Meeting C++ 2017

Concepts Driven Design

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Overview

- Concepts
 - Motivation / History
- Type constraints (C++20)
 - Requirements
 - Design by introspection
 - Named concepts
 - Optional interfaces
- Concepts emulation (C++17)
- Concepts based design
 - Static polymorphism
 - Dynamic polymorphism
 - Virtual concepts (C++2?)
 - Dependency Injection
 - Mocking (testing)
- Future of concepts (C++2X)

Disclaimer

This talk is from user perspective

See Andrew Sutton talks for more details about concepts!

Concepts, although, merged into C++20 draft, are still a subject for future changes

| Compiler | Version | Notes |
|----------|-------------|--------------------------|
| GCC | 6.1+ | Requires -fconcepts flag |
| MSVC | VS2017 15.5 | - |
| Clang | In progress | _ |

Examples in this talk were compiled using

Motivation - Well specified interfaces

```
template < class T >
const T& min(const T& a, const T& b) {
  return b < a ? b : a;
}</pre>
```

Precise documentation

- What's are the syntax requirements for T?
 - compile-time / concepts
- What's are the semantics requirements for min?
 - run-time / contracts, tests, manuals

Motivation - Compiler diagnostics

```
int main() {
  auto list = std::list{1, 2, 3};
  std::sort(std::begin(list), std::end(list));
}
```

https://godbolt.org/g/RTRgg2

Motivation - Compiler diagnostics

Without concepts

With concepts

```
error: cannot call std::sort
note: concept RandomAccessIterator was not satisfied
since: expression (b-a) will be ill formed
```

Note: Constraints are checked at the point of use

History

Requirements analysis

Concepts Lite - https://wg21.link/n3701

Concepts TS - https://wg21.link/P0734R0

Bjarne Stroustrup, Andrew Sutton, Gabriel Dos Reis Alex Stepanow, Andrew Lumsdaine, Sean Parent, ...

C++20 draft

http://eel.is/c++draft/temp.constr

| 17.4 | Template constraints | [temp.constr] |
|----------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 17.4.1 | Constraints | [temp.constr.constr] |
| 17.4.1.1 | Logical operations | [temp.constr.op] |
| 17.4.1.2 | Atomic constraints | [temp.constr.atomic] |
| 17.4.2 | Constrained declarations | [temp.constr.decl] |
| 17.4.3 | Constraint normalization | [temp.constr.normal] |
| 17.4.4 | Partial ordering by constraints | [temp.constr.order] |

- Requirements
 - o requires-clause, requires-expression
- Constraints
 - o predicates, conjunctions, disjunctions
- Named concepts
 - oplaceholders, abbreviated templates

Requirements

Requires-clause

Specifies constraints on template arguments or on a function declaration

```
std::enable_if on steroids
```

```
template<bool Value>
void foo() requires Value {}
```

```
int main() {
  foo<true>(); // Okay
  foo<false>(); // Error: constraints not satisfied
}
```

Note: requires-clause is part of the function signature

Requires-expression

```
Expression of type bool
 requires ( [parameters] ) { requirements }
requires(T) { // type requirement
 typename T::value_type; };
requires(T t) { // simple requirement
 t[typename T::value_type{}]; };
requires(T t) { // compound requirement
  { t.empty() } -> bool; }; // convertible to bool
requires(T t) { // nested requirement
  requires std::is_enum_v<typename T::value_type>; };
```

