

Bringing Clang-tidy Magic to Visual Studio C++ Developers

November 11, 2017



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Intro

Who Am I?





Intro

Why Am I Here?



Intro

Why Am I Here?

"A 14 year old code base under active development, 2.5 million lines of C++ code, a few brave nerds, two powerful tools and one hot summer..."

or

"How we managed to **clang-tidy** our whole code base, while maintaining our monthly release cycle"



Context:

www.advancedinstaller.com

Advanced Installer

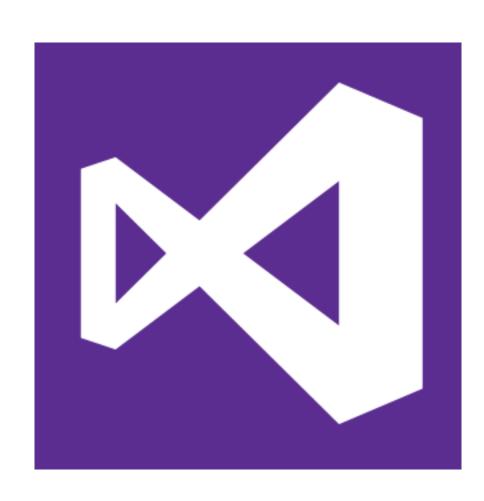
- Powerful Windows Installer authoring tool (IDE)
- Helps developers and IT Pros create MSI/EXE, App-V and UWP AppX packages
- 14 year old code base, under active development (since 2003)
- 2.5 million lines of C++ code
- 134 Visual Studio projects (EXEs, DLLs, LIBs)
- Microsoft Visual Studio 2017
- Monthly release cycle (~3 week sprints)
- Windows-only deployment
- Strong Windows **SDK** dependencies: our code has a fairly wide Windows API surface area (because of the application domain)



This talk is NOT about







- We're a Windows-only dev team using Visual C++
- We're going to continue using **both Visual Studio** (2017) and **Clang** tools on the side, to modernize/refactor and improve our code quality



It all started a year ago, with clang-format

- September, 2016 started thinking about adopting clang-format (experimenting with various configs)
- October-November 2016 preparing for clang-format adoption:
 - establishing internal rules, configs, exceptions, debates, strategy...
- December 16, 2016 the BIG reformat (formatted all code with clang-format, using our custom style)
- December 2016-present team workflow: use ClangFormat VS extension (auto-format on save)



Goals

- Building on the success of clang-format adoption within the team, we gained courage to experiment with clang-tidy
- New problem: getting all our code to fully *compile* with Clang, using the correct project settings (synced with Visual Studio) and Windows SDK dependencies
- We found several compatibility issues between MSVC compiler (VS2017) and Clang (4.0)
- Note that we were already using MSVC /W4 and /WX on all our projects



Goals

- Welcome to the land of non-standard C++ language extensions and striving for C++ ISO conformance in our code
- We started fixing all non-conformant code... (some automation required, batteries not included)
- Perform large scale refactorings on our code with clang-tidy:
 modernize-*, readability-*
- Run static analysis on our code base to find subtle latent bugs







Just a few examples:

[-Werror,-Wfor-loop-analysis]

Error: delete called on non-final 'AppPathVar' that has virtual functions but
non-virtual destructor [-Werror,-Wdelete-non-virtual-dtor]

Error: 'MsiComboBoxTable::PreRowChange' hides overloaded virtual function
[-Werror,-Woverloaded-virtual]
 void PreRowChange(const IMsiRow & aRow, BitField aModifiedContext);

Error: variable 'it' is incremented both in the loop header and in the loop body







Just a few examples:







Just a few examples:

```
Error: field 'mCommandContainer' will be initialized after field 'mRepackBuildType'
[-Werror,-Wreorder]
```

```
Error: PipeServer.cpp:42:39: error: missing field 'InternalHigh' initializer [-Werror, -Wmissing-field-initializers]
```

```
StringProcessing.cpp:504:9: error: no viable conversion from 'const wchar t [6]'
to 'Facet'
  Facet facet = DEFAULT LOCALE;
StringProcessing.cpp:344:7: note: candidate constructor (the implicit copy
constructor) not viable: no known conversion from 'const wchar t [6]' to
'const Facet &' for 1st argument
class Facet
StringProcessing.cpp:349:3: note: candidate constructor not viable: no known
conversion from 'const wchar t [6]' to 'const std::wstring &' for 1st argument
  Facet (const wstring & facet)
```



Frequent offender: Two user-defined conversions



- January 12, 2017 started playing with Clang for Windows (LLVM 3.9.1)
- January 24 first commit, started fixing the Clang errors/warnings
 (Note: we were already on MSVC /W4 /WX)
- February 3 created a clang++ compilation .bat file (crude automation attempt)
- March 7 upgraded the clang++ batch file to a PowerShell script (clang-build.ps1)
- March 13 our PS script also gains the ability to run clang-tidy checks
- March first experiments with clang-tidy on our source code (just some core libraries)



- April 11 🎉 able to compile our **whole** codebase with Clang 3.9.1 (some default warnings disabled)
 - ~ 3 months since we started
- April 12 created a Jenkins job for Clang build (every SCM change is compiled with Clang)
- May great improvements to our PowerShell script:
 PCH, parallel compilation, project filters, SDK versions, etc.
- June more experiments with clang-tidy on our source code (better coverage)
- June 16 upgraded from VS2015 to VS2017 (we also needed to update our Clang PS script)



- July 3 started work on a custom clang-based refactoring tool (libTooling)
- July 10 fixed new Clang 4 issues and upgraded to 4.0.1
- July started to tackle Clang -Wall warnings in our code
- August made extensive code transformations with our custom libTooling helpers
- August 24 🧱 our whole codebase compiles with Clang -Wall
- August started work on our "Clang Power Tools" extension for Visual Studio
- August 25 first refactorings with **clang-tidy**:

 modernize-use-nullptr, modernize-loop-convert
- Aug-Sep multiple code transformations with clang-tidy:
 modernize-*, readability-*, misc-*,...



- September started to fix -Wextra warnings (in progress...)
- September 11 upgraded to LLVM 5.0 (fixed new warnings) [-Wunused-lambda-capture]
- September 11 open-sourced our "Clang Power Tools" project
- September 26 published our "Clang Power Tools" extension to Visual Studio Marketplace
- September 27 introduced the project to the C++ community at CppCon
- November 11 here we are 😜

Large scale refactorings we performed:

- •modernize-use-nullptr
- •modernize-loop-convert
- modernize-use-override
- readability-redundant-string-cstr
- modernize-use-emplace
- modernize-use-auto
- •modernize-make-shared & modernize-make-unique
- •modernize-use-equals-default & modernize-use-equals-delete





Large scale refactorings we performed:

- modernize-use-default-member-init
- readability-redundant-member-init
- modernize-pass-by-value
- •modernize-return-braced-init-list
- modernize-use-using
- cppcoreguidelines-pro-type-member-init
- readability-redundant-string-init & misc-string-constructor
- •misc-suspicious-string-compare & misc-string-compare
- •misc-inefficient-algorithm
- •cppcoreguidelines-*







[readability-redundant-string-cstr]

```
// mChRequest is a 1KB buffer, we don't want to send it whole.
// So copy it as a C string, until we reach a null char.
ret += mChRequest.c_str();
```





[modernize-make-shared, modernize-make-unique]

- requestData.reset(new BYTE[reqLength]);
- + requestData = std::make_unique<BYTE>();







[modernize-use-auto]

```
=> error: unused typedef 'BrowseIterator' [-Werror,-Wunused-local-typedef]
```

typedef vector<BrowseSQLServerInfo>::iterator BrowseIterator;







[modernize-loop-convert]

```
=> unused values (orphan) [-Werror, -Wunused-value]

vector<ModuleInfo>::iterator first = Modules_.begin();
vector<ModuleInfo>::iterator last = Modules_.end();

or:
    size_t count = Data_.size();

for (auto & module : Modules_)
{
    ...
}
```









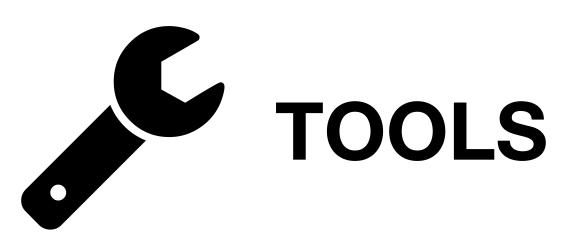




```
[modernize-use-using] => errors & incomplete
template<typename KeyType>
class Row
  - typedef KeyType KeyT; <= substitutes concrete key type (template argument)
  + using KeyT = basic string<wchar t, char traits<wchar t>, allocator<wchar t> >;
 KeyType mID;
};
// purpose of type alias being to access that template type from a derived class:
typename Row::KeyT
Concrete type used in code: Row<wstring>
```

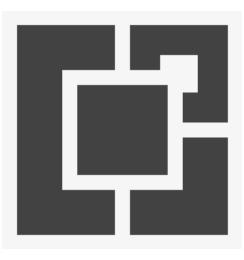


How Did We Achieve All That?











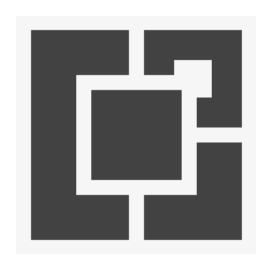


PowerShell scripts



Gabriel Diaconița

Clang Power Tools
VS Extension



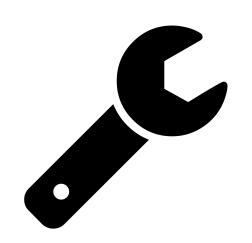
Ionuț Enache Alexandru Dragomir

LibTooling



Mihai Udrea

Fixing Clang errors/warnings in our code



Myself & many others...

