Equivalence in cross-compilation compiler warnings

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Cross-compilation?

"A cross compiler is a compiler capable of creating executable code for a platform other than the one on which the compiler is running".

Not that

"Equivalence in cross-platform compiler warnings"?

Basically:

- We have a large (legacy) codebase.
- Used to build many different products.
- Build for both Windows and Linux.
- How can we make sure that code that compiles for one platform also compiles for the other?

Compiler flags

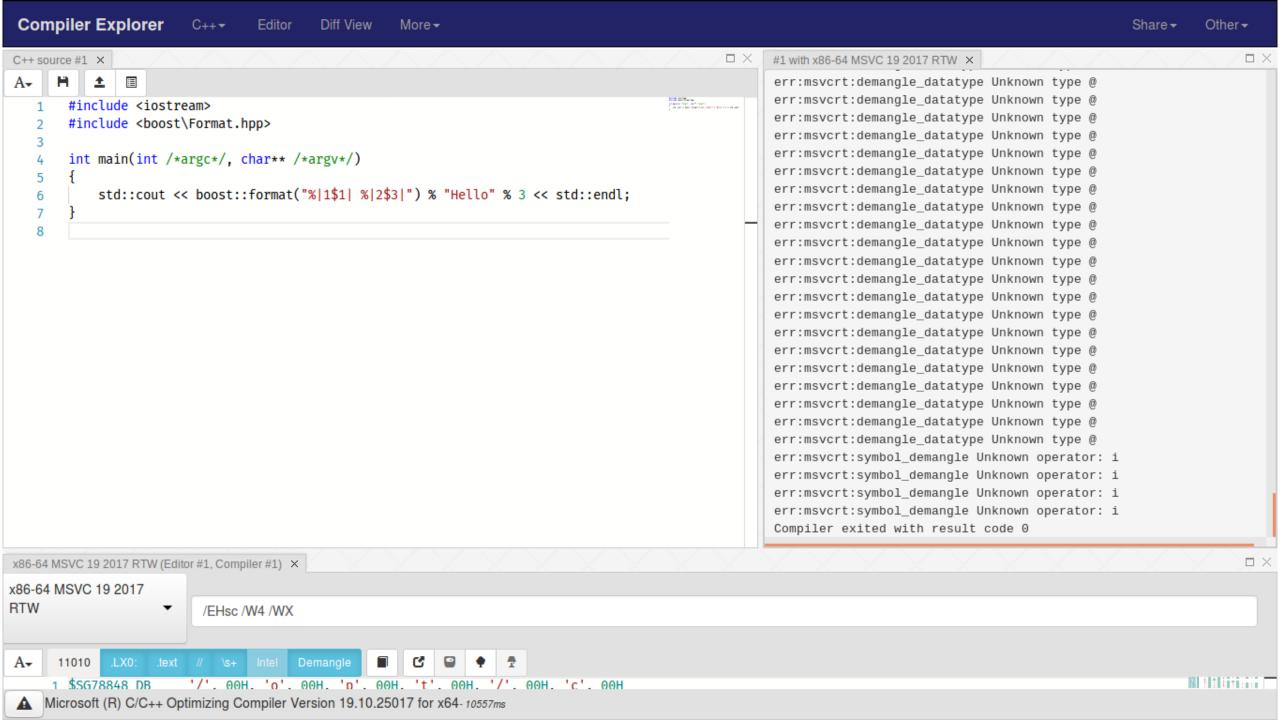
- MSVC (Visual Studio) for Windows
 - /W4 Level 4
 - /WX Treat warnings as errors
 - Also:
 - /permissive- https://blogs.msdn.microsoft.com/vcblog/2016/11/16/permissive-switch/
- GCC for Linux
 - -Wall All (for some previously defined value of all).
 - -Wextra Extra
 - -Wconversion Warn for implicit conversions that may alter a value.
 - -Werror Treat warnings as errors.
 - Also:
 - -Wpedantic Warnings demanded by strict ISO C++
 - https://kristerw.blogspot.co.nz/2017/09/useful-gcc-warning-options-not-enabled.html