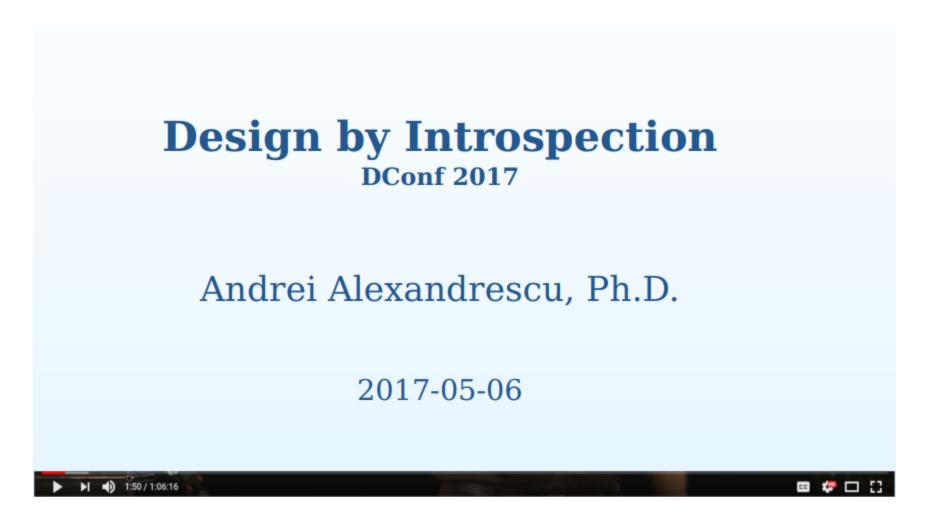
Note: Parameters -> declvals

Requires-clause/Requires-expression

```
template < class T >
constexpr auto foo(T&& x) // SFINAE context
  requires requires(T t) { t.bar(); }
{ return x.bar(); }
```

```
Note: requires requires -> requires-clause followed by requires-expression
```

Design by introspection



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29h6jGtZD-U

Design by introspection - D lang

https://dlang.org/spec/traits.html

```
auto foo(T)(T \times) {
  static if(__traits(hasMember, x, "bar")) {
    return x.bar;
  } else {
    return 0;
void main() {
  assert(0 == foo(42));
  struct Bar { int bar = 42; }
  Bar bar;
  assert(42 == foo(bar));
```

https://godbolt.org/g/wpLXzV

Design by introspection - C++20

```
template<class T>
constexpr auto foo(T x) {
  if constexpr(requires(T t) { t.bar; }) { // SFINAE
    return x.bar;
                                            // context
 } else {
    return 0;
int main() {
  assert(0 == foo(42));
  struct { int bar{42}; } bar;
  assert(42 == foo(bar));
}
```

https://godbolt.org/g/uot6Bv

Design by introspection - C++

```
C++ source #1 X
                                                                     x86-64 gcc (trunk) (Editor #1, Compiler #2) X
                                                                     x86-64 gcc (trunk)
                                                                                        -std=c++2a -fconcepts
       template<class T>
       constexpr auto foo(T x) {
                                                                                             Demangle
         if constexpr(requires(T t) { t.bar; }) {
            return x.bar;
                                                                            1 main:
          } else {
                                                                                 mov eax, 42
            return 0;
                                                                                 ret
   8
       int main() {
  10
         struct { int bar{42}; } bar;
  11
         return foo(bar);
  12
  13
```

https://godbolt.org/g/MFxqWu

Requires

Readability?

```
template < class T >
auto bar(T& t)
  requires requires(T t) {
    typename T::type;
    { t.foo() } -> void;
    requires Movable < T > or Same < T, int >;
  } {
  return t.foo();
}
```

A collection of requirements on a type (variable template)

```
template<template-parameters>
concept concept-name = constraint-expression;
```

"If you like it then you should have put a name on it", Beyonce rule

Predicate constraints

```
template<class>
concept Always = true; // always satisified
```

```
template<class T>
concept Size32 = sizeof(T) == 4;
```

Conjunctions, Disjunctions

Requirements

Note: Concepts are never instantiatied (therefore the concept keyword)

Unconstrained class definition

```
template<class> class Bar {};
```

Requires expression (long form)

```
template<class T> requires Fooable<T>;
class Bar { };
```

Abbreviated templates

```
template<Fooable T>
class Bar {};
```

Note: C++17 - Non-type template arguments

```
template<auto T> class Bar {}; // For values -> Bar<42>
```

Example

```
struct tcp_socket { void send(std::string_view); };
struct udp_socket { void send(std::string_view); };
struct file { void write(std::string_view); };
```

