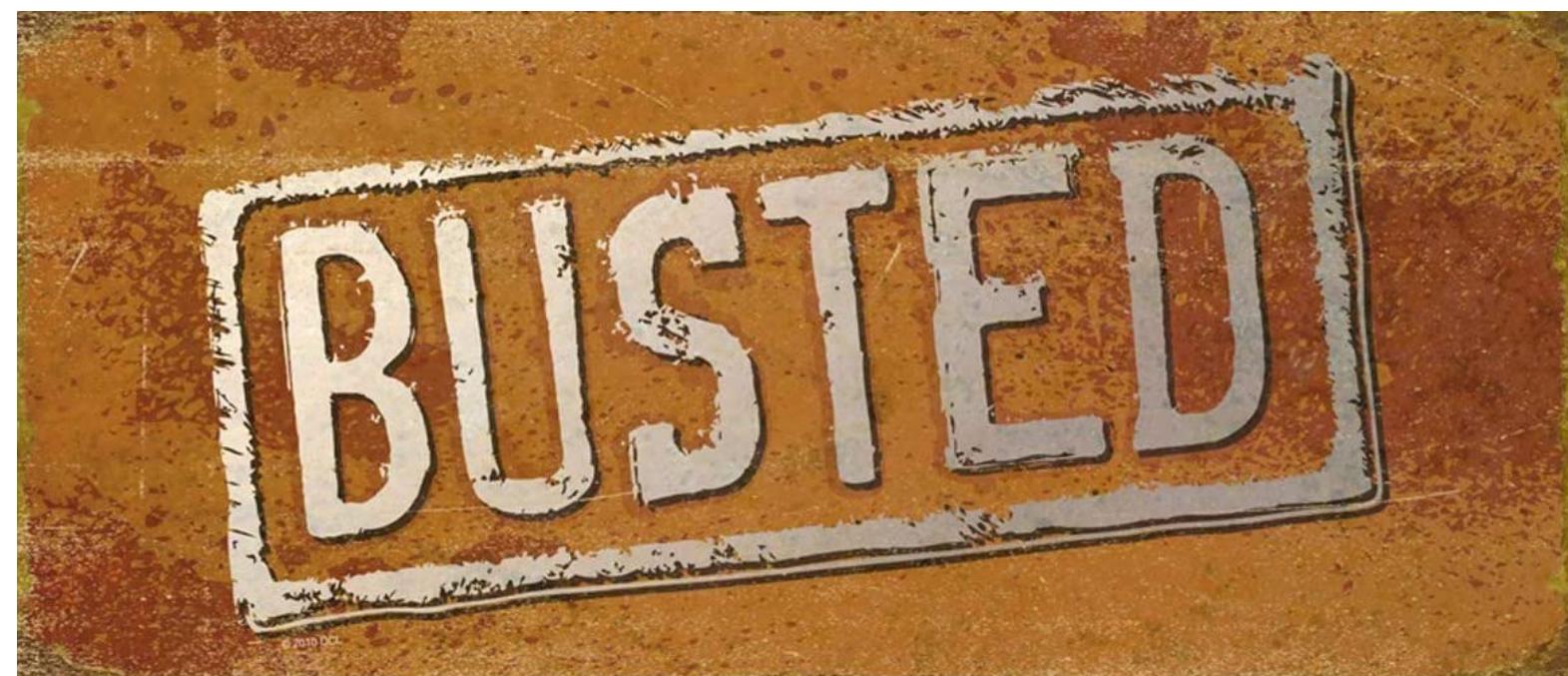
```
Widget w;
std::string name{"Hello from a long string"};
w.set_name(name);
```

Technically, more efficient
(one less move operation)

- create the string with the literal value
- make a copy of the string

Myth #36

Always pass input arguments
by const reference



Myth #36

Always pass input arguments
by const reference



There's even a [clang-tidy modernizer](#) check to perform
this transformation at scale

clang.llvm.org/extra/clang-tidy/checks/modernize-pass-by-value

Myth #36

Always pass input arguments
by const reference

There's even a [clang-tidy modernizer](#) check to perform
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Myth #37

Make All Data Members Private ?