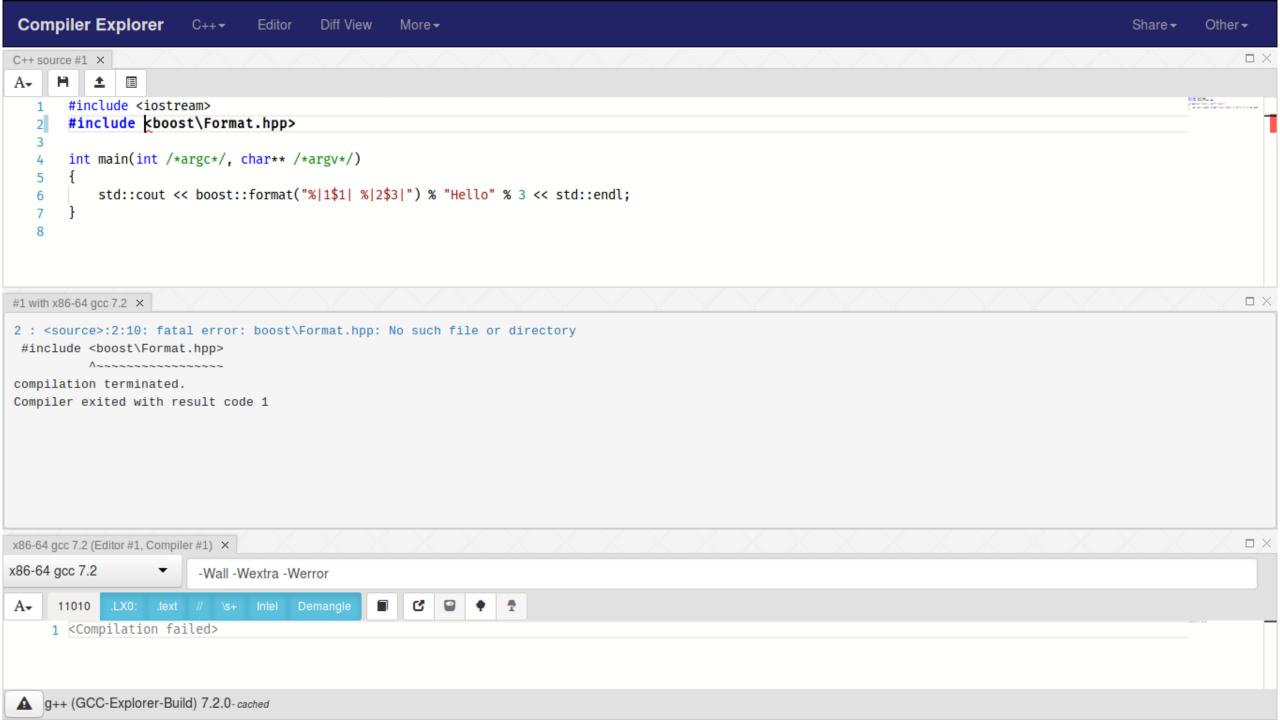
Other MSVC flags – disable

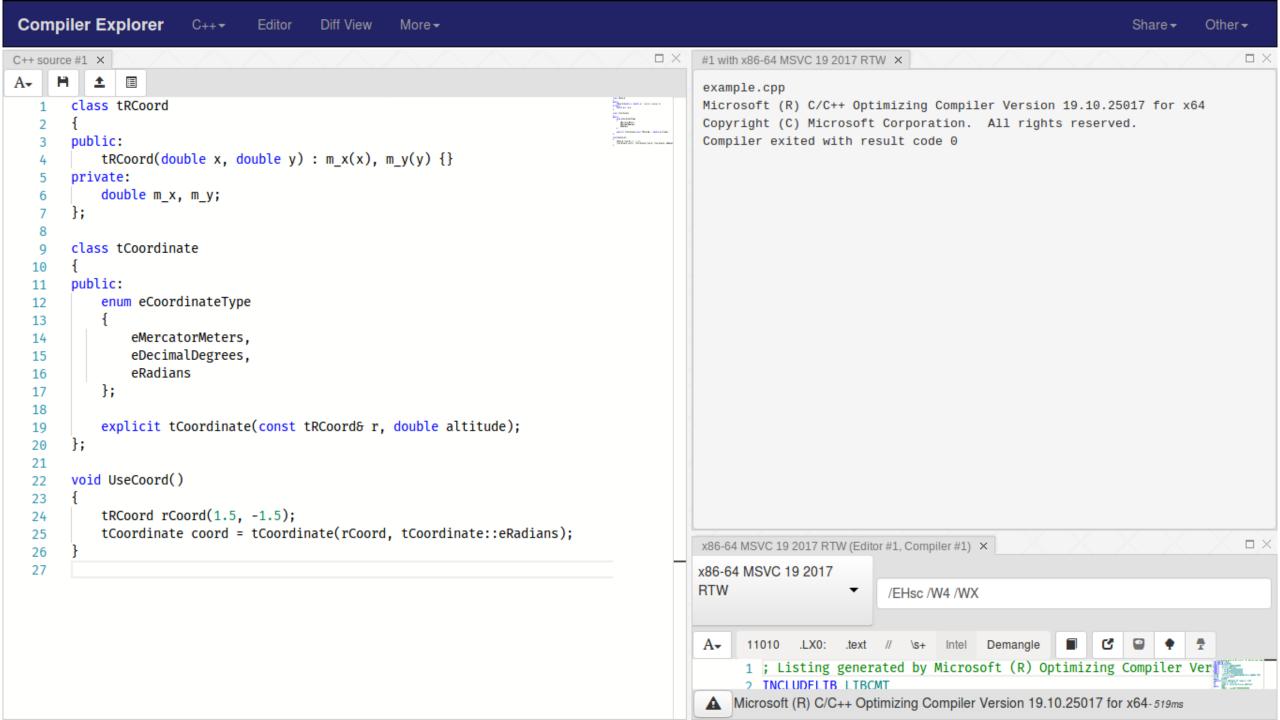
Flag	Description
<u>/wd4127</u>	C4127 conditional expression is constant
<u>/wd4221</u>	C4221 nonstandard extension used : 'identifier' : cannot be initialized using address of automatic variable
<u>/wd4251</u>	C4251 'identifier': class 'type' needs to have dll-interface to be used by clients of class 'type2'
<u>/wd4265</u>	C4265 'class' : class has virtual functions, but destructor is not virtual
<u>/wd4351</u>	C4351 new behavior: elements of array 'array' will be default initialized
<u>/wd4373</u>	C4373 '%\$S': virtual function overrides '%\$pS', previous versions of the compiler did not override when parameters only differed by const/volatile qualifiers
<u>/wd4718</u>	C4718 'function call' : recursive call has no side effects, deleting
<u>/wd4996</u>	C4996 The compiler encountered a deprecated declaration.

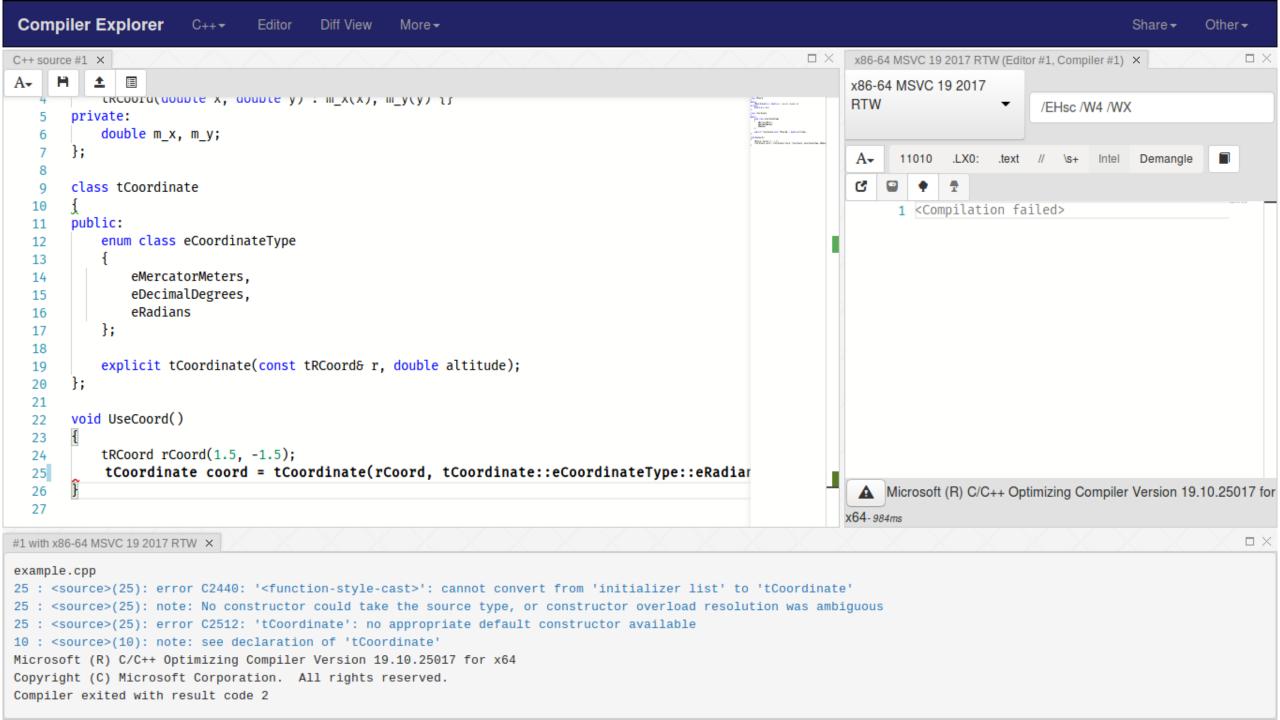
Other MSVC flags — enable

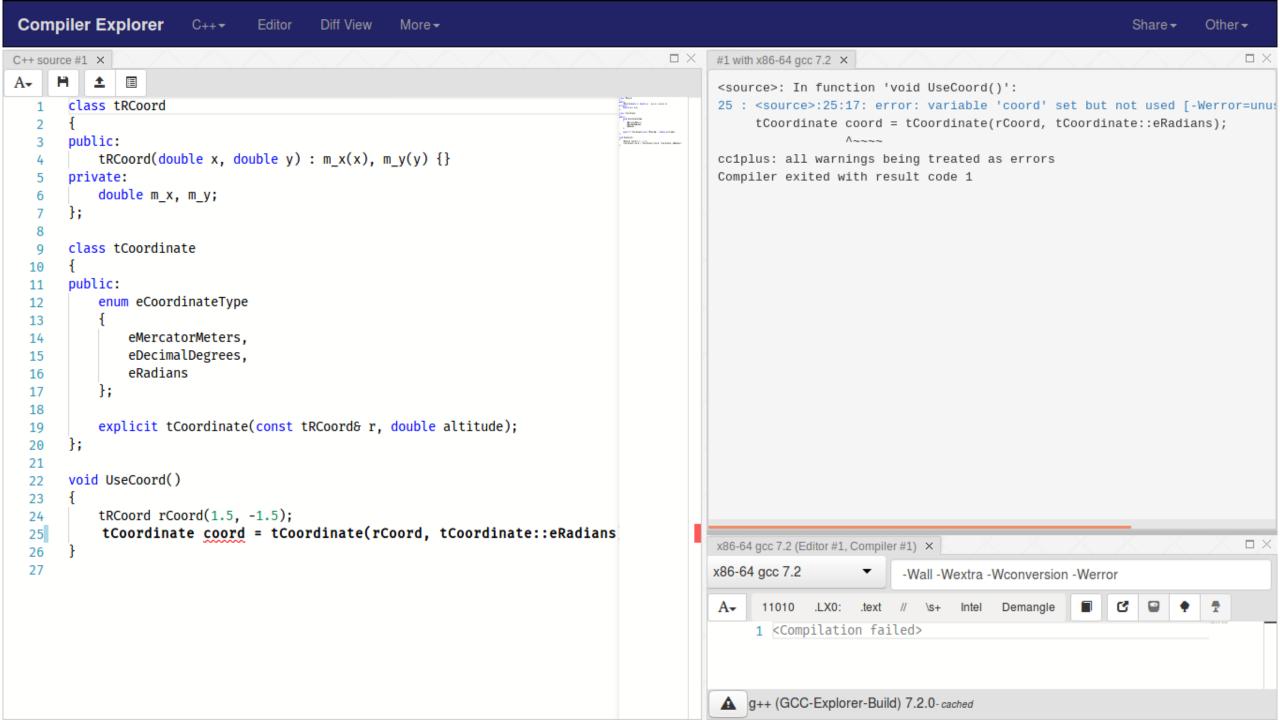
Flag	Description
<u>/w14062</u>	C4062 enumerator 'identifier' in switch of enum 'enumeration' is not handled
<u>/w14191</u>	C4191 'operator/operation' : unsafe conversion from 'type of expression' to 'type required'
<u>/w14242</u>	C4242 'identifier' : conversion from 'type1' to 'type2', possible loss of data