Everything Cpp

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xsSYPD0v5Mg

Concept definition

Concept overloading

```
template<Socket T> // requires Socket<T>
/*1*/ void forward(T& t, std::string_view data) {
   t.send(data);
}
template<File T> // requires File<T>
/*2*/ void forward(T& t, std::string_view data) {
   t.write(data);
}
```

```
int main() {
  tcp_socket tcp; forward(tcp, "tcp data"sv); // calls 1
  udp_socket udp; forward(udp, "udp data"sv); // calls 1
  file file; forward(file, "file data"sv); // calls 2
}
```

Note: If multiple are satisifed the most constrainted is chosen

Concepts overloading

if constexpr (C++17)

```
template < class T >
void forward(T& t, std::string_view data) {
  if constexpr(Socket < T > ) { // compile-time
     t.send(data);
  } else if constexpr(File < T > ) {
     t.write(data);
  }
}
```

Note: Branch which is not taken is discarded ------ Statement may not compile but syntax has to be valid

Lambdas

```
constexpr auto forward =
  [](auto& t, std::string_view data) {
    using type = std::decay_t<decltype(t)>>;
    if constexpr(Socket<type>) { t.send(data); } else
    if constexpr(File<type>) { t.write(data); }
};
```

Generic lambdas (C++17) - https://wg21.link/P0428r2

```
constexpr auto forward =
  []<class T>(T& t, std::string_view data) {
   if constexpr(Socket<T>) { t.send(data); } else
   if constexpr(File<T>) { t.write(data); }
};
```

Optional interfaces

Example -> Stream<T>

- Copy constructible
- Callable member function write which takes type T&
- Callable member function read which returns type T
- Callable optional member function read_complete
- Printable

Optional interfaces: Virtual functions (not expressive enough)

```
/**
 * Implementation requires to be printable and
 * copy constructible
template<class T>
class istream {
public:
 virtual ~istream() noexcept = default;
 virtual void write(T&) = 0;
 virtual T read() = 0;
 // ??? [[optional]] ???
 virtual void read_complete() = 0;
};
```

Optional interfaces: Concepts

```
template<class T, class TData>
concept Streamable =
 CopyConstructible<T> and // CopyConstructible
 requires(T t, std::ostream& out, TData& data) {
                   // Printable
   out << t;
   t.write(data);
                        // Writable
   { t.read() } -> TData // Readable
 } or requires(T t, std::ostream& out, TData& data) {
                    // Printable
   out << t;
   t.write(data);
                // Writable
   { t.read() } -> TData // Readable 1/2
                   // Readable 2/2
   t.read_complete();
```

Optional interfaces: Usage

```
using data_t = std::array<std::byte, 1024>;

class FileStream {
  public:
    void write(data_t&);
    data_t read();
    void read_complete();
};
```

```
int main() {
   Streamable<data_t> stream = FileStream{};
   const auto data = stream.read();
   ...
   stream.read_complete();
}
```

Placeholders

| Placeholder | Synopsis |
|---------------|---|
| Unconstrained | auto |
| Constrained | <pre>concept-name<[template-argument-list]></pre> |

```
template<class T> class Foo {};
template<class T> concept Fooable = true;
```

```
// auto - least constrained concept
auto foo1 = Foo<int>{};
// C++17 - Constructor Template Argument Deduction
Foo foo2 = Foo<int>{};
// C++20 - placeholder
Fooable foo3 = Foo<int>{};
```

Note: Placeholders can be used for functions void f(auto);

Concepts and the C++ ISO standard

| | • | |
|----|---|-----|
| 18 | EqualityComparable requirements | 467 |
| 19 | LessThanComparable requirements | 467 |
| 20 | DefaultConstructible requirements | 467 |
| 21 | MoveConstructible requirements | 468 |
| 22 | CopyConstructible requirements (in addition to MoveConstructible) | 468 |
| 23 | MoveAssignable requirements | 468 |
| 24 | CopyAssignable requirements (in addition to MoveAssignable) | 468 |
| 25 | Destructible requirements | 468 |
| 26 | NullablePointer requirements | 470 |
| 27 | Hash requirements | 471 |
| 28 | Descriptive variable definitions | 471 |
| 29 | Allocator requirements | 472 |