We started simple...





compile.bat

```
SET INCLUDE="..\..;C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Visual Studio
14.0\VC\include;C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Visual Studio
14.0\VC\atlmfc\include;C:\Program Files (x86)\Windows
Kits\10\Include\10.0.10240.0\ucrt;C:\Program Files (x86)\Windows
Kits\8.1\Include\um; C:\Program Files (x86)\Windows Kits\8.1\Include\shared;"
setlocal EnableDelayedExpansion
For /R . %%G IN (*.cpp) do (
clang++ "%%G" -std=c++14 -fsyntax-only -Werror -Wmicrosoft
-Wno-invalid-token-paste -Wno-unused-variable -Wno-unused-value -fms-extensions
-fdelayed-template-parsing -fms-compatibility -D ATL NO HOSTING
-DUNICODE -D UNICODE -DWIN32 -D DEBUG -DDEBUG
IF !errorlevel! NEQ 0 goto exit
```

We started simple...





```
SET INCLUDE="..\..;C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Visual Studio
14.0\VC\include;C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Visual Studio
14.0\VC\atlmfc\include;C:\Program Files (x86)\Windows
Kits\10\Include\10.0.10240.0\ucrt;C:\Program Files (x86)\Windows
Kits\8.1\Include\um;C:\Program Files (x86)\Windows Kits\8.1\Include\shared;"

clang-tidy %1 -checks=-*,modernize-* -fix -- -std=c++14 -Werror
-Wno-invalid-token-paste -Wmicrosoft -fms-extensions -fdelayed-template-parsing
-fms-compatibility -D_ATL_NO_HOSTING -DUNICODE -D_UNICODE
-DWIN32 -D_DEBUG -DDEBUG

clang-format -style=file -i %1
```

But soon came...





- way more complicated (over 1,500 lines)
- very configurable (many parameters)
- supports both clang compile and tidy workflows
- works directly on Visual Studio .vcxproj files (or MSBuild projects)
 - no roundtrip transformation through Clang JSON compilation database)
- supports parallel compilation
- constructs Clang PCH from VS project <stdafx.h>
- automatically extracts all necessary settings from VS projects:
 - freprocessor definitions, platform toolset, SDK version, include directories, PCH, etc.

clang-build.ps1





Using The PowerShell Script

-dir
Source directory to process for VS project files

-proj
List of projects to compile

-proj-ignore List of projects to ignore

-file What cpp(s) to compile from the found projects

-file-ignore List of files to ignore

-clang-flags Flags passed to clang++ driver

-tidy
Run specified clang-tidy checks

-tidy-fix
Run specified clang-tidy checks with auto-fix

. . .

clang-build.ps1







You can run clang-build.ps1 directly, by specifying all required parameters (low-level control over details)

or



You can use a bootstrapper PS script (eg. sample-clang-build.ps1), that pre-loads some of the constant configurations specific for your team/project.

sample-clang-build.ps1 ==> clang-build.ps1



Using The PowerShell Script

```
PS> .\sample-clang-build.ps1 -parallel
```

→ Runs clang **compile** on all projects in current directory

```
PS> .\sample-clang-build.ps1 -parallel -proj-ignore foo,bar
```

→ Runs clang compile on all projects in current directory, except 'foo' and 'bar'

```
PS> .\sample-clang-build.ps1 -proj foo,bar -file-ignore meow -tidy-fix "-*,modernize-*"
```

→ Runs **clang-tidy**, using all *modernize* checks, on all CPPs not containing 'meow' in their name, from the projects 'foo' and 'bar'.

Bootstrapper PS script



sample-clang-build.ps1



```
[Parameter (Mandatory=$false)][string[]]
                                                                        $aVcxprojToCompile
param( [alias("proj")]
                               [Parameter (Mandatory=$false)][string[]]
     , [alias("proj-ignore")]
                                                                        $aVcxprojToIgnore
                               [Parameter (Mandatory=$false)][string]
                                                                        $aCppToCompile
     , [alias("file")]
       [alias("file-ignore")]
                               [Parameter (Mandatory=$false)][string]
                                                                        $aCppToIgnore
       [alias("parallel")]
                               [Parameter (Mandatory=$false)][switch]
                                                                        $aUseParallelCompile
                               [Parameter (Mandatory=$false)][string]
                                                                        $aTidyFlags
       [alias("tidy")]
       [alias("tidy-fix")]
                               [Parameter (Mandatory=$false)][string]
                                                                        $aTidyFixFlags
Set-Variable -name kClangCompileFlags
                                                                              -Option Constant `
                                             -value @ ( "-std=c++14"
                                                       "-Wall"
                                                       "-fms-compatibility-version=19.10"
                                                        "-Wmicrosoft"
                                                       "-Wno-invalid-token-paste"
                                                       "-Wno-unknown-pragmas"
                                                       "-Wno-unused-value"
Set-Variable -name kVisualStudioVersion -value "2017"
                                                                              -Option Constant
Set-Variable -name kVisualStudioSku
                                         -value "Professional"
                                                                              -Option Constant
```

Meeting C++







Jenkins CI Configuration





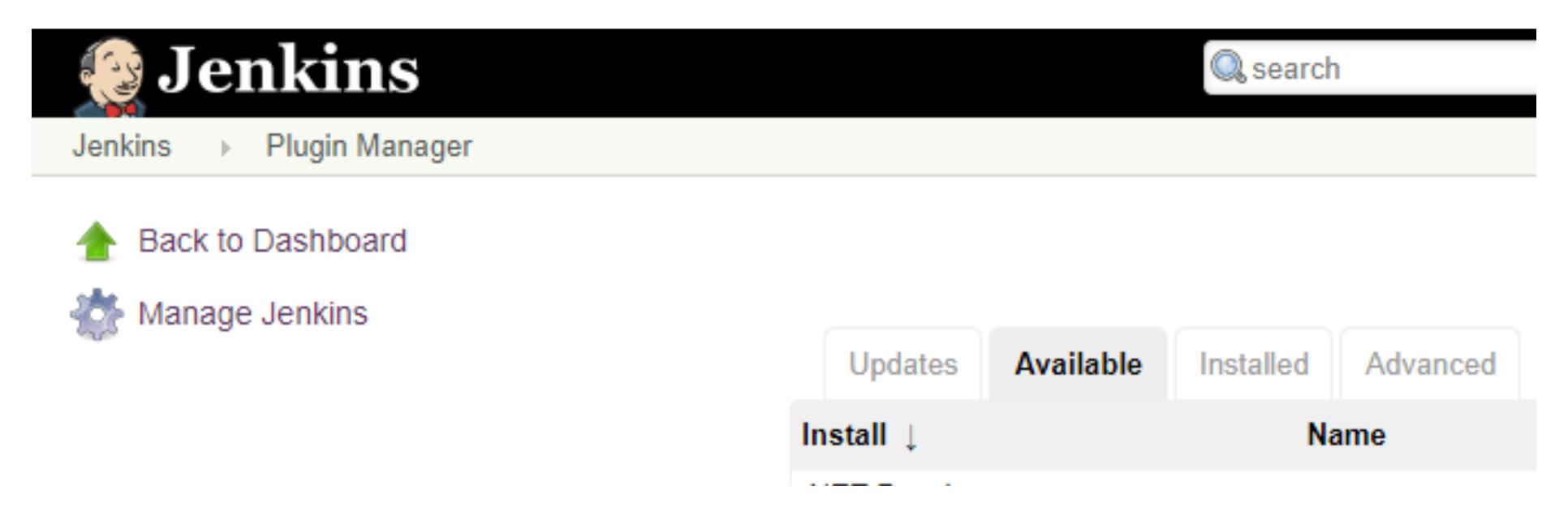
Jenkins CI Configuration

Install PowerShell plugin (available from Jenkins gallery)



Manage Plugins

Add, remove, disable or enable plugins that can extend the functionality of Jenkins.



https://wiki.jenkins.io/display/JENKINS/PowerShell+Plugin





Jenkins CI Configuration

Install PowerShell plugin

Jenkins	▶ Plugin Manager	
	Plain Credentials Plugin Allows use of plain strings and files as credentials.	<u>1.4</u>
•	PowerShell plugin This plugin allows Jenkins to invoke Windows PowerShell as build scripts.	<u>1.3</u>
	SCM API Plugin This plugin provides a new enhanced API for interacting with SCM systems.	<u>2.2.2</u>

https://wiki.jenkins.io/display/JENKINS/PowerShell+Plugin



Meeting C++

Jenkins CI Configuration

Build

Add build step 🔻

Advanced Installer

Build a Visual Studio project or solution using MSBuild

Execute Windows batch command

Execute shell

Execute shell script on remote host using ssh

Inject environment variables

Invoke Ant

Invoke top-level Maven targets

Set build status to "pending" on GitHub commit

Windows PowerShell

[ArtifactDeployer] - Deploy the artifacts from build workspace to remote locations

 Create a new job just for clang builds

or

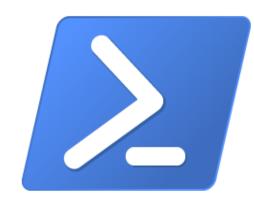
 Attach a new build step on an existing job







Jenkins CI Configuration



Reference PowerShell script from the job working directory.

Both the bootstrapper PS script (eg. ai-clang-build.ps1) and the main PS script (clang-build.ps1) should be in the same directory.