<u>/w14244</u>	C4244 'conversion' conversion from 'type1' to 'type2', possible loss of data
<u>/w14254</u>	C4254 'operator' : conversion from 'type1' to 'type2', possible loss of data
<u>/w14296</u>	C4296 'identifier': 'const' automatic data initialized with compiler generated default constructor produces unreliable results
<u>/w14302</u>	C4302 'conversion' : truncation from 'type 1' to 'type 2'
<u>/w14311</u>	C4311 'variable' : pointer truncation from 'type' to 'type'
<u>/w14355</u>	C4355 'this' : used in base member initializer list
<u>/w14388</u>	C14388 signed/unsigned mismatch
<u>/w14431</u>	C4431 missing type specifier - int assumed. Note: C no longer supports default-int
<u>/w14623</u>	C4623 'derived class' : default constructor was implicitly defined as deleted because a base class default constructor is inaccessible or deleted
<u>/w14263</u>	C4263 'function': member function does not override any base class virtual member function
<u>/w14264</u>	C4264 'virtual_function': no override available for virtual member function from base 'class'; function is hidden
<u>/w14266</u>	C4266 'function': no override available for virtual member function from base 'type'; function is hidden
/w14928	C4928 illegal copy-initialization; more than one user-defined conversion has been implicitly applied