Note: More concepts to come with Ranges TS

Concepts and the C++ ISO standard

Table 18 — EqualityComparable requirements [equalitycomparable]

| Expression | Return type | Requirement |
|------------|------------------------|---|
| a == b | convertible to bool | == is an equivalence relation, that is, it has the following properties: |
| | | — For all a, a == a. |
| | | — If a == b, then b == a. |
| | | — If $a == b$ and $b == c$, then $a == c$. |
| | | |

```
class EqualityComparable a where // Haskell typeclasses
  (==) :: a -> a -> Bool
```

Concepts - Ranges TS

```
template <class I>
concept InputIterator =
  Iterator<I> &&
  Readable<I> &&
  requires(I& i, const I& ci) {
     typename iterator_category_t<I>;
     DerivedFrom<
        iterator_category_t<I>, input_iterator_tag>;
     i++;
};
```

https://github.com/CaseyCarter/cmcstl2

Concepts emulation (C++17)

Substituation Failure Is Not An Error (SFINAE)

```
template<bool, class = void>
struct enable_if {}; // no type alias

template<class T>
struct enable_if<true, T> { using type = T; };
```

false predicates lead to ill-formed code that's discarded

Dedection idiom (C++20)

```
template<class T>
using Fooable = decltype(std::declval<T&>().foo());
struct Foo { void foo(); };
struct Bar { };
static_assert(not std::is_detected<Fooable, Bar>{});
static assert( std::is detected<Fooable, Foo>{});
 Note: Under the hood, it uses
 template<class...> using void_t = void;
```

https://wg21.link/n4436

Does the Concepts TS Improve on C++17?

```
template <class F, class... Args, class = decltype(
   std::declval<F&&>()(std::declval<Args&&>()...))>
constexpr auto requires_impl(int) { return true; }

template <class F, class... Args>
constexpr auto requires_impl(...) { return false; }

template <class... Args, class F>
constexpr auto requires(F&&) {
   return requires_impl<F&&, Args&&...>(int{}});
}
```

https://wg21.link/P0726R0

requires-clause

```
struct Foo { void foo(); };
struct Bar {};
```

```
static_assert(
  requires<Foo>([](auto&& t) -> decltype(t.foo()) {})
);

static_assert(
  !requires<Bar>([](auto&& t) -> decltype(t.foo()) {})
);
```

Design by introspection - C++17

```
template < class T > constexpr auto foo(T x) {
  if constexpr(requires < T > ( // compile - time if
   [](auto&& t) -> decltype(t.bar) {})) {
    return x.bar;
  } else {
   return 0;
  }
}
```

Note: Workaround for expression is not a constant expression

```
if constexpr(
  auto bar = [](auto&& t) -> decltype(t.bar) {};
  requires<T>(bar)
)
```

Named concept

```
template < class T > constexpr auto Socket =
  requires < T > ([](auto&& t, std:string_view data) - >
     decltype(t.send(data)) {}
  );
```

```
template < class T > constexpr auto File =
  requires < T > ([](auto&& t, std:string_view data) ->
    decltype(t.write(data)) {}
);
```

Error message

```
template < class T, class = std::enable_if_t < Socket < T >>
void forward (T& t, std::string_view data) {
  t.send(data);
}
```

```
int main() {
  tcp_socket tcp; forward(tcp, "tcp data"sv); // Okay
  file file; forward(file, "file data"sv);
  // error: no matching function for call to 'forward'
  // possibly many lines of output <- library side
}</pre>
```

Note: No details why function couldn't be called

Concepts overloading

```
template < class T,
    std::enable_if_t < Socket < T >, int > = 0 >

/*1*/ void forward(T& t, std::string_view data) {
    t.send(data);
}

template < class T,
    std::enable_if_t < File < T >, int > = 0 >

/*2*/ void forward(T& t, std::string_view data) {
    t.write(data);
}
```

```
int main() {
  tcp_socket tcp; forward(tcp, "tcp data"sv); // calls 1
  udp_socket udp; forward(udp, "udp data"sv); // calls 1
  file file; forward(file, "file data"sv); // calls 2
}
```

```
Concept overloading

if constexpr (C++17)
```

```
template < class T >
void forward(T& t, std::string_view data) {
  if constexpr(Socket < T >) { // compile-time
     t.send(data);
  } else if constexpr(File < T >) {
     t.write(data);
  }
}
```