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- maybe you don't need constructors either { }

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- not all types have invariants to enforce (document invariants)
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- added complexity (YAGNI - "You aren't gonna need it")
- write simpler classes
- maybe you don't need constructors either { }
- refactoring concerns

Myth #37

Make All Data Members Private ?

Sometimes `structs` just wanna be `structs` 😊

Myth #37

ACCU
2022

video to be published soon

ABSTRACTION PATTERNS:

*MAKING CODE RELIABLY BETTER
WITHOUT DEEP UNDERSTANDING*

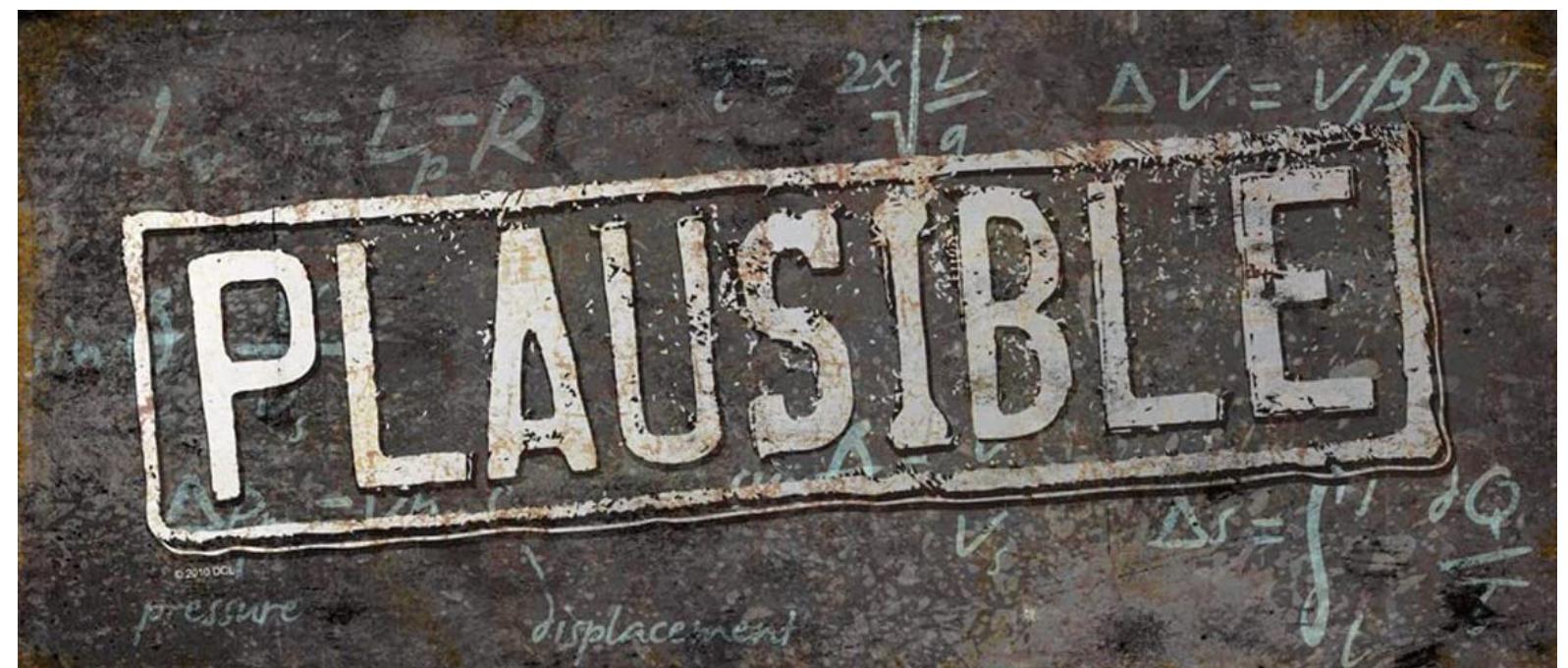
KATE GREGORY

00:02:39 / 01:24:13

Speed CC

Myth #37

Make All Data Members Private ?