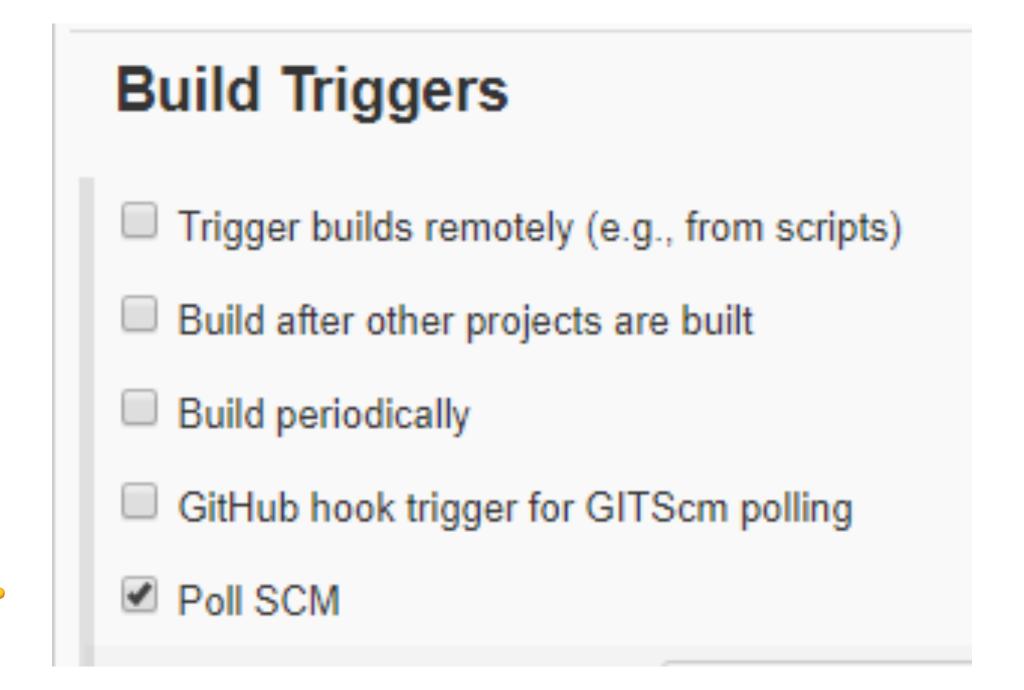


Meeting C++

Jenkins CI Configuration



If you configured Clang build as a new Jenkins job, a good workflow is to track and build any SCM changes:





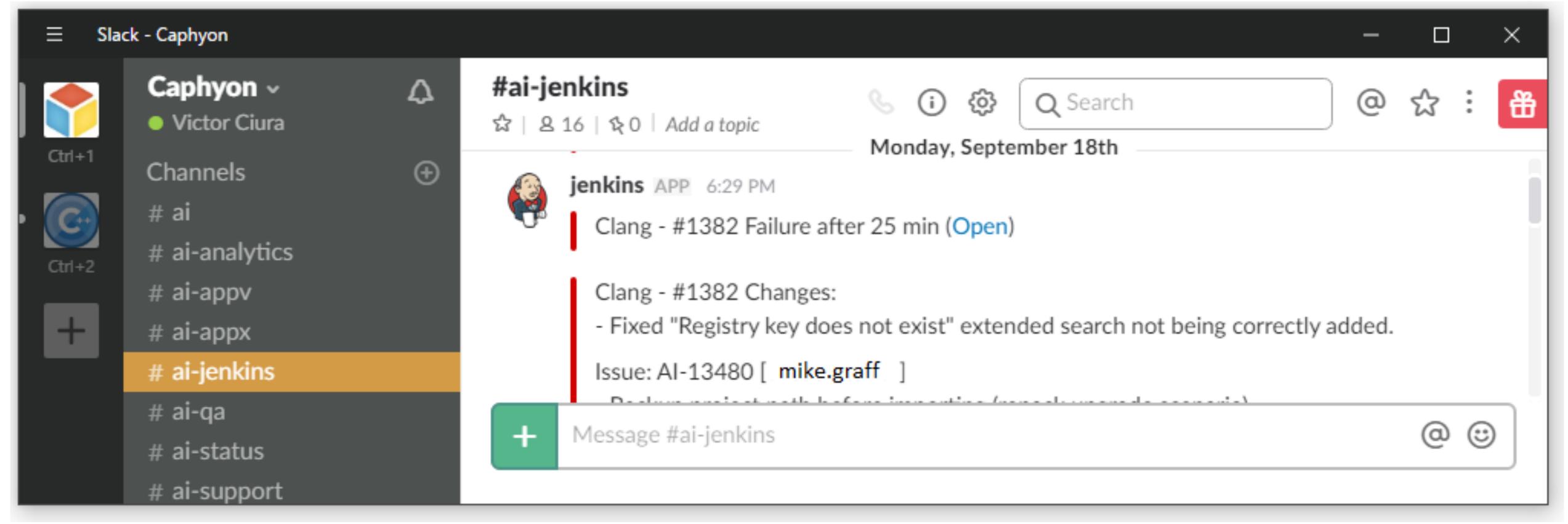




Jenkins CI Workflow



When Clang build is broken...