Note: Exactly the same way as with C++20 concepts

Goals

| Expressiveness | Type constraints for better error messages (Design by Introspection) |
|-------------------------|--|
| Loosely coupeled design | Inject all the things! (Policy Design) |
| Performance | Static dispatch by default (based on concepts) |
| Flexiblity | Dynamic dispatch using type erasure (based on the same concepts) |
| Testability | Automatic mocks injection (based on the same concepts) |

Static polymorphism

```
template < class T > concept Drawable = requires
(T t, std::ostream& out) { { t.draw(out) } -> void; };
```

```
struct Square {
  void draw(std::ostream& out) { out << "Square"; } };</pre>
struct Circle {
  void draw(std::ostream& out) { out << "Circle"; } };</pre>
template < Drawable T >
void f(T& d) { d.draw(std::cout); }
int main() {
  f(Square{}); // prints Square
  f(Circle{}); // prints Circle
```

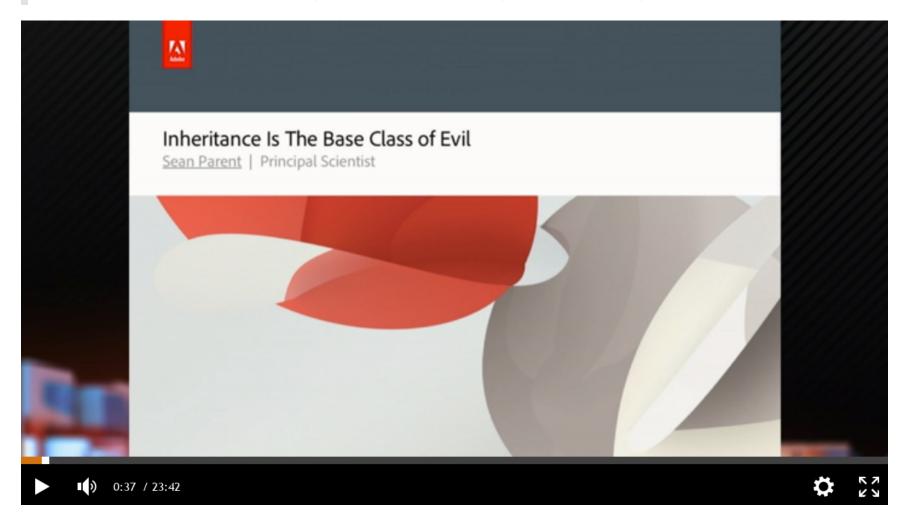
Static polymorphism

```
std::vector v1 = { Square{}, Circle{} };
// ERROR: class template argument deduction failed

std::vector<auto> v2 = { Square{}, Circle{} };
// ERROR: couldn't deduce template parameter

std::vector<Drawable> v3 = { Square{}, Circle{} };
// ERROR: couldn't deduce template parameter
```

Concepts based polymorphism / Dynamic polymorphism



Dynamic polymorphism / type erasure

```
class Drawable {
 void* ptr_{}; // ??? Small Buffer Optimization (SBO)
  struct {
   void (*draw)(std::ostream&);
   void (*delete_ptr)(void*);
 } const* const vptr_{};
public:
template<class T> Drawable(T t) // non explicit
  : ptr_{new T{t}}, vptr_{
    [](void* self) { static_cast<T*>(self)->draw(); },
    [](void* self) { delete static_cast<T*>(self); } }
{ }
~Drawable() { vptr_->delete_ptr(ptr_); }
void draw(std::ostream& os) { vptr_->draw(os); }
};
```

Dynamic polymorphism / Virtual concepts (C++2?)

```
template < class T > concept Drawable =
  requires() { auto T::draw(std::ostream&) -> void; };
  // Signature requirement
```

```
struct Square {
  void draw(std::ostream& out) { out << "Square"; } };</pre>
struct Circle {
  void draw(std::ostream& out) { out << "Circle"; } };</pre>
void f(virtual Drawable& d) { d.draw(std::cout); }
    // Type erasure
int main() {
  f(Square{}); // prints Square
  f(Circle{}); // prints Circle
```