Sometimes **structs** just wanna be **structs** 😊

Recommended

Sometimes **structs** just wanna be **structs** 😊

While we're on the subject of **structs** ...

Recommended

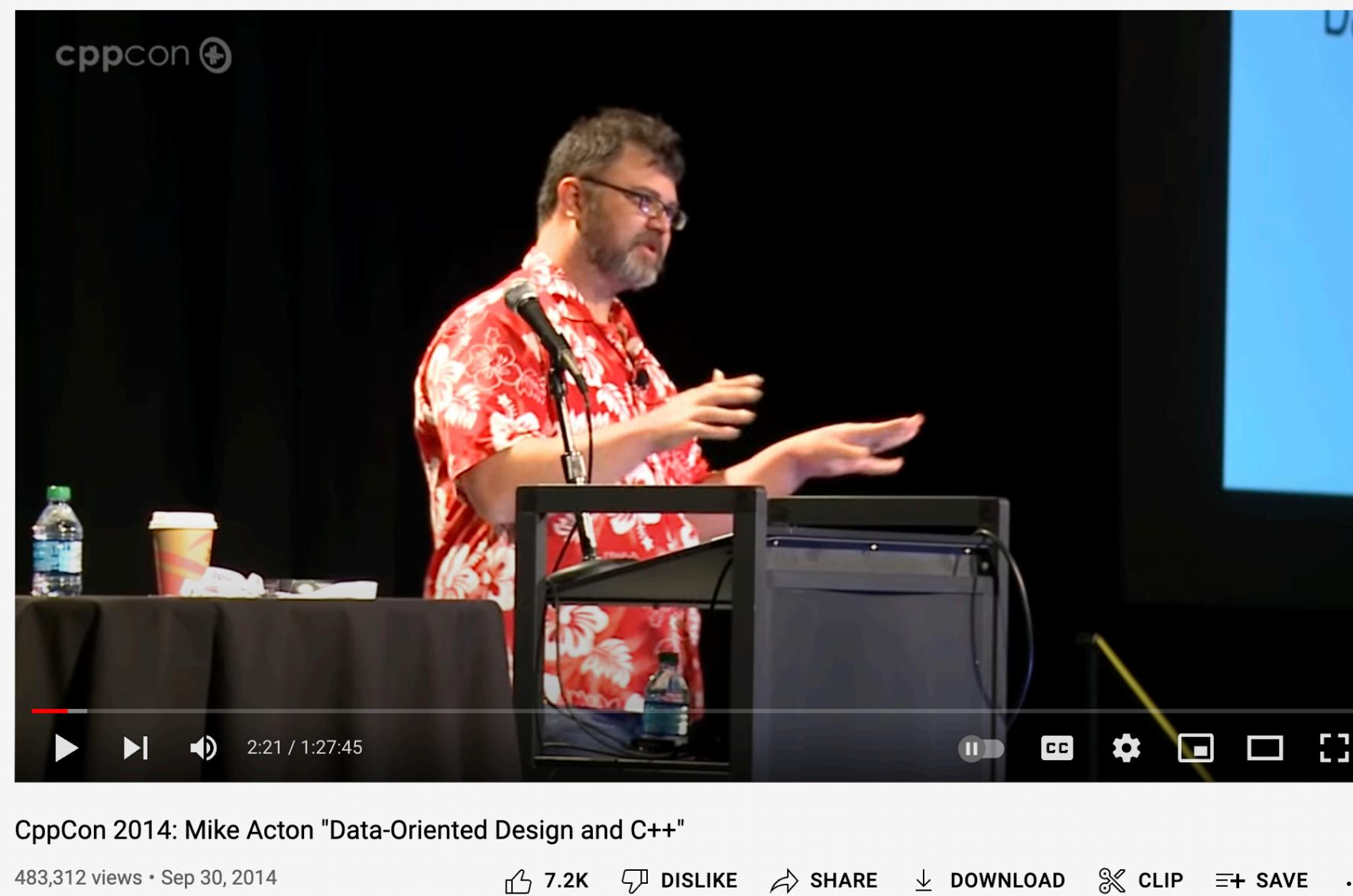


CppCon 2014: Mike Acton "Data-Oriented Design and C++"

483,312 views • Sep 30, 2014

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Recommended



Unpopular opinion (in the C++ community):

But I still think [Mike Acton's](#) keynote at CppCon 2014 is one of the best CppCon keynotes ever.

I still remember the audience gasps



youtube.com/watch?v=rX0ltVEVjHc

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Software = Data → xForm → Data