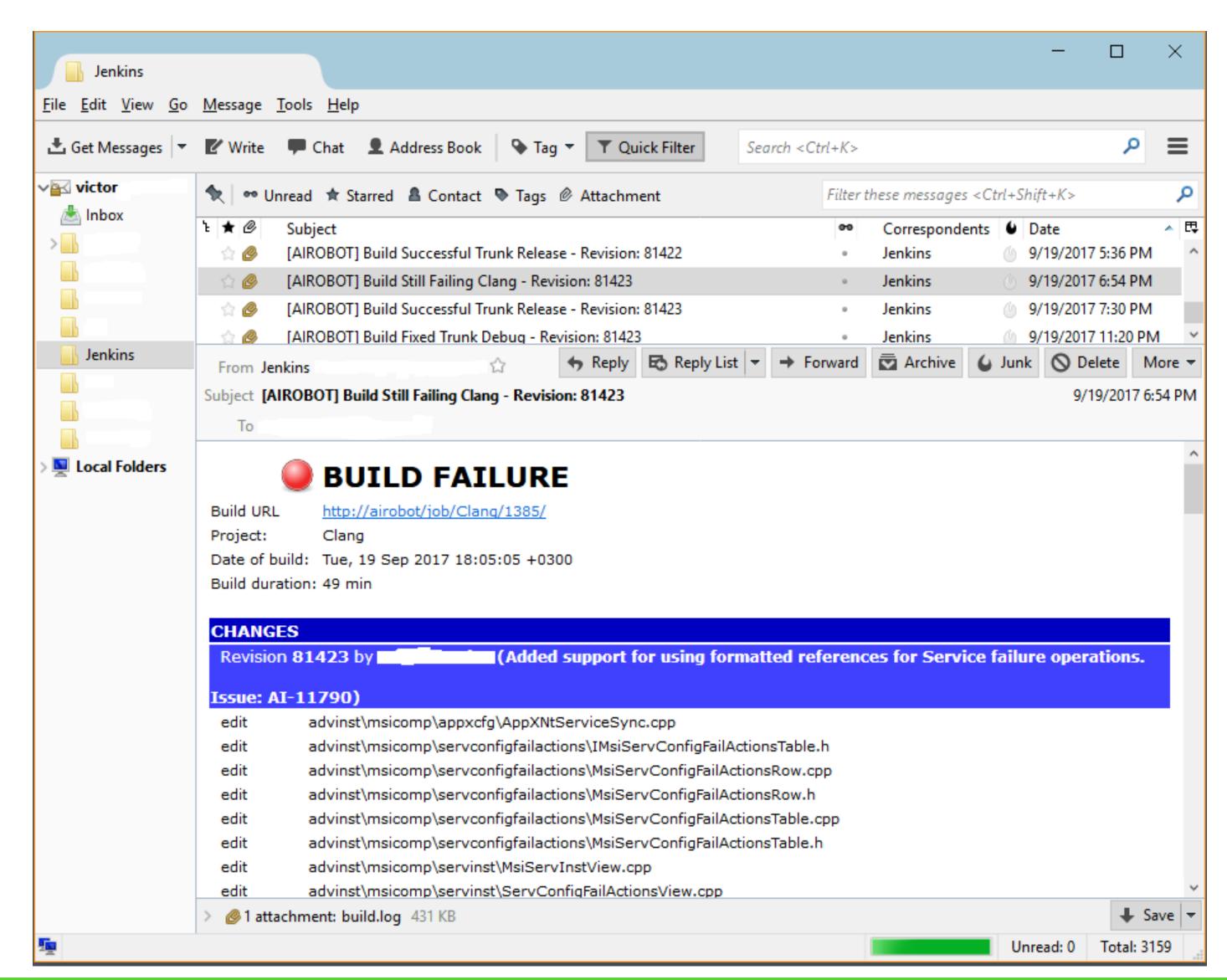
Slack bot alert → #ai-jenkins





Meeting C++

Jenkins CI Workflow



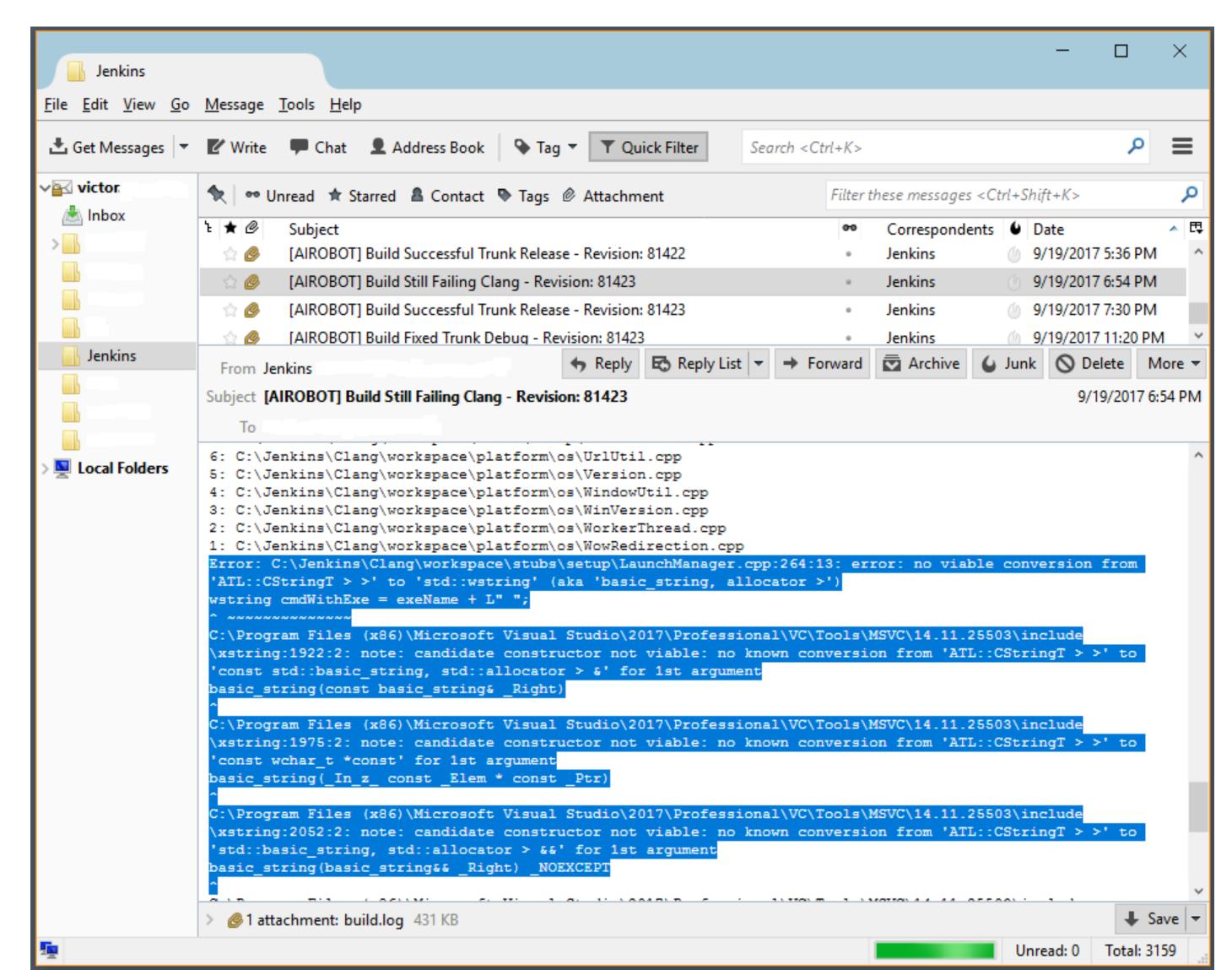


Team devs email alert →



Meeting C++

Jenkins CI Workflow





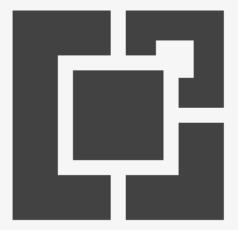
Team devs email alert →

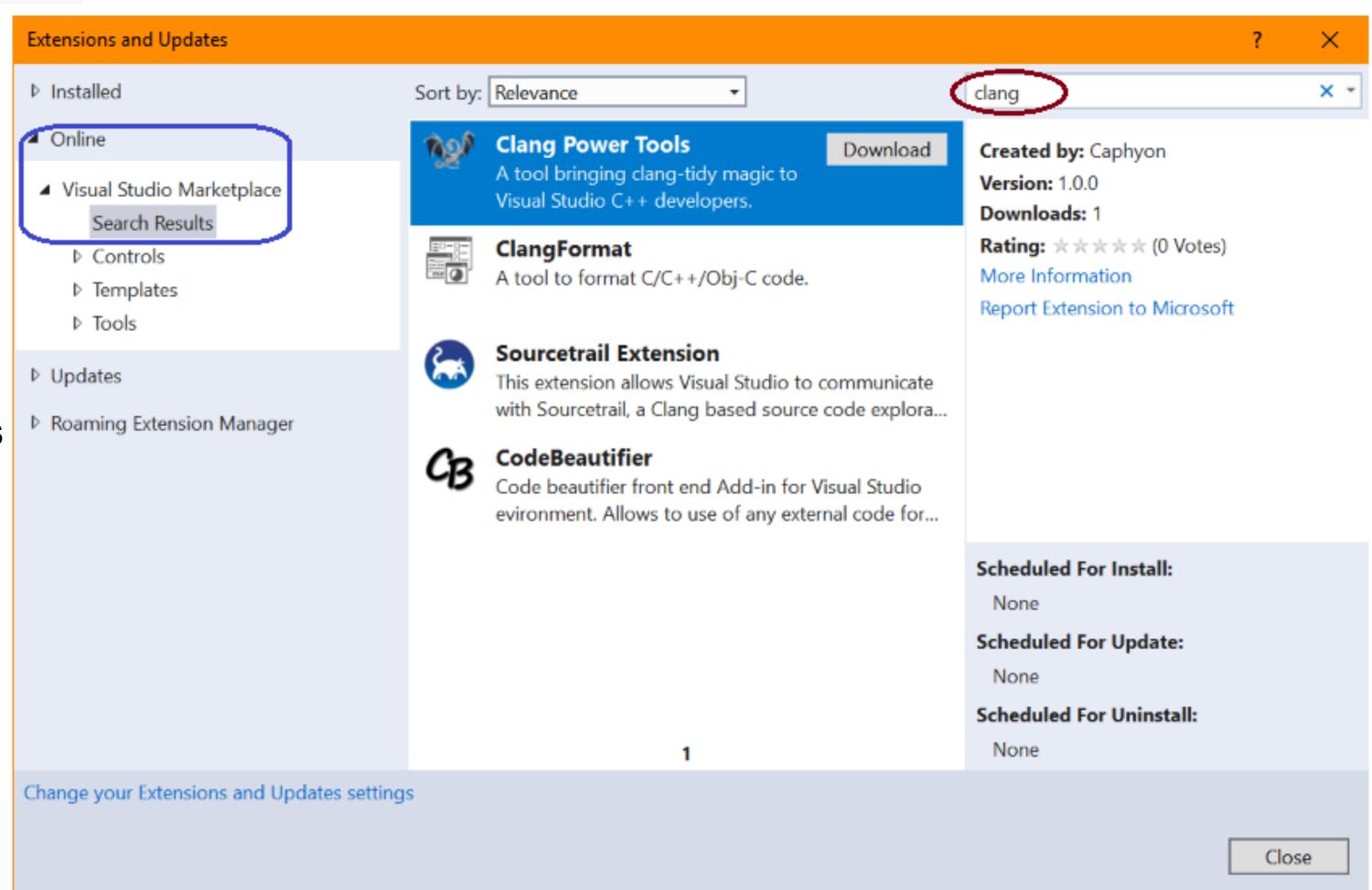


What About Developer Workflow?









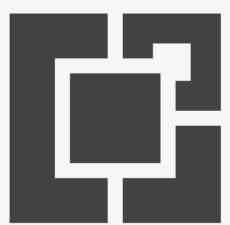
[Tools] ↓

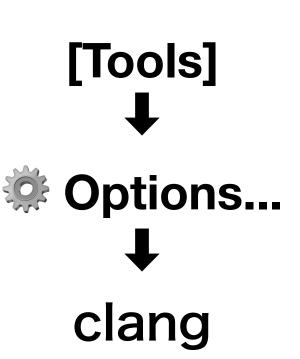
Extensions and updates

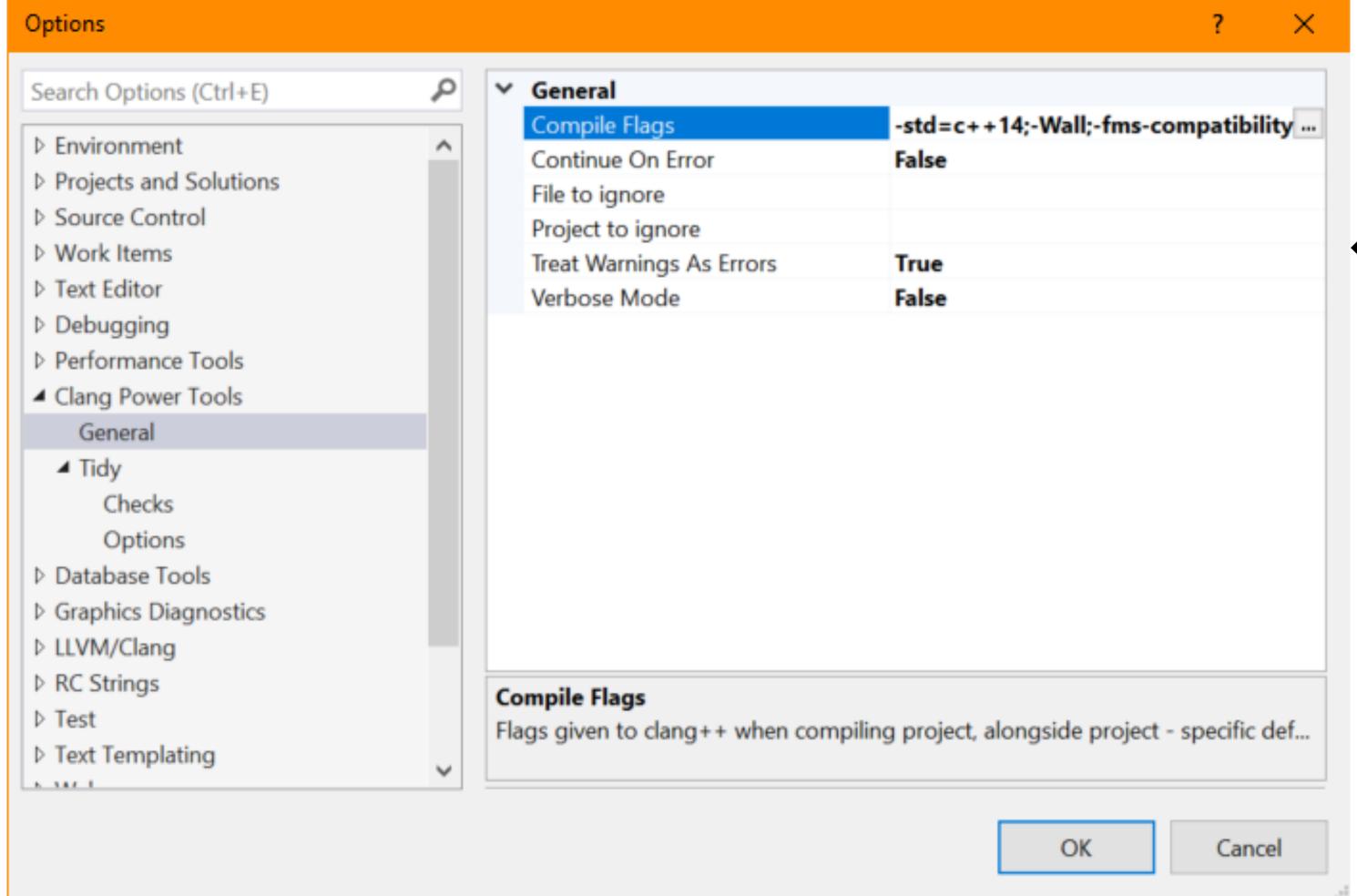
Requires "Clang for Windows" (LLVM pre-built binary) to be installed.