- Dynamic polymorphism / Virtual concepts (C++2?)
- Signature requirement

```
template < class T >
concept Fooable = requires() {
  auto T::foo() -> void; // NOT C++20!
};
```

Dynamic Generic Programming with Virtual Concepts

Note: Virtual concepts aren't part of C++20

Dynamic polymorphism / Virtual concepts (C++2?)

```
std::vector<virtual Drawable> v; // Okay (type erasure)
v.push_back(Square{}); // Okay
v.push_back(Circle{}); // Okay
```

100% value semantics / Stack based / Small buffer optimization (SBO)

Note: Might be also generated with Metaclasses (C++2?)

https://wg21.link/p0707r0

Dynamic polymorphism / Virtual concepts emulation (C++17)

```
template<class T> constexpr auto Drawable =
   Callable<void(T::*)(std::ostream&)>( $((draw)) );
```

```
struct Square {
  void draw(std::ostream& out) { out << "Square"; } };

struct Circle {
  void draw(std::ostream& out) { out << "Circle"; } };

void f(any<$(Drawable)>& d) { d.draw(std::cout); }

int main() {
  f(Square{}); // prints Square
  f(Circle{}); // prints Circle
}
```

Virtual concepts emulation (C++17)

```
Callable < void (T::*) (std::ostream&) > ($((draw))]
                                          -> name
$((name)) [](auto&& r, auto&& t, auto&&... args) {
 struct { // base class
  auto name(decltype(args)... args) ->
    decltype(self.name(args...)){} {
   // static polymorphism (CRTP)
   return static_cast<decltype(t) *>(this)->template
     call<name, typename decltype(r)::type>(args...);
  _; return _;
```

```
$(type) decltype(type<...>)
```

Dependency Injection (policy design) / concepts

```
template < class T >
concept ErrorPolicy =
  requires(T t, std::string_view msg) {
    requires CopyConstructible < T > ;
    { t.onError(msg) } -> void;
};
```

```
struct ThrowPolicy {
  void onError(std::string_view msg) { throw T{msg}; }
};

struct LogPolicy {
  void onError(std::string_view msg) {
    std::clog << T{msg} << '\n';
  }
};</pre>
```

Dependency Injection (policy design) / concepts

```
template < ErrorPolicy TPolicy = class Policy > // inject
struct App {
   TPolicy policy{};
   void run() { if (...) { policy.onError("error!"); } }
};
```

Bindings / Injection

```
Creatable injector = di::injector{
  di::bind<class Policy>.to<ThrowPolicy>()
};
injector.create<App>().run();
```

Same as...

```
App{ThrowPolicy{}}.run();
```

```
Dependency Injection (policy design) / virtual concepts (C++2?)
```

```
class App {
public:
 explicit App(virtual ErrorPolicy policy)
 : policy{policy}
 void run() {
    if (...) { policy.onError("error!"); }
private:
virtual ErrorPolicy policy{};
};
```

```
Dependency Injection (policy design) / virtual concepts (C++2?)
```

```
Creatable injector = di::make_injector(
   di::bind<virtual ErrorPolicy>.to<LogPolicy>()
);
injector.create<App>().run();
```

Same as...

```
App{LogPolicy{}}.run();
```

https://github.com/boost-experimental/di

```
Dependency Injection (policy design) / virtual concepts emulation (C++17)
```

```
template<class T>
constexpr auto ErrorPolicy =
   CopyConstructible<T> and
   Callable<void(T::*)()>( $((onError)) ); // expose
```

```
struct App {
  any<$(ErrorPolicy)> policy{};
  void run() { if (...) { policy.onError("error!"); } }
};
```

```
Dependency Injection (policy design) / virtual concepts emulation (C++17)
```

```
Creatable injector = di::make_injector(
  di::bind<$(ErrorPolicy)>.to<LogPolicy>()
);
injector.create<App>().run();
```

Same as...

```
App{LogPolicy{}}.run();
```

Note: Same wiring for static/dynamic polymorphism

- Mocking (testing)
- Interface based mocking

```
struct ErrorPolicy {
  virtual ~ErrorPolicy() = default;
  virtual void onError(std