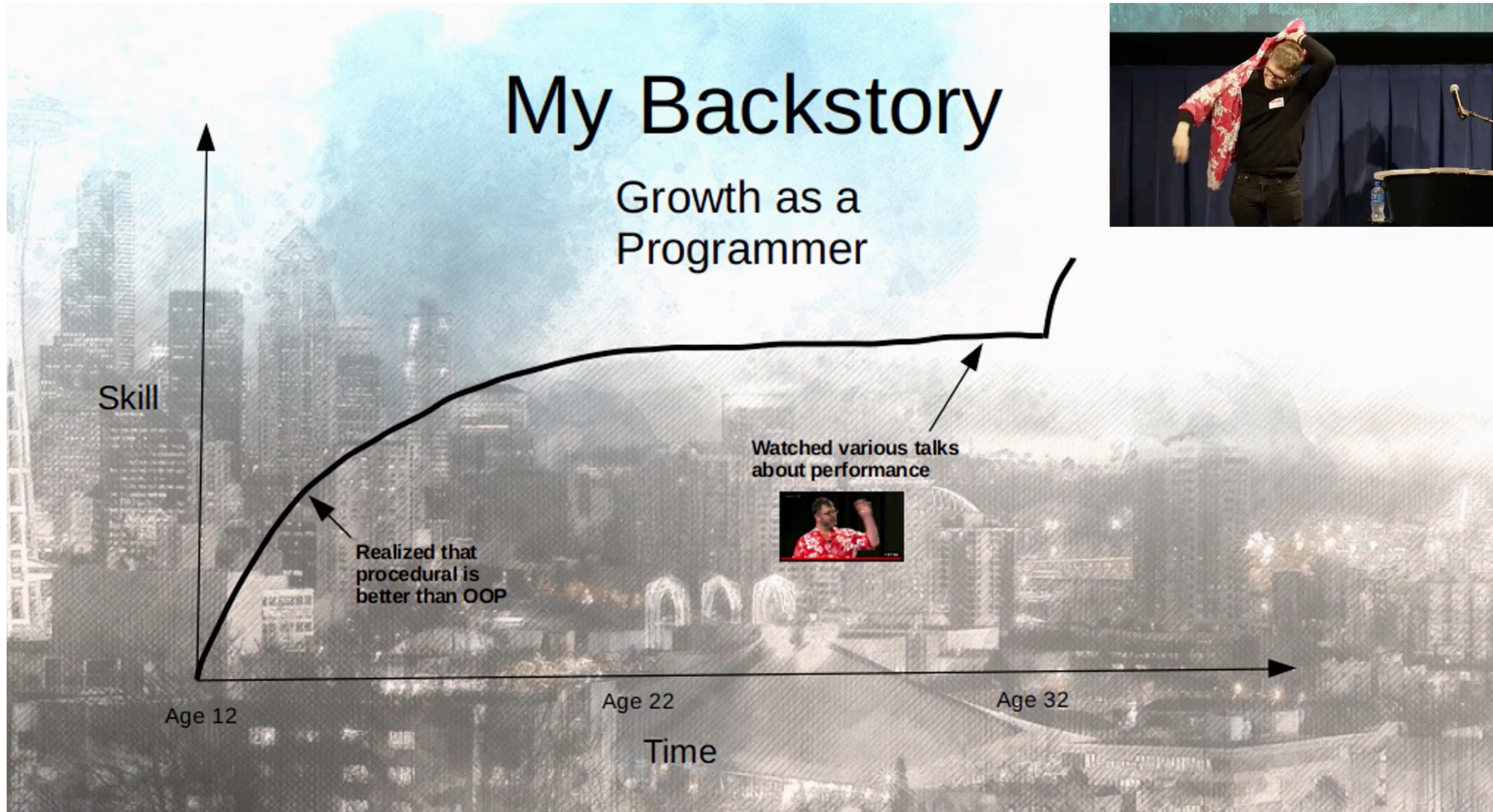
Performance = smart data layout

Memory access patterns

Recommended

A Practical Guide to Applying **Data-Oriented Design**

vimeo.com/649009599



Myth #40

Iterators must go!

BoostCon 2009



"*What's up with that?*"

"*Destroy!*" 😊

I finally found a recording of this:
archive.org/details/AndreiAlexandrescuKeynoteBoostcon2009

Myth #40

Iterators must go!

BoostCon 2009



A. Stepanov: "*Alexandrescu is on a crusade to eliminate iterators [...]*"

Programming Conversations Lecture - A9

youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHxtyCq_WDLXFAEA-IYoRNQlezL_vaSX-

Myth #40

Iterators must go!

BoostCon 2009



Someone did properly "Destroy", but after ~12 years...