http://releases.llvm.org/5.0.0/LLVM-5.0.0-win64.exe



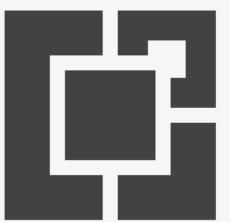




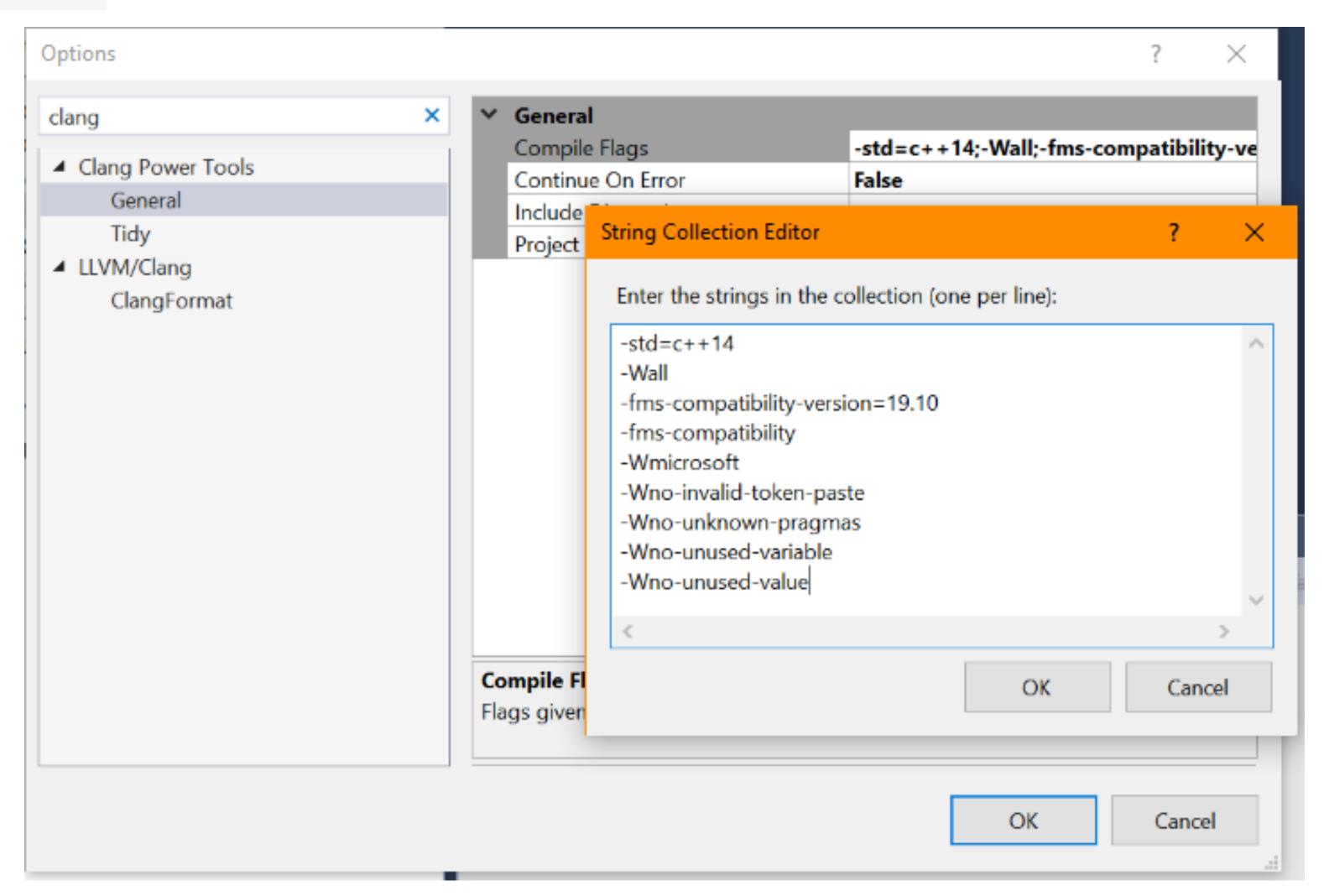


← Compilation settings



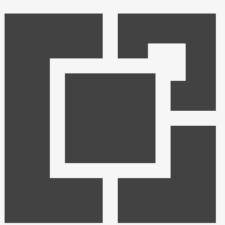


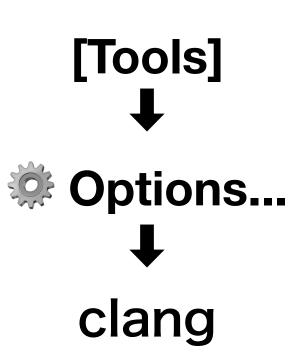
[Tools] Options... clang

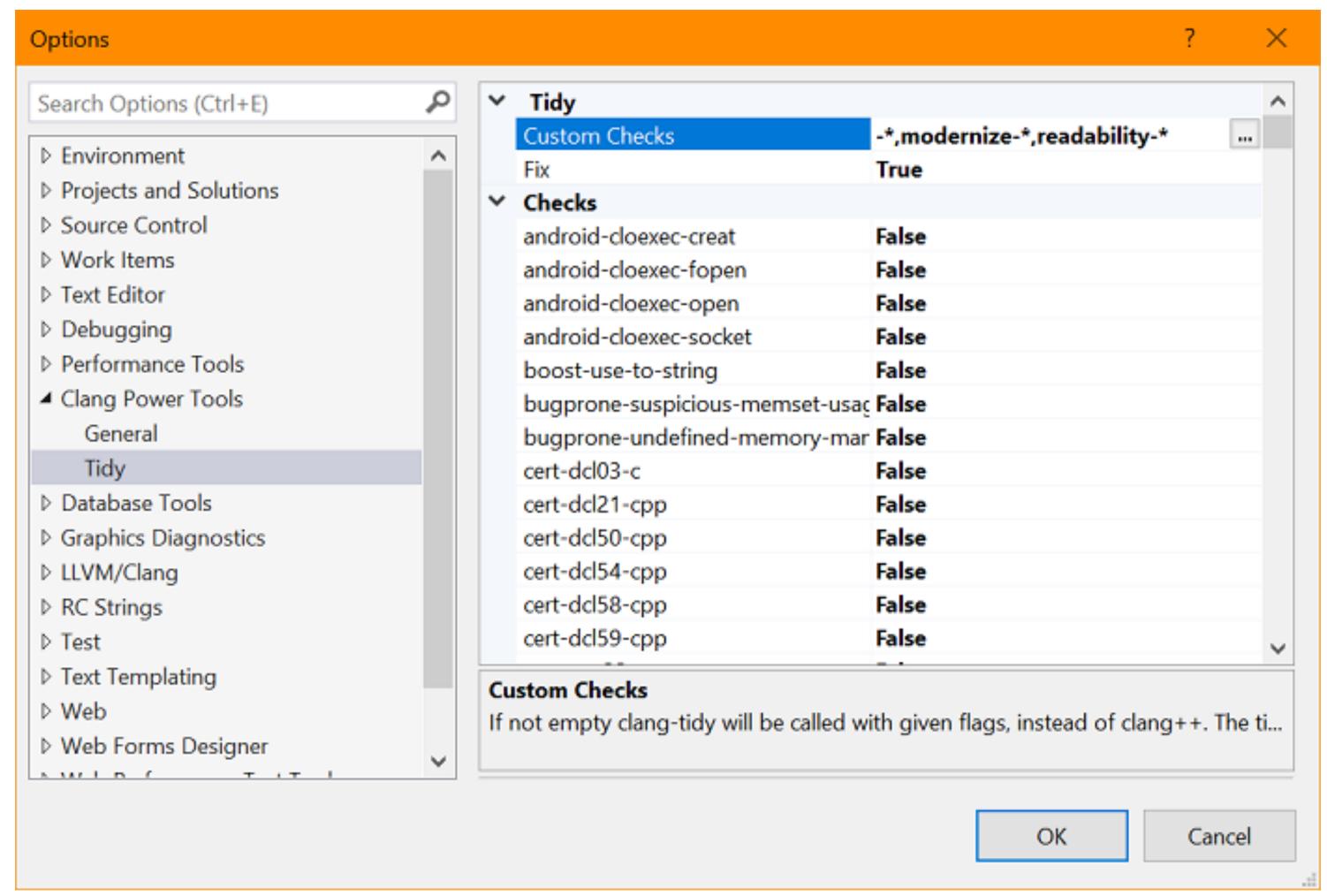


← clang++ flags