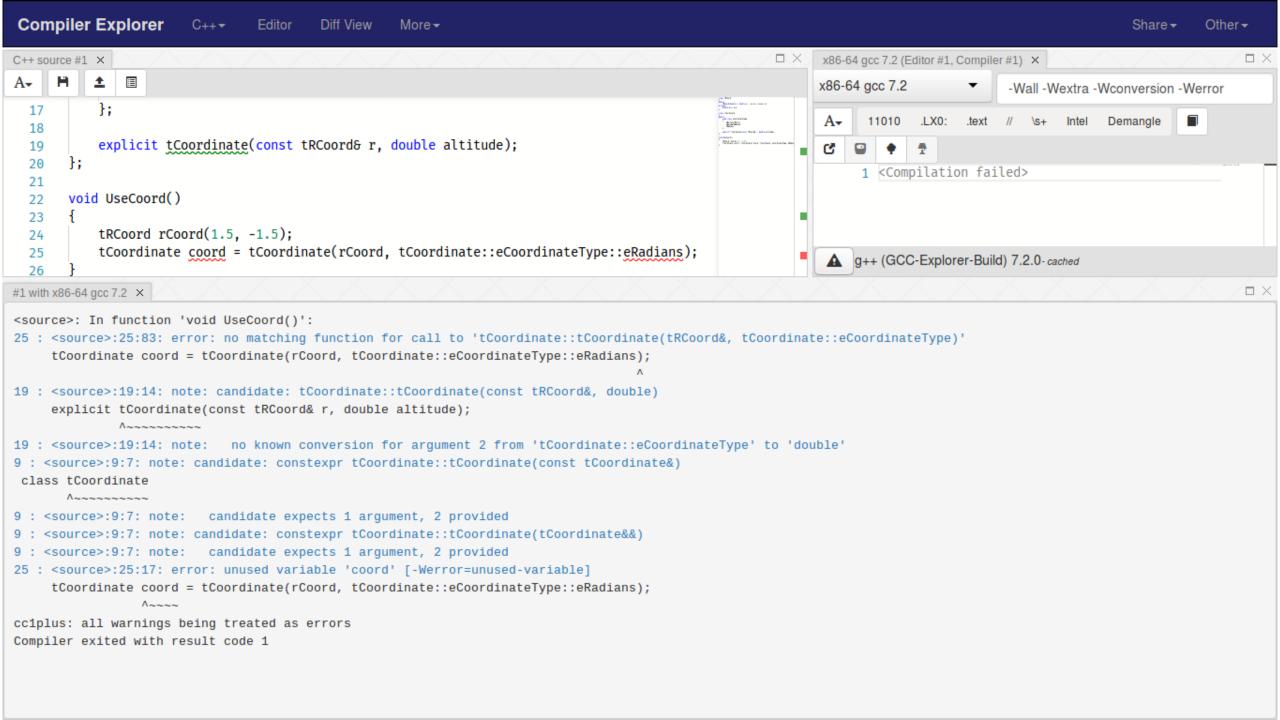


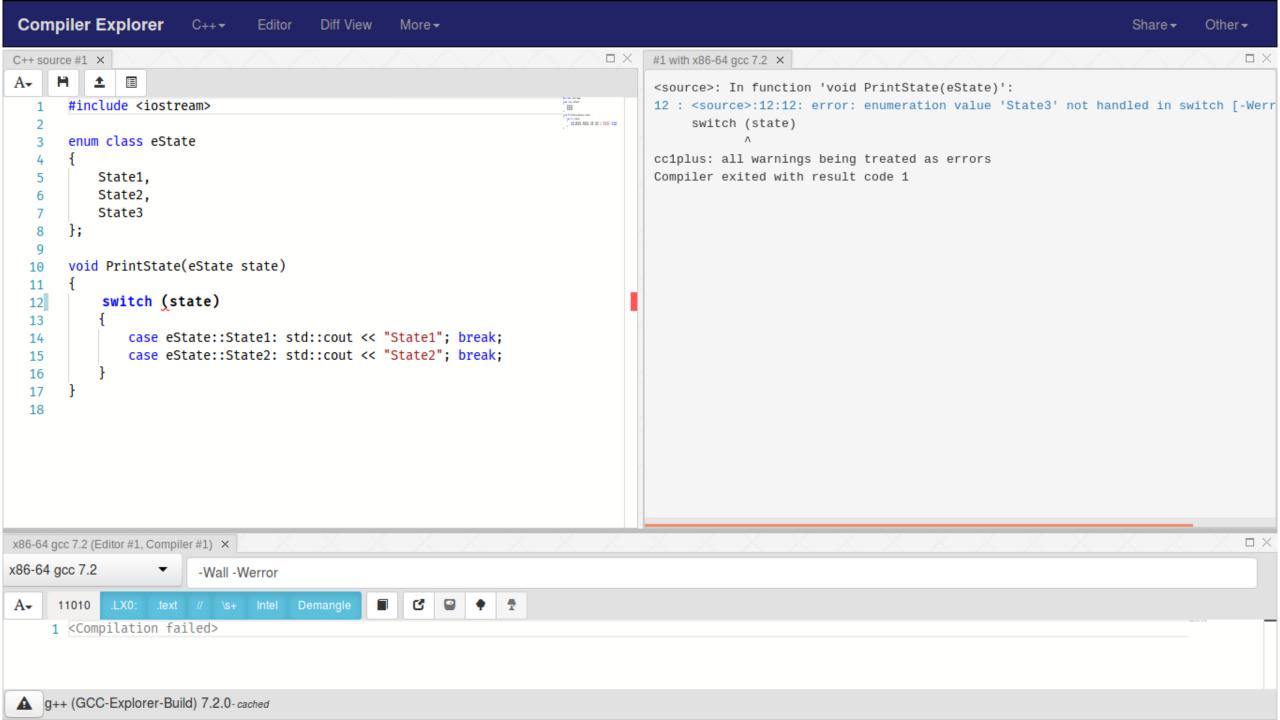


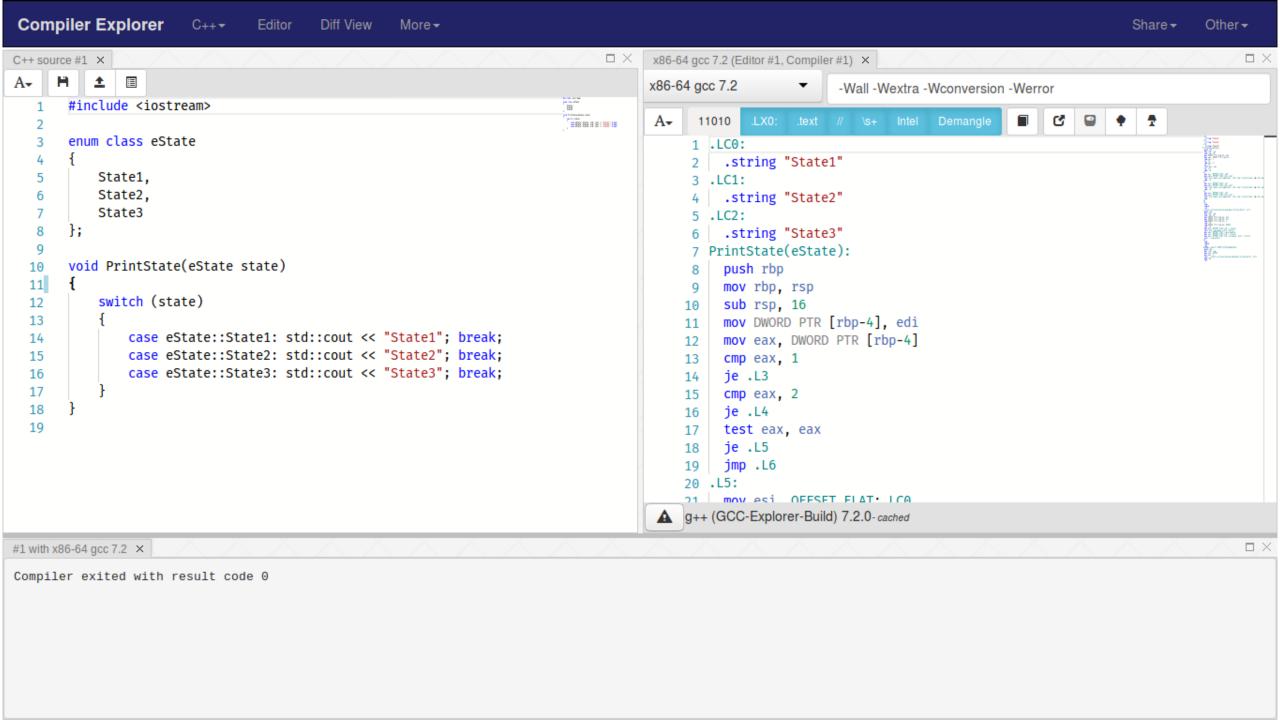


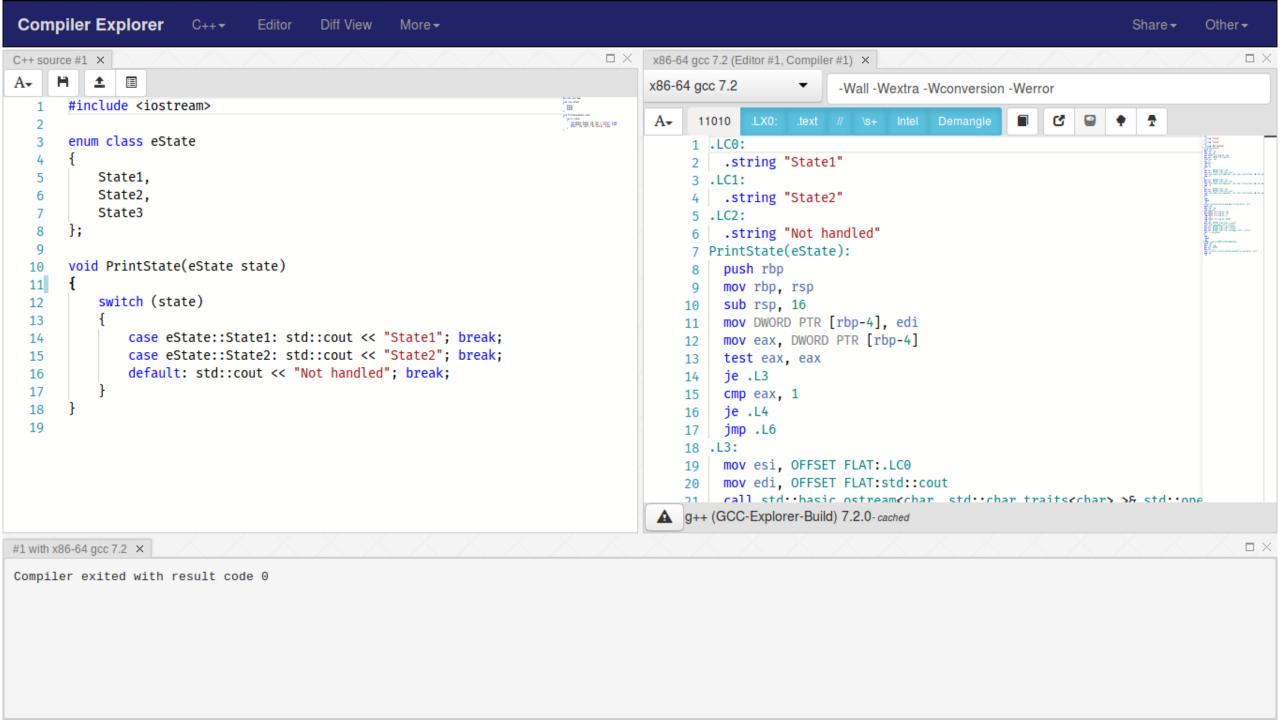


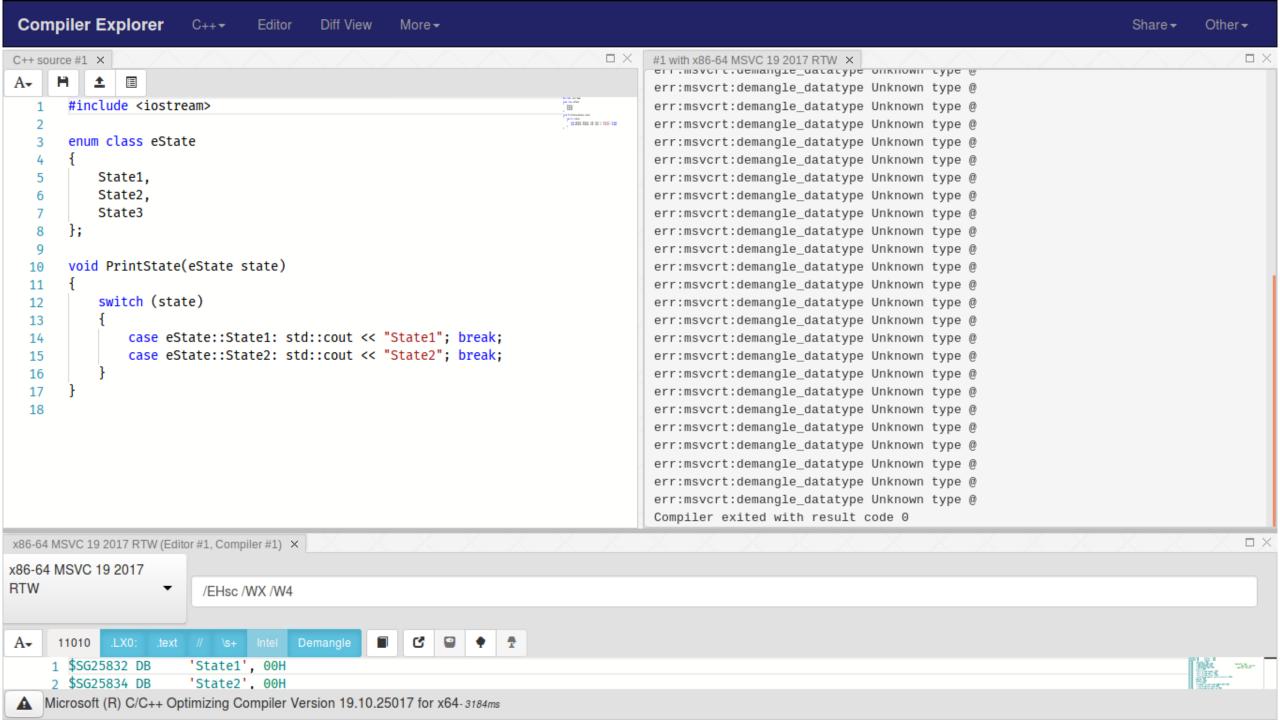


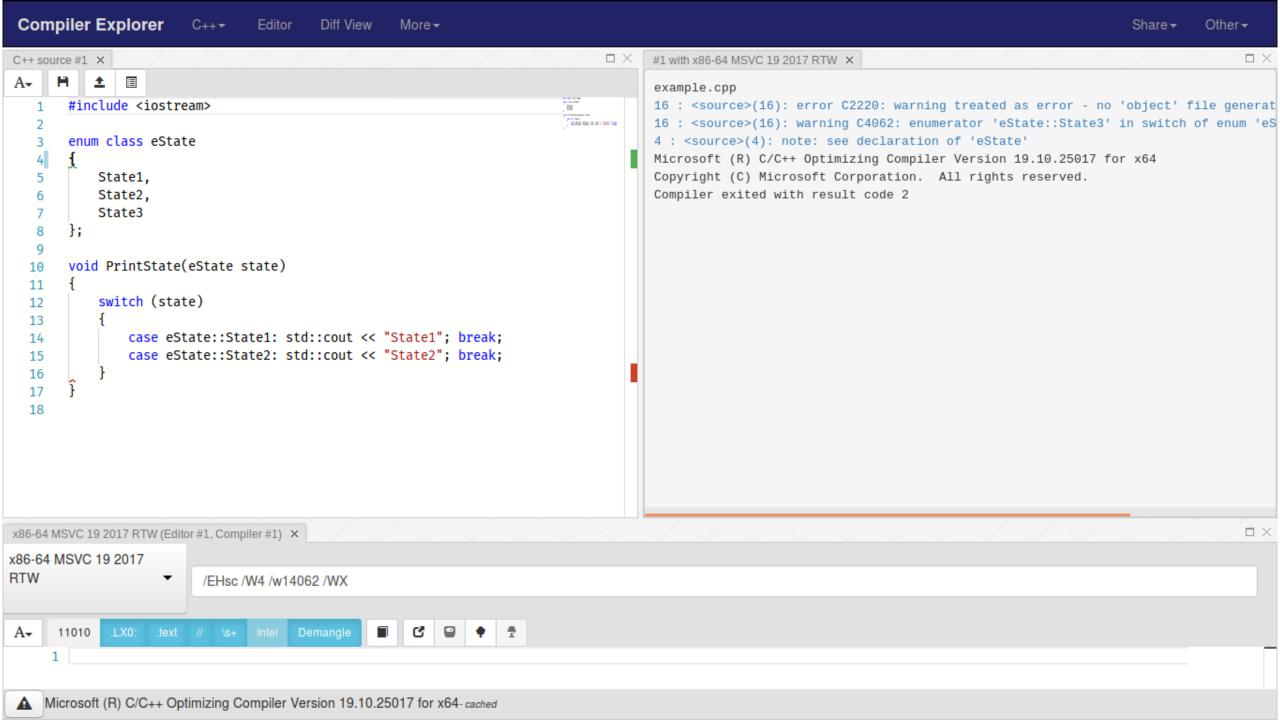


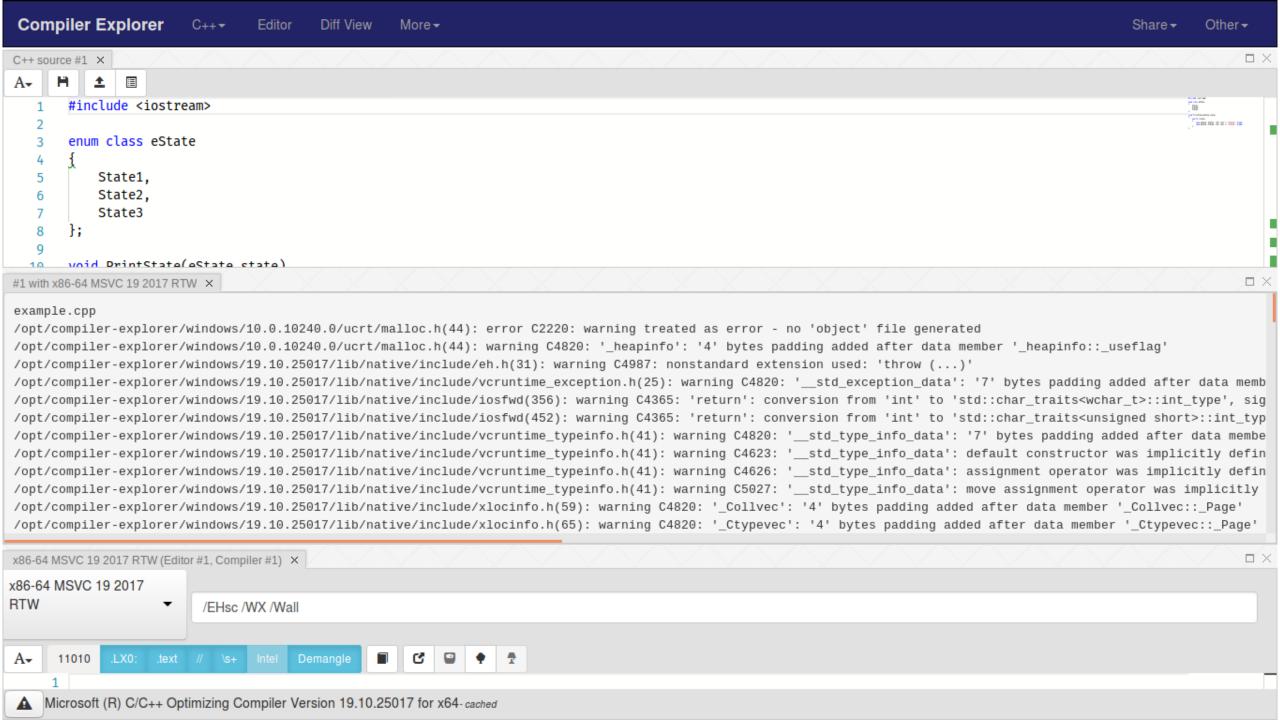


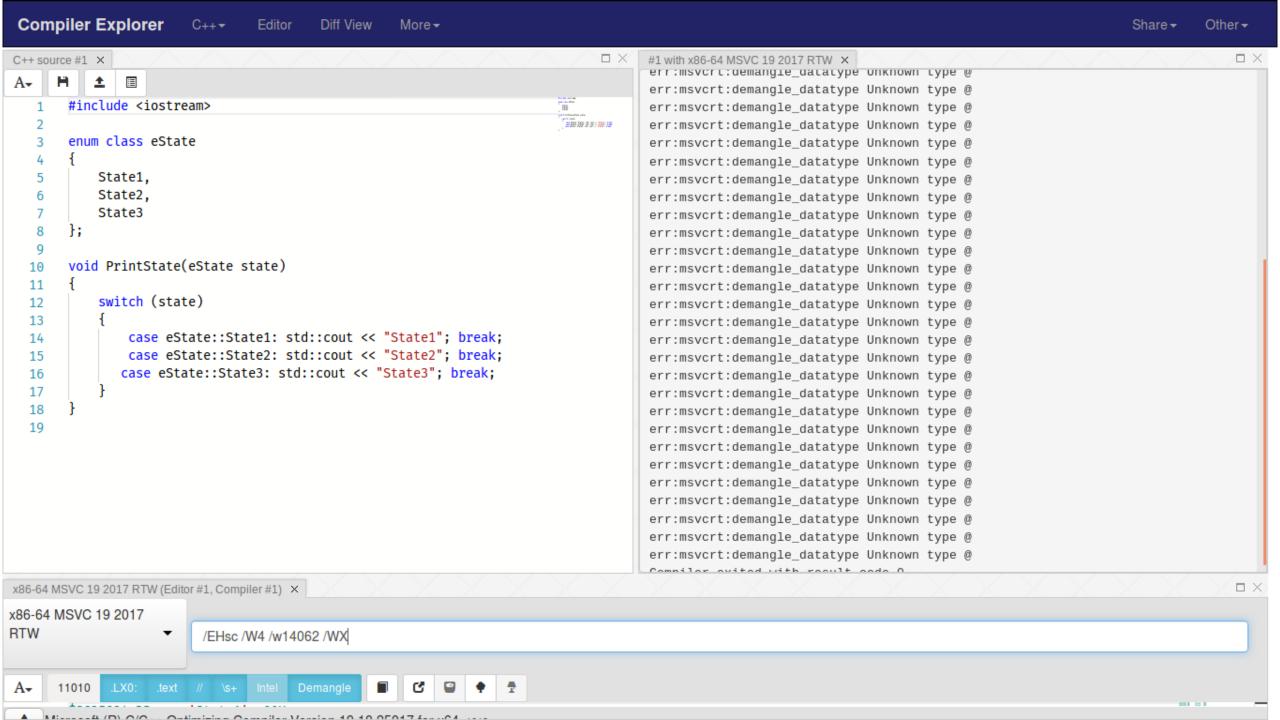


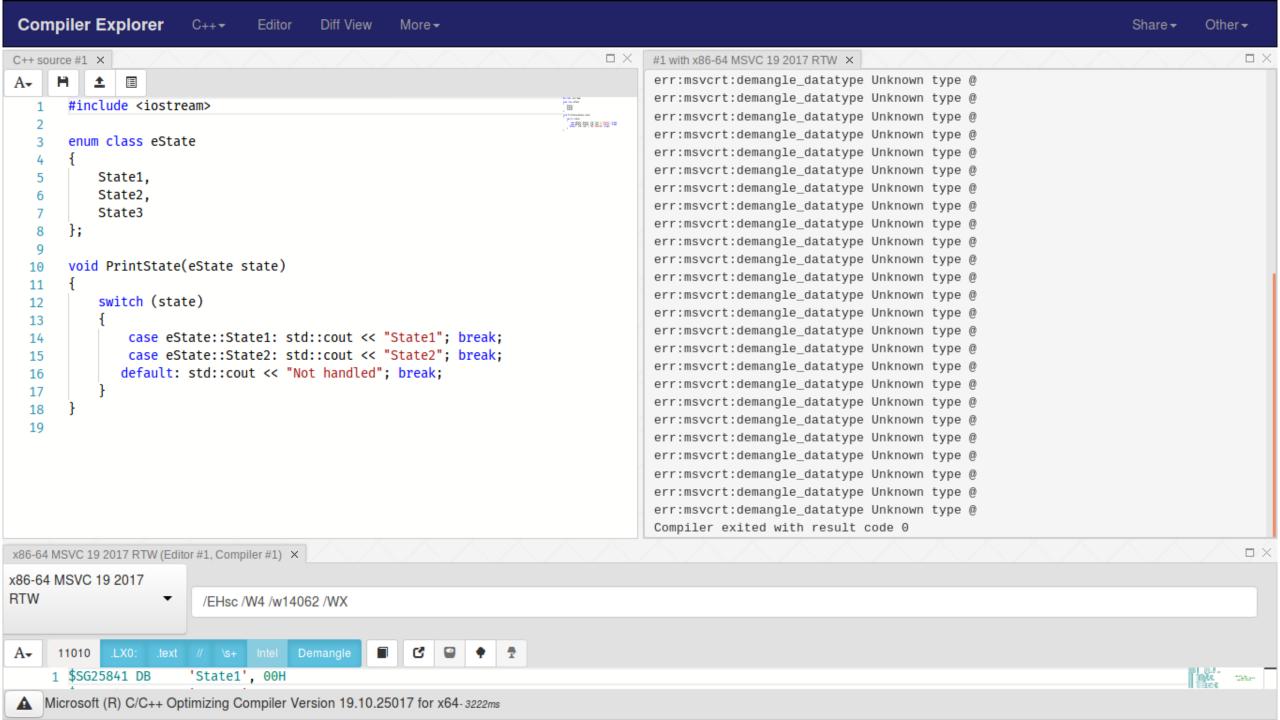










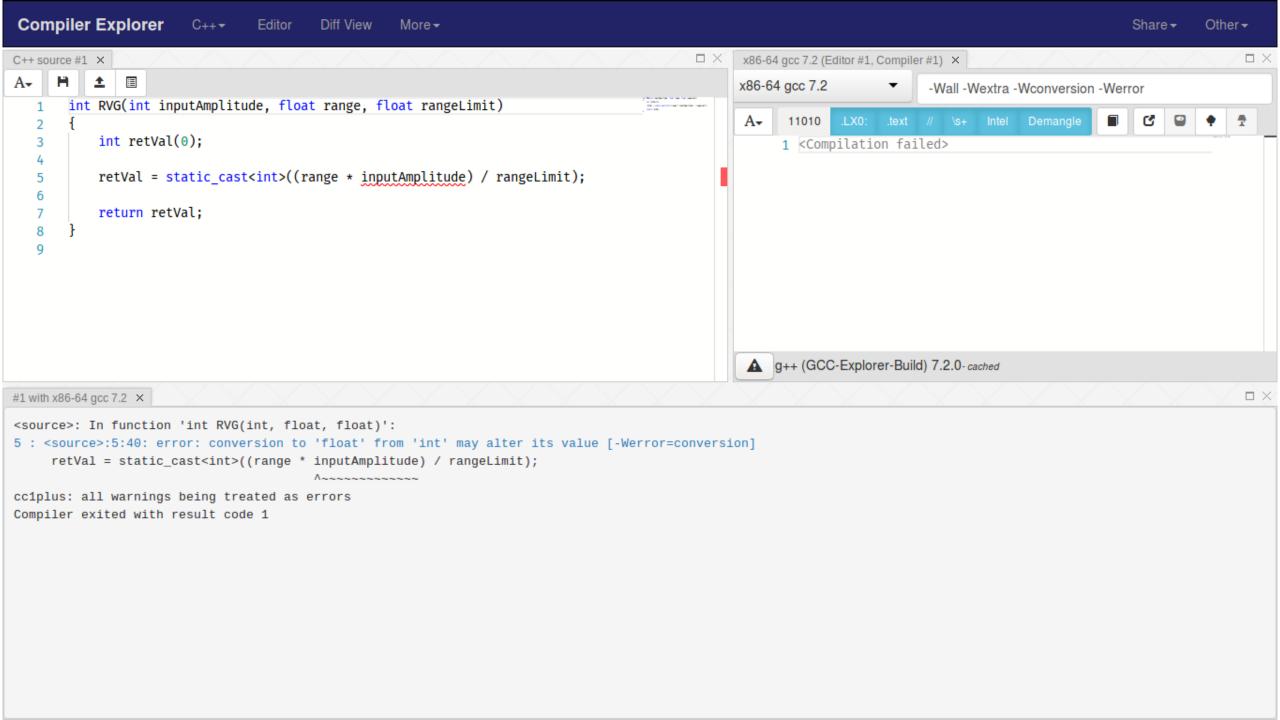


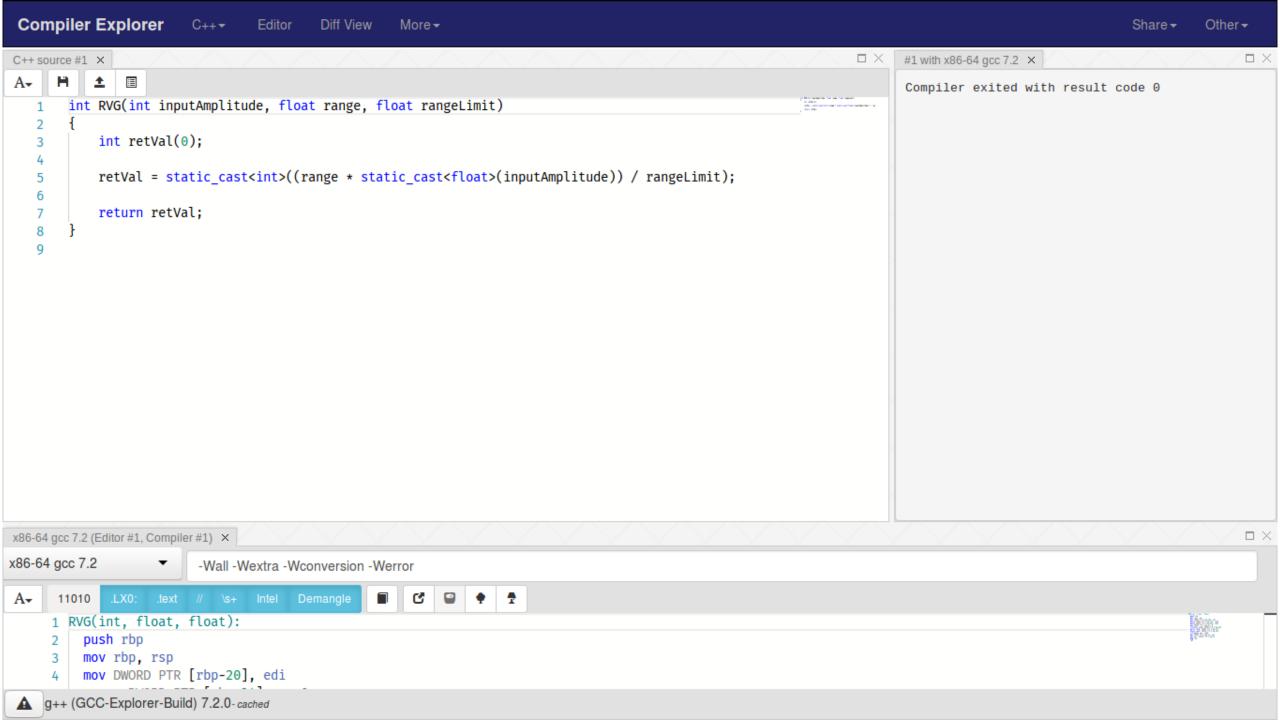
GCC: -Wconversion

Warn for implicit conversions that may alter a value. This includes conversions between real and integer, like abs (x) when x is double; conversions