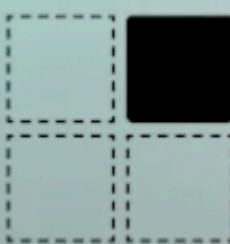
Iterators and Ranges

youtube.com/watch?v=95uT0RhMGwA



Iterators and Ranges: Comparing C++ to D, Rust, and Others

Barry Revzin



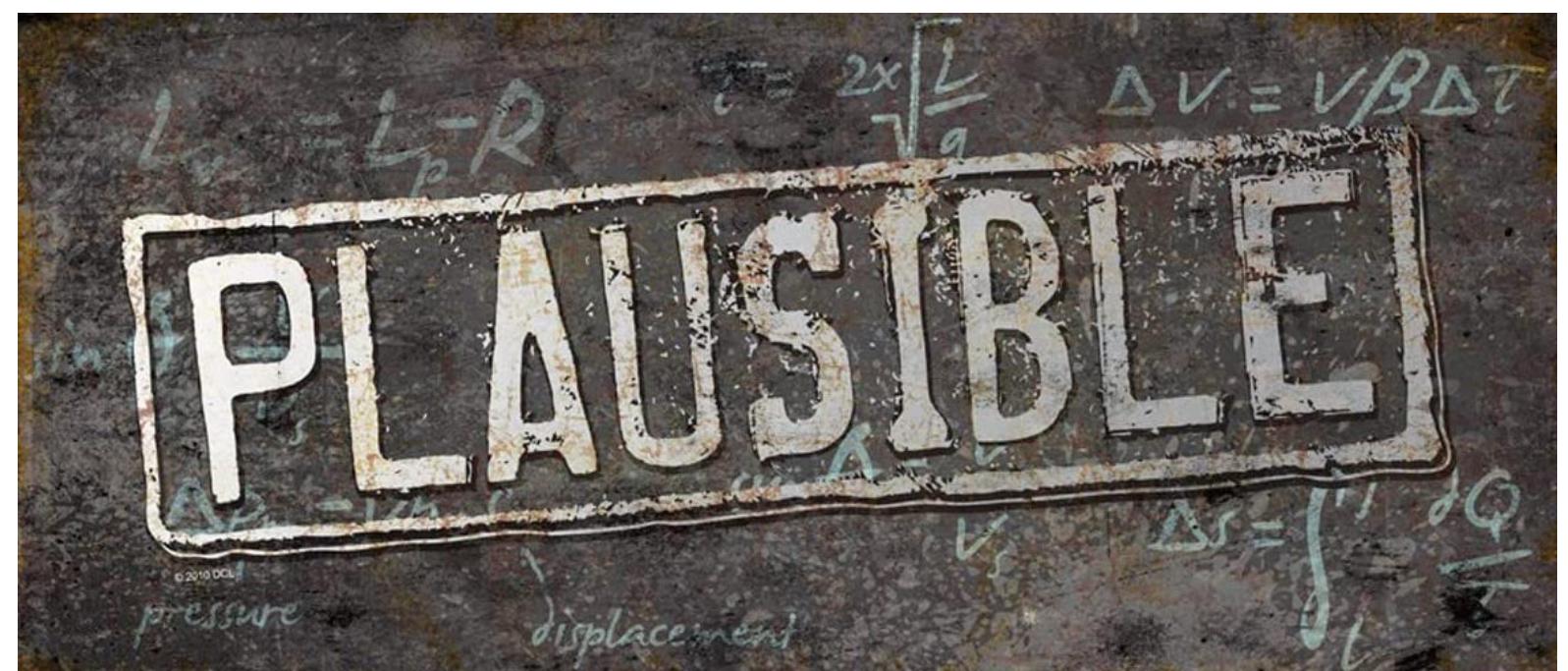
CODE RECKONS



Keynote: Iterators and Ranges: Comparing C++ to D, Rust, and Others - Barry Revzin - CPP 2021

Myth #40

Iterators must go!



Myth #0

New (C++) is the enemy of the old

"Before we had [feature], we were nonetheless able to program in C++"

- *Pablo Halpern, ACCU Conf 2022 (via Kate Gregory)*

Recommended

The video player displays the following information:

- Title:** Some Programming Myths Revisited
- Speaker:** Patrice Roy
- Email:** Patrice.Roy@USherbrooke.ca
- Institution:** CeFTI, Université de Sherbrooke
- Email:** Patrice.Roy@clg.qc.ca
- Institution:** Collège Lionel-Groulx

The video player interface includes a play button, a progress bar showing 0:25 / 1:00:50, and various control icons like volume, full screen, and settings. The CppCon 2019 logo is visible in the top right corner of the video frame.

