

Coroutines in the C++

Why and How?

Dawid Pilarski

dawid.pilarski@panicsoftware.com

blog.panicsoftware.com

dawid.pilarski@tomtom.com

Introduction

Agenda

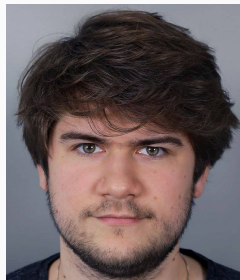
Questions...

Ask questions any time.
Don't be afraid to interrupt me :)

Who am I?

Dawid Pilarski

- Senior Software Developer in TomTom
- Member of the ISO/JTC1/SC22/WG21
- Member of the PKN KT (programming languages)
- C++ blog writer



Why do we need coroutines?

What are the coroutines?

Subroutine Is a sequence of program instructions that performs a specific task, packaged as a unit.

Function Is a subroutine

Coroutine Is generalization of the function.

What are the coroutines?

Function can be:

- called
- returned from
- suspended

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- **suspended**

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Coroutine can be:

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- returned from
- suspended
- resumed from
- created

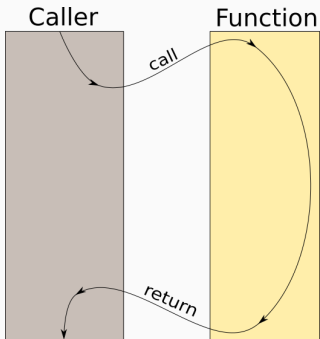
What are the coroutines?

Coroutine can be:

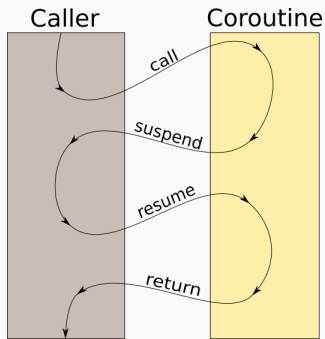
- called
- returned from
- suspended
- resumed from
- created
- destroyed

Coroutine flowchart

Function's flow:



Coroutine flow:

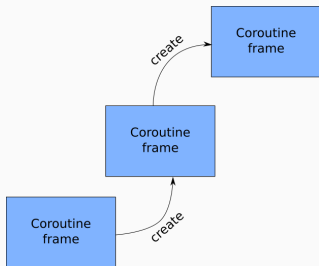


Coroutines use cases

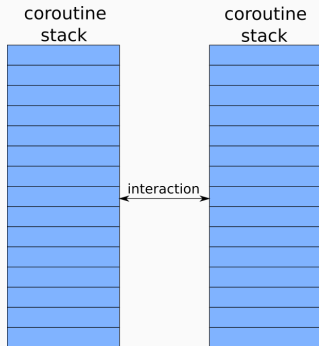
Why do we need language
support for the coroutines

C++ coroutines vs library coroutines

Language based



Library based



C++ vs library - summary

- Need to allocate the stack for the Fiber/Coroutine

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- One allocation per whole stack.

C++ vs library - summary

Boost.Fiber

- Need to allocate **the stack** for the Fiber/Coroutine
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built-in coroutines

- Need to allocate **the frame** for the Coroutine

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- Need to allocate **the frame** for the Coroutine
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- **One** allocation per whole stack.

built-in coroutines

- Need to allocate **the frame** for the Coroutine
- Can be suspended only from the **top level function**
- **Minimal** memory allocations
- **Multiple** allocations

How to implement your own coroutine types?

What's the issue?

Creating custom coroutine type is not easy:

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- Implementation of the `co_await` keyword (~3 functions)

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This means:

- Implementation of `promise_type` (~6 functions)
- Implementation of the `co_await` keyword (~3 functions)

You need to remember to implement on average **9 functions**.

Coroutine declaration

```
// returned-type    name        arguments  
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- Whether the function is a coroutine depends on *it's definition*.
- If function is a coroutine it's *return type must support coroutines*.

Promise_type

Type supports coroutines if it has `promise_type`.

`promise_type` can be:

- member of the class
- specialization of the `coroutine_traits<returned_type>`

Keywords

Thank you for attention

Recommended further readings

Questions?

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