between signed and unsigned, like unsigned ui = -1; and conversions to smaller types, like sqrtf (M_PI). Do not warn for explicit casts like abs ((int) x) and ui = (unsigned) -1, or if the value is not changed by the conversion like in abs (2.0). Warnings about conversions between signed and unsigned integers can be disabled by using -10-wings conversion.

For C++, also warn for confusing overload resolution for user-defined conversions; and conversions that never use a type conversion operator: conversions to void, the same type, a base class or a reference to them. Warnings about conversions between signed and unsigned integers are disabled by default in C++ unless -Wsign-conversion is explicitly enabled.

https://gcc.gnu.org/onlinedocs/gcc/Warning-Options.html





C++ Core Guidelines

ES.46: Avoid lossy (narrowing, truncating) arithmetic conversions

Reason

A narrowing conversion destroys information, often unexpectedly so.

Note

The guideline support library offers a narrow_cast operation for specifying that narrowing is acceptable and a narrow ("narrow if") that throws an exception if a narrowing would throw away information:

Enforcement

A good analyzer can detect all narrowing conversions. However, flagging all narrowing conversions will lead to a lot of false positives. Suggestions:

- flag all floating-point to integer conversions (maybe only float->char and double->int. Here be dragons! we need data)
- flag all long->char (I suspect int->char is very common. Here be dragons! we need data)
- consider narrowing conversions for function arguments especially suspect

Guideline Support Library (GSL)

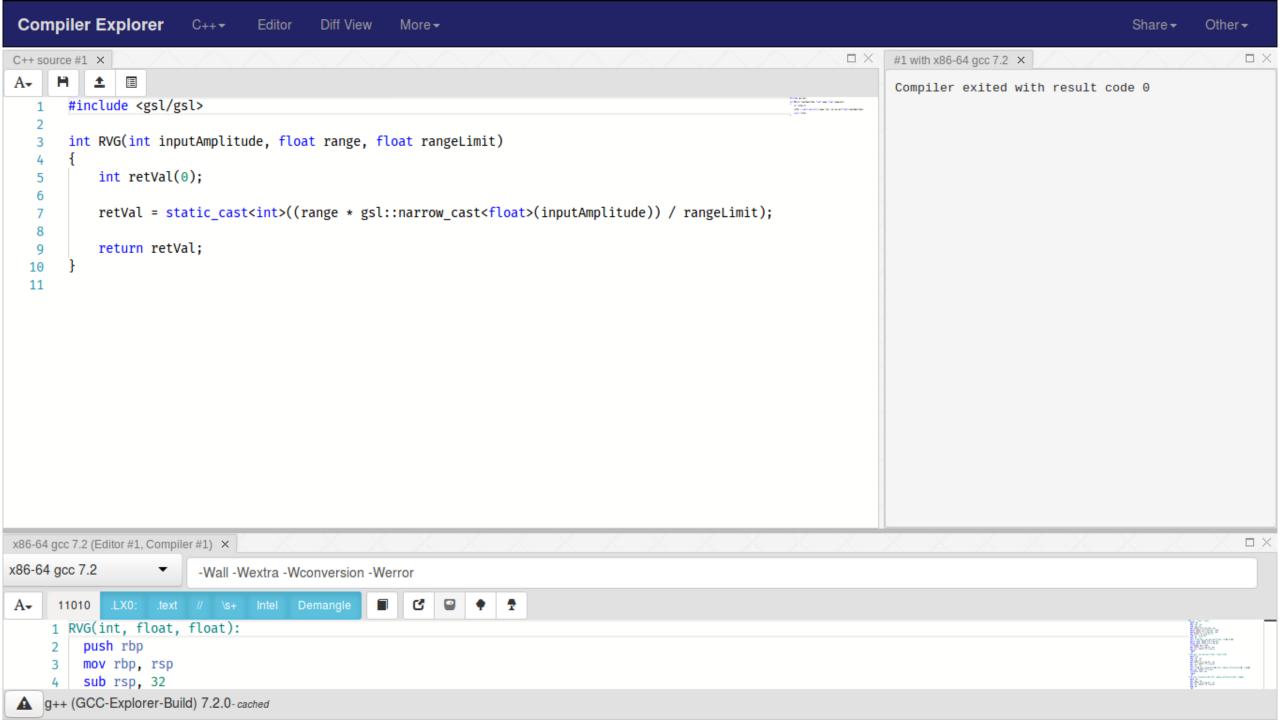
The Guideline Support Library (GSL) contains functions and types that are suggested for use by the C++ Core Guidelines maintained by the Standard C++ Foundation. The library includes types like owner<>, not_null<>, span<>, string_span and others.