© AURORA

Some Programming Myths Revisited - Patrice Roy - CppCon 2019

youtube.com/watch?v=KNqRjzSIUVo

Mythbusting Series



<Part 1 of N> presentation

I invite other speakers to **join** this C++ Mythbusting series

Mythbusting Series

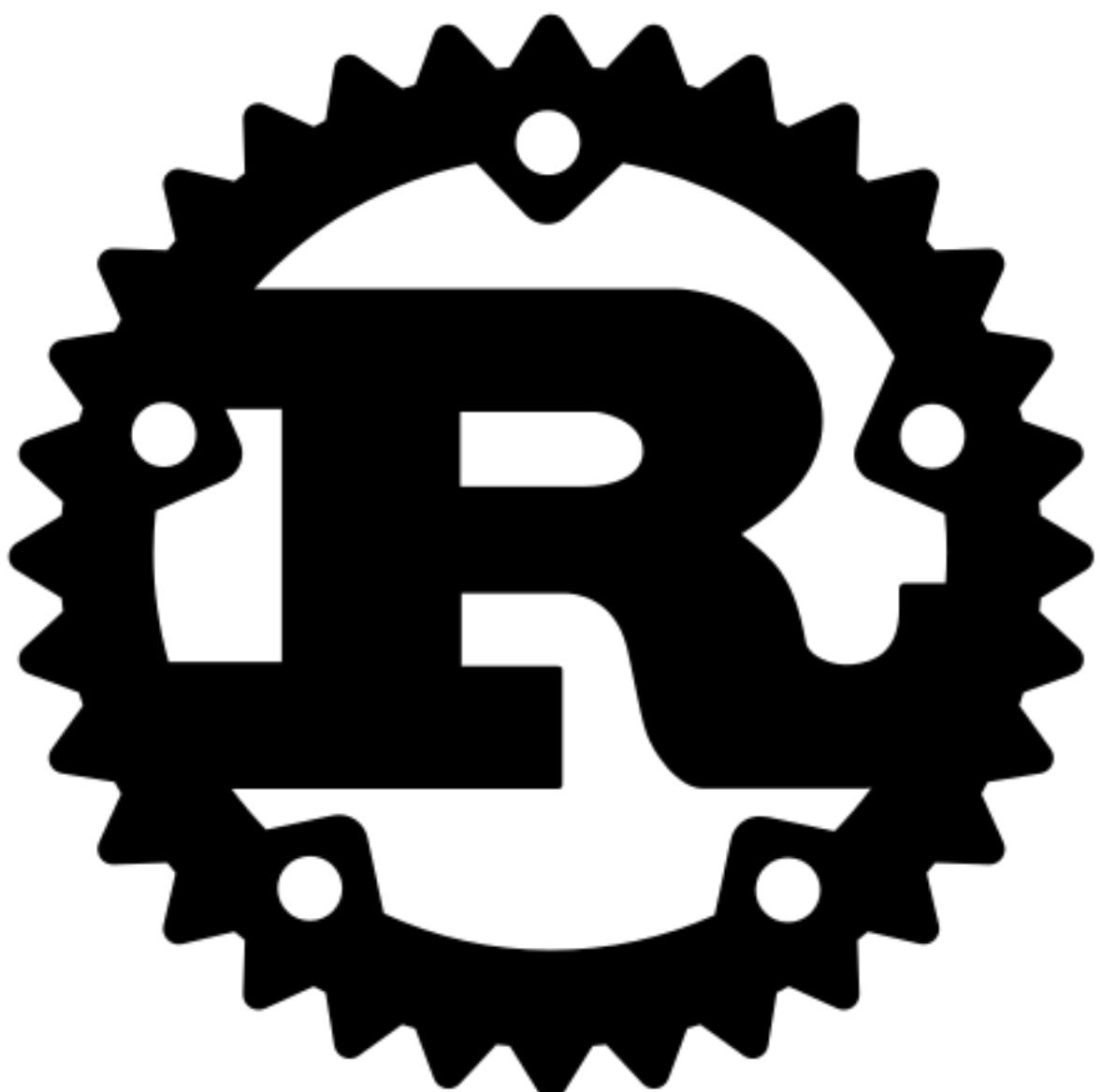
Myths, in future episodes:

- strength reduction is so '90s, compilers are much smarter today
- shared_ptr is cheap (to copy)
- C++ templates produce code bloat
- C++ uniform initialization {} is to be preferred, always
- always capture [=] by value to avoid dangling
- std::string generates a lot of waste because of SSO (COW could be better)
- (N)RVO is always guaranteed
- concept checking increases build times
- function default argument values are evil
- ...

Mythbusting Series

Myths, in future episodes:

- Featuring guest appearances by **Rust**
- Borrowing Trouble: the difficulties of a C++ borrow checker
- Rust and C++ interoperability
- Memory safety in Chromium
- Lifetime annotations for C++ (LLVM RFC)
- ...



ACCU
2022



@ciura_victor

Victor Ciura
Principal Engineer