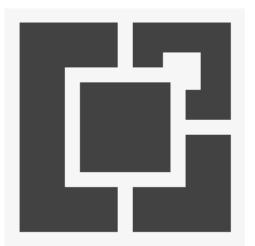


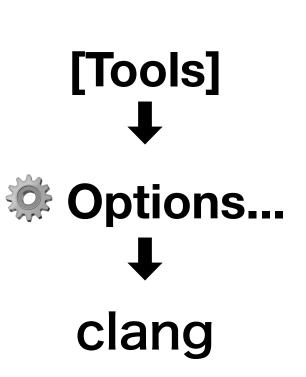


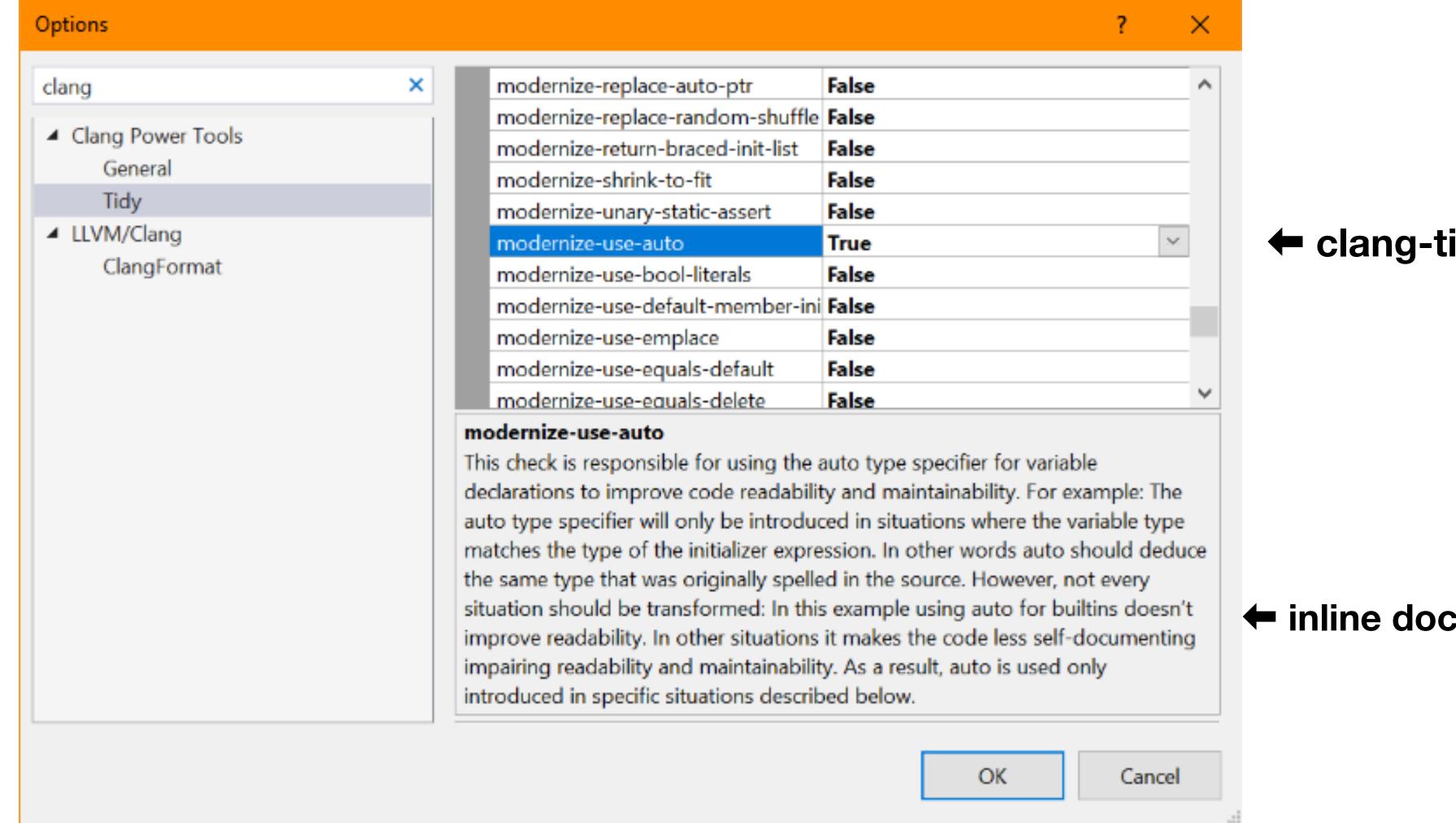


clang-tidy settings





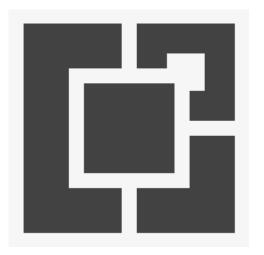




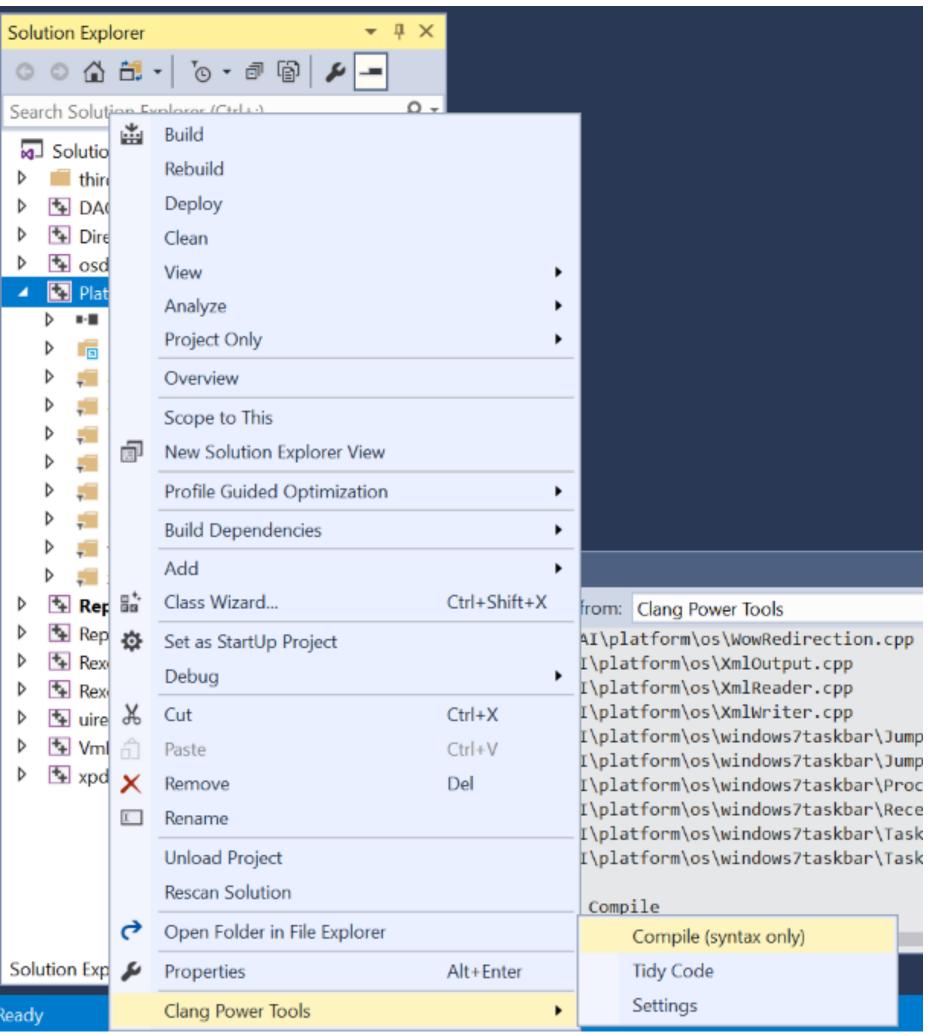
clang-tidy checks

inline documentation





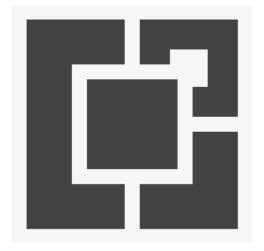
Run Clang Power Tools on a whole project or solution