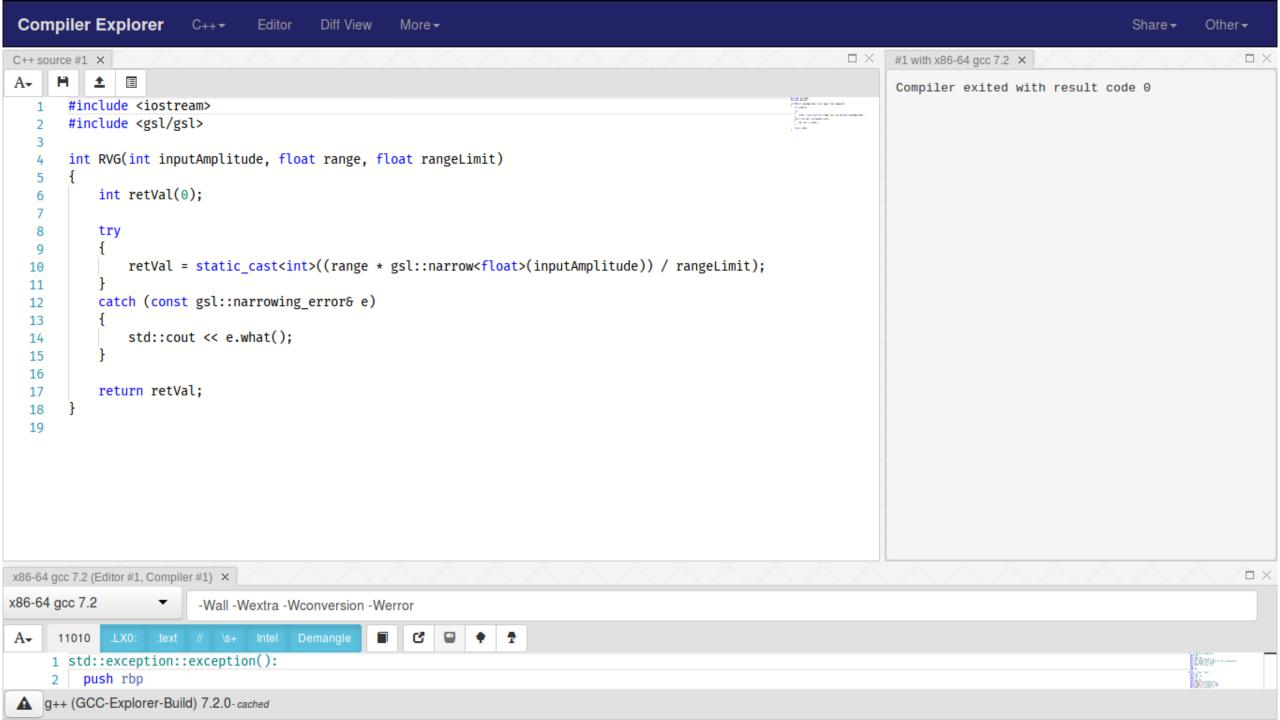
https://github.com/Microsoft/GSL

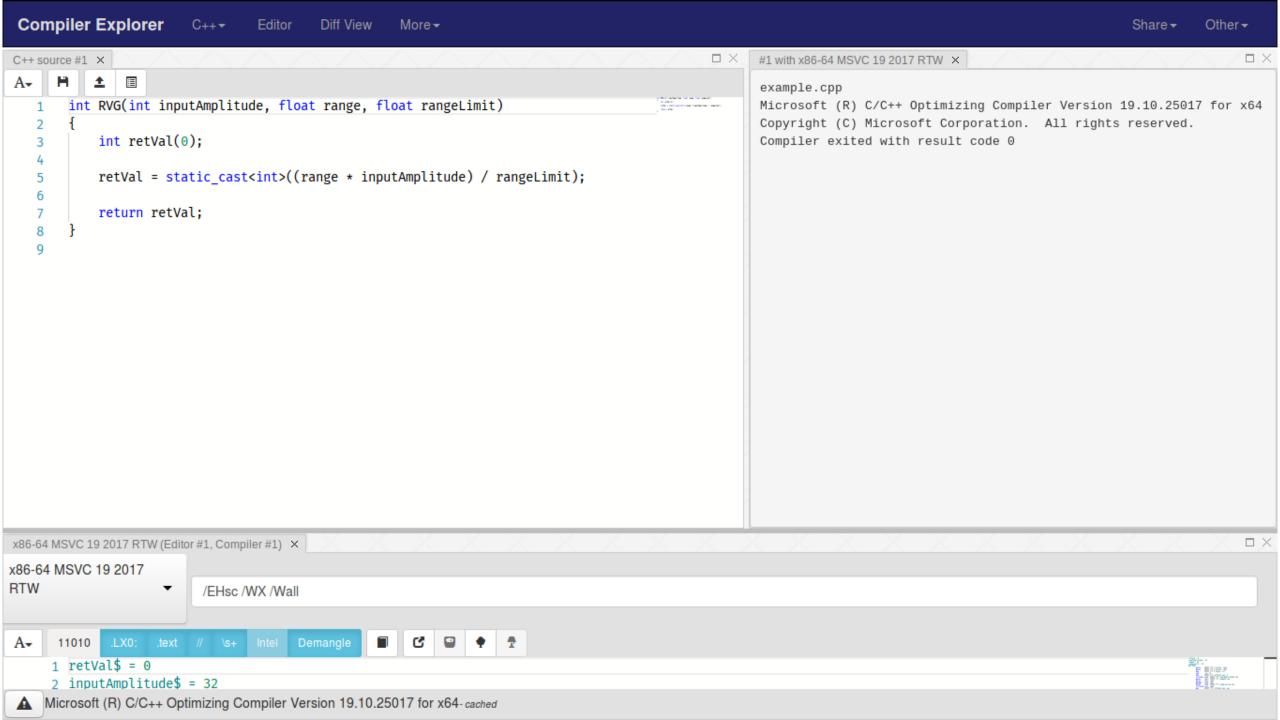
The entire implementation is provided inline in the headers under the gsl directory. The implementation generally assumes a platform that implements C++14 support. There are specific workarounds to support MSVC 2015.

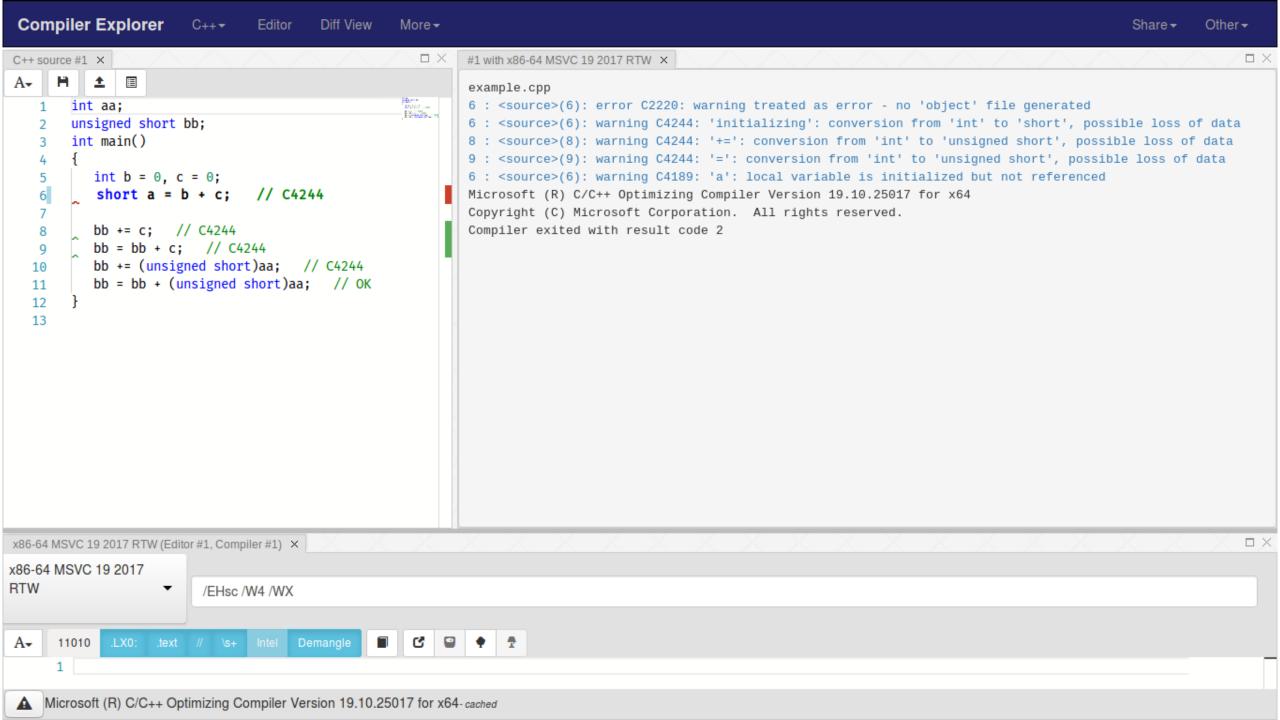
https://github.com/martinmoene/gsl-lite

Single-file header-only variant of Microsoft's implementation adapted for C++98, C++03. It should also work when compiled as C++11, C++14.









C++ Standard

https://isocpp.org/std/the-standard

Purchase the C++14 official standard for US\$133 or working drafts are free.

Only 4 mentions of warnings?

Key phrase is "diagnostic required" but this is only mentioned 17 times.

"The only thing it requires from compilers is to diagnose when the program is ill-formed."

Future improvements?

CppCast #111 with Patrice Roy

http://cppcast.com/2017/07/patrice-roy/

Been a participating member in the ISO C++ Standards Committee since late 2014

30:40:

"People have even talked about standardising some warning messages. It's something that's floating around, there's nothing official there, we're just talking right now."

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Summary

- Unfortunately true platform compiler equivalence is not yet possible.
- Compilers offer different warnings.
- Differences exist between compiler warning implementations.