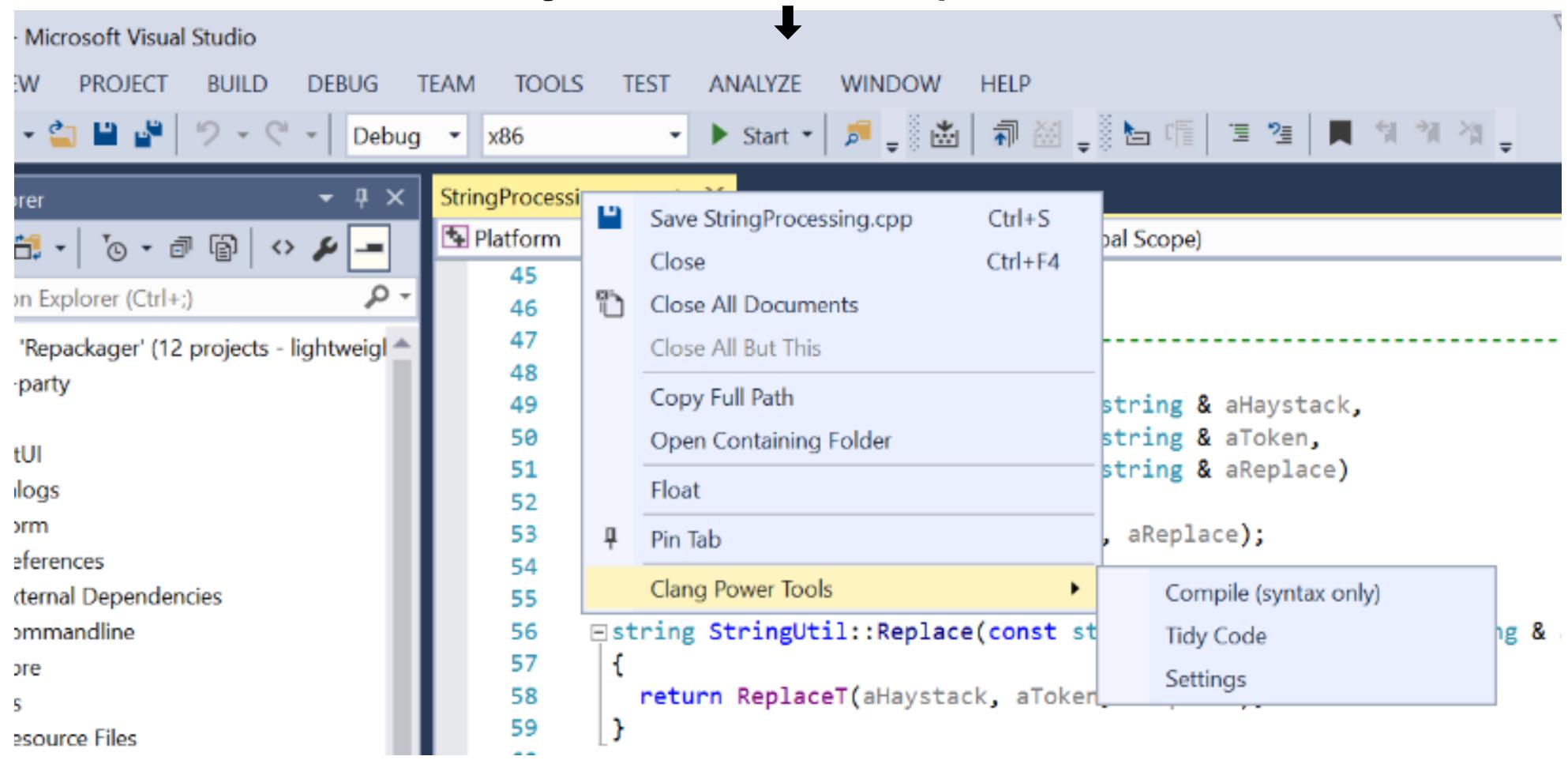
← Compile or Tidy code



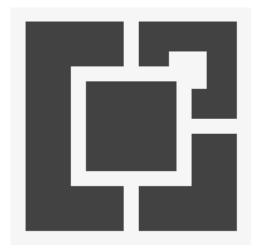




Run Clang Power Tools on an open source file

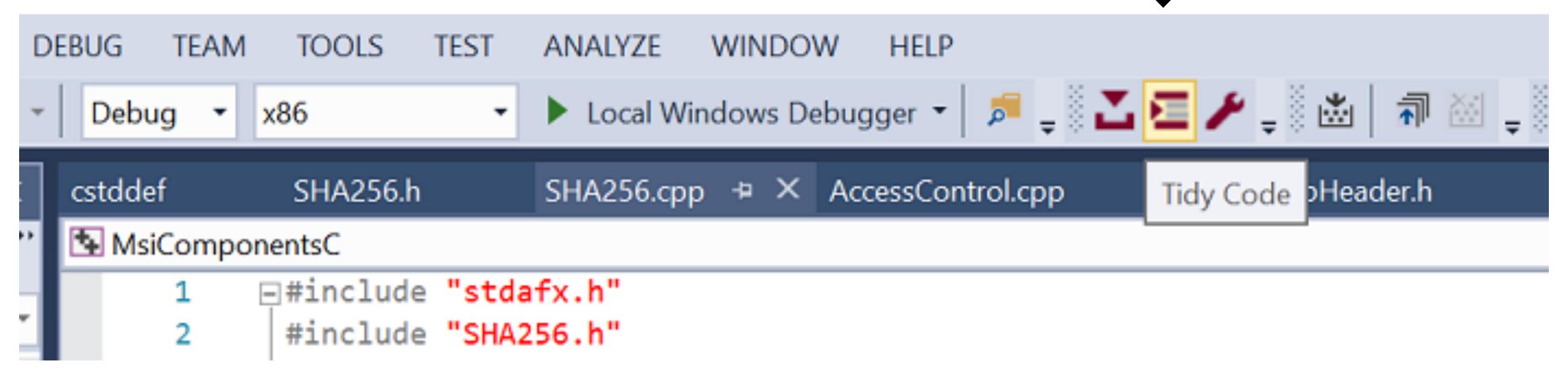




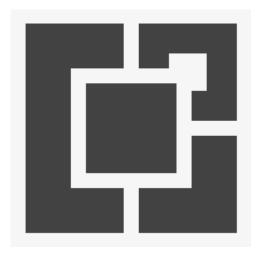


Handy Toolbar

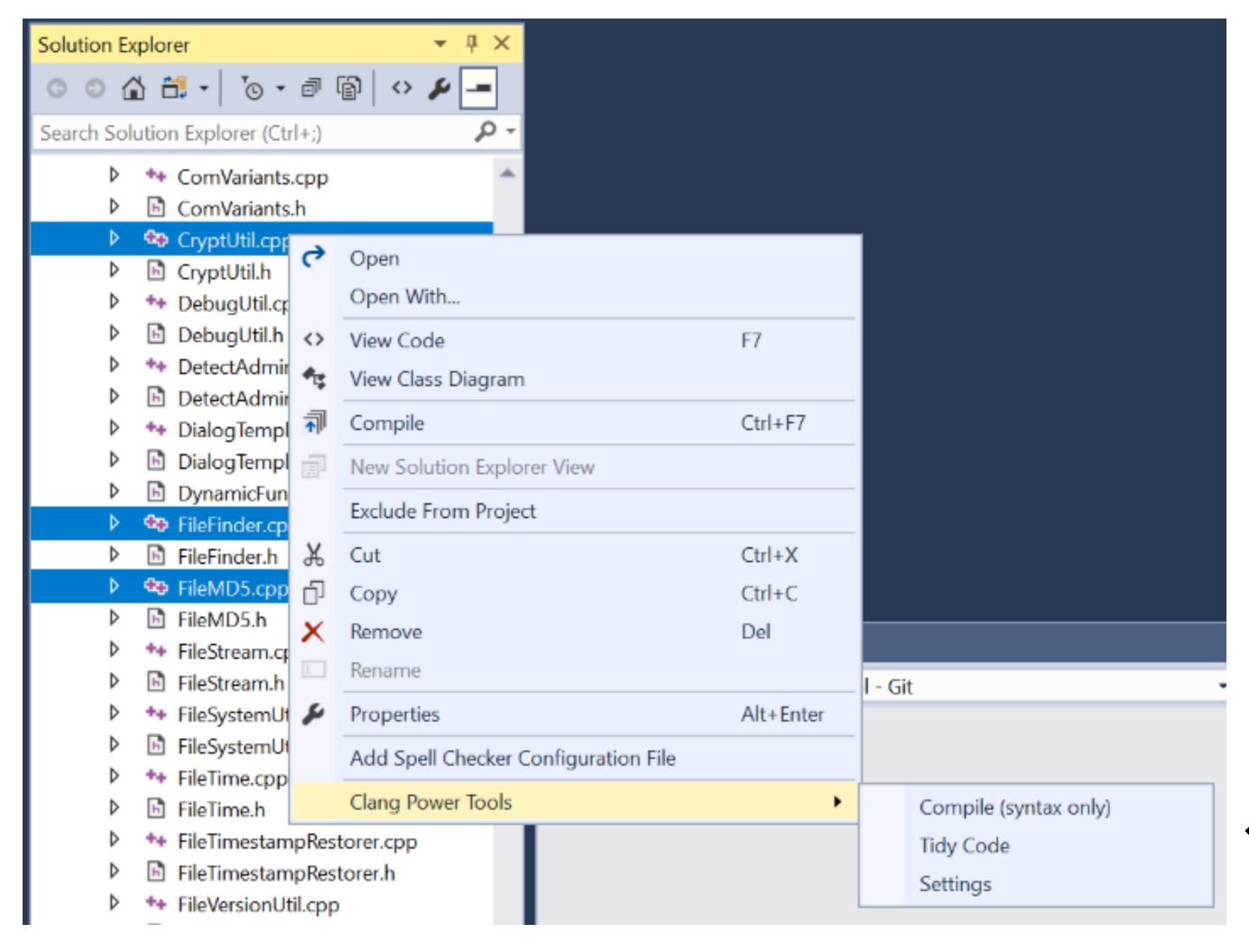
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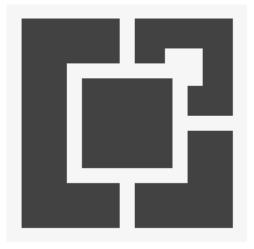


Run Clang Power Tools on selected files



← Compile or Tidy code





```
StringProcessing.cpp 🖈 🗙 StringEncoding.cpp
                                                                                       ▼ SRTL(const wstring & aString)
Platform

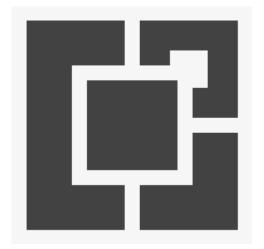
→ StringUtil

               size_t textLength = aString.length();
    499
    500
               CAutoVectorPtr<WORD> charsType;
    501
               charsType.Allocate(textLength);
    502
    503
               Facet facet = DEFAULT_LOCALE;
    504
    505
               // get type of each character from string
    506
               BOOL ret = ::GetStringTypeW(CT_CTYPE2, aString.c_str(), (int)textLength, charsType);
               if (!ret)
    508
                 return false;
    509
    510
               for (size_t i = 0; i < textLength; i++)</pre>
    511
    512
                 // at least one char is RTL so we consider entire string as RTL
    513
                 if (charsType[i] == C2_RIGHTTOLEFT)
    514
                                                                                                                              Output
                                                          - | 월 | 돌 | 폴 | 월
Show output from: Clang Power Tools
 1: C:\JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp
 Error: C:\JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp:504:9: error: no viable conversion from 'const wchar_t [6]' to 'Facet'
   Facet facet = DEFAULT LOCALE;
 C:\JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp
 :344:7: note: candidate constructor (the implicit copy constructor) not viable: no known conversion from 'const wchar_t [6]' to 'cons
   \JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp:344:7: note: candidate constructor (the implicit move constructor) not viable: no
 class Facet
```

← Clang compile error







```
StringProcessing.cpp + X
Platform

→ StringUtil

▼ Ø IsRTL(const wstring & aString)
               // get type of each character from string
    491
               BOOL ret = ::GetStringTypeW(CT_CTYPE2, aString.c_str(), (int)textLength, charsType);
    492
    493
               if (!ret)
    494
                 return false;
    495
    496
               for (size_t i = 0; i < textLength; i++)</pre>
    497
    498
                 // at least one char is RTL so we consider entire string as RTL
    499
                 if (charsType[i] == C2_RIGHTTOLEFT)
    500
    501
                    return true;
Output
Show output from: Clang Power Tools
    \JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp:500:9: warning: Array access results in a null pointer dereference [clang-analyzer-core.N 🔺
     if (charsType[i] == C2_RIGHTTOLEFT)
 C:\JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp:494:7: note: Assuming 'ret' is not equal to 0
   if (!ret)
 C:\JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp:494:3: note: Taking false branch
   if (!ret)
 C:\JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp:497:22: note: Assuming 'i' is < 'textLength'
   for (size t i = 0; i < textLength; i++)
 C:\JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp:497:3: note: Loop condition is true. Entering loop body
   for (size t i = 0; i < textLength; i++)
 C:\JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp:500:9: note: Array access results in a null pointer dereference
     if (charsType[i] == C2 RIGHTTOLEFT)
 Suppressed
Error List Output Find Symbol Results
```

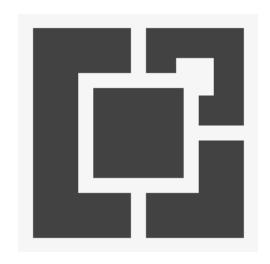
clang-tidy : analyzer report



Eg.
[clang-analyzer-core.NullDereference]



Where Can I Get It?



(Free)

Extension for Visual Studio 2015/2017 www.clangpowertools.com

Clang Power Tools

marketplace.visualstudio.com



PowerShell scripts:

sample-clang-build.ps1 => clang-build.ps1

https://github.com/Caphyon/clang-power-tools/blob/master/ClangPowerTools/ClangPowerTools/clang-build.ps1

https://github.com/Caphyon/clang-power-tools/blob/master/ClangPowerTools/ClangPowerTools/sample-clang-build.ps1





https://github.com/Caphyon/clang-power-tools

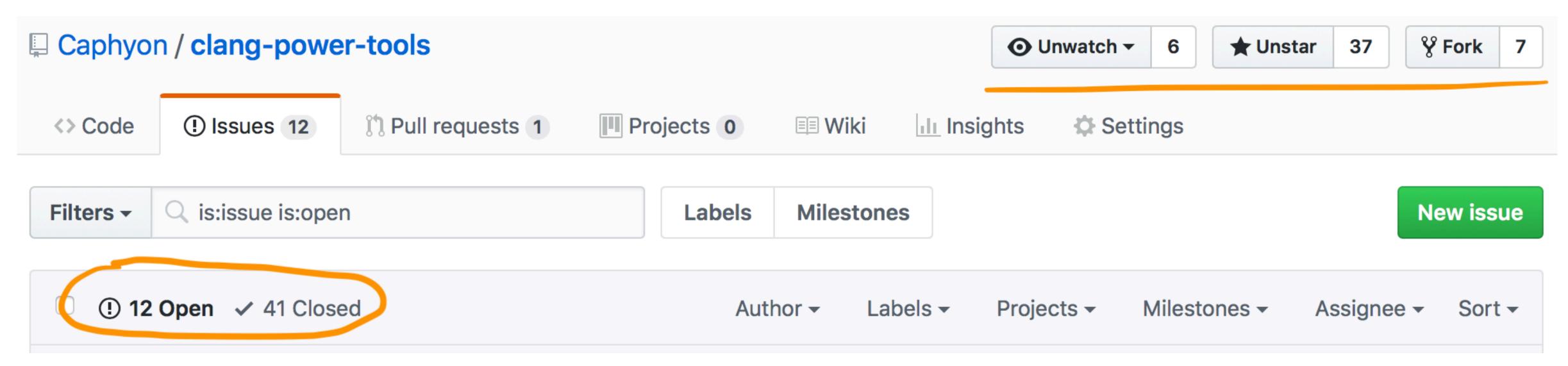
- submit issues/bugs
- give us feedback
- make pull requests
- suggest new features and improvements



www.clangpowertools.com









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Beyond clang-tidy



LibTooling

- we wrote custom tools for our needs (project specific)
- fixed hundreds of member initializer lists with wrong order [-Wreorder]
- removed unused class private fields (references, pointers) [-Wunused-private-field]
- refactored some heavily used class constructors (changed mechanism for acquiring dependencies - interface refs)
- even more on the way...

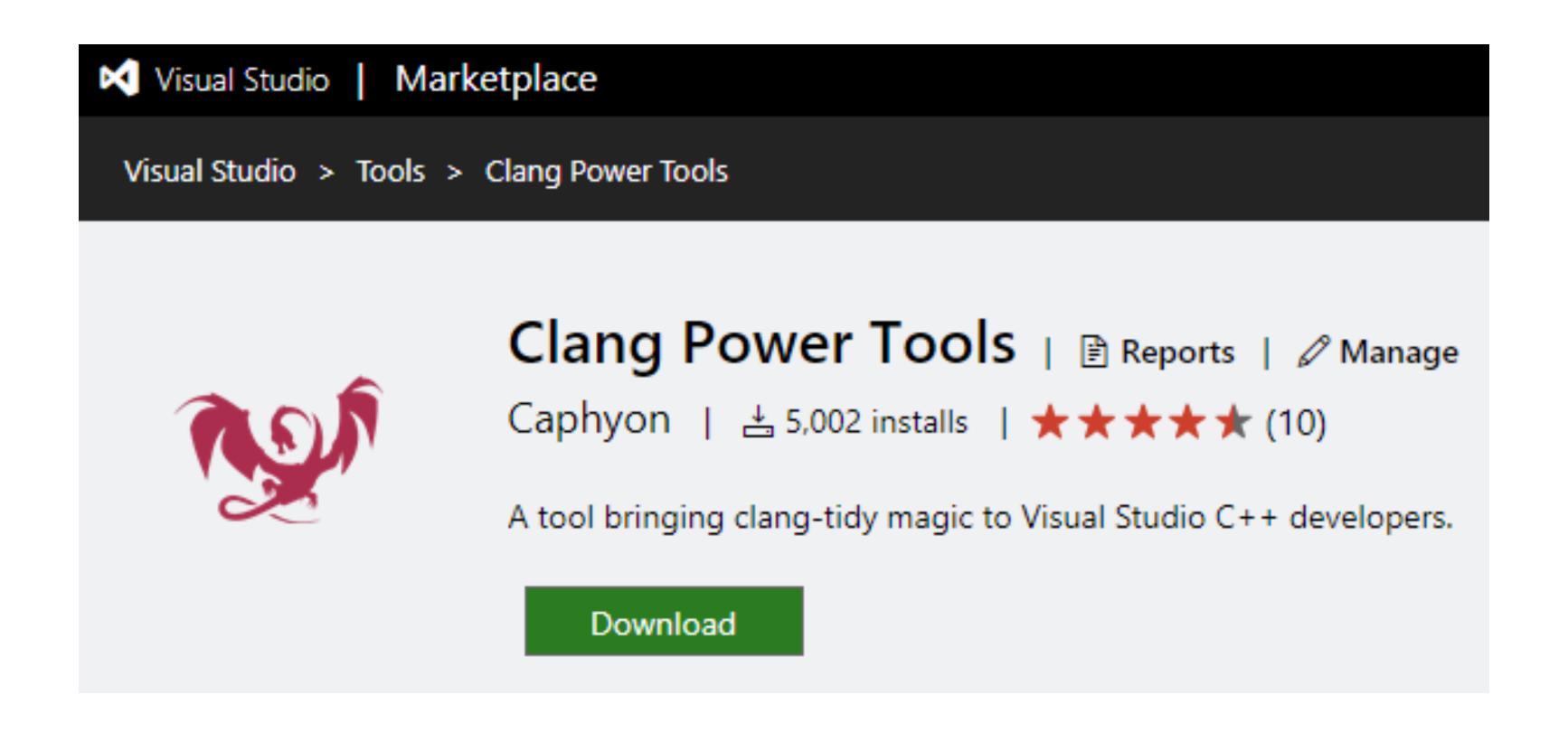




- -Wextra (a few remaining issues in our code)
- improve Clang Power Tools Visual Studio extension
- run more clang-tidy checks (fix more issues with clang-analyzer-*)
- re-run previous checks (for new code)
- use libTooling for more custom code transformations (project-specific)







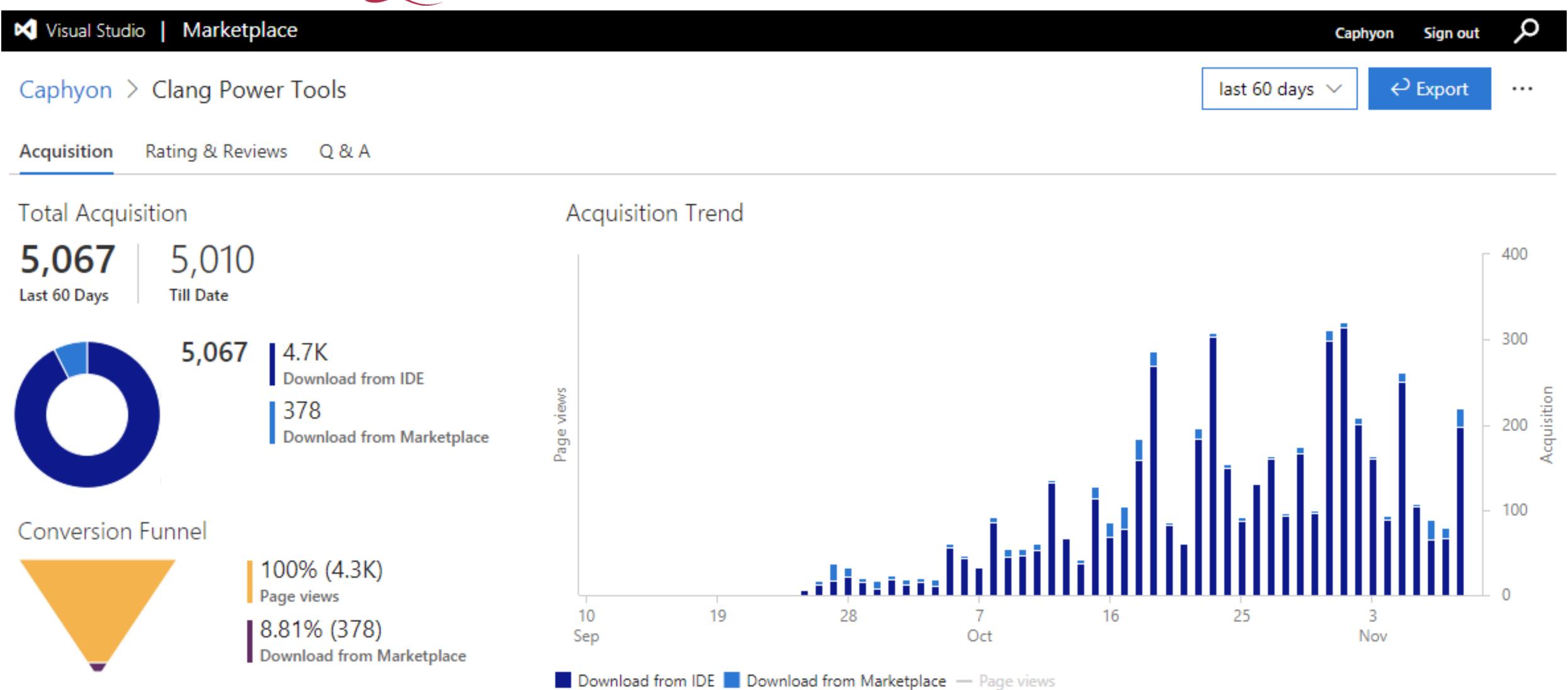
Thank you to all early users for great feedback and bug reports!





44 days and counting...







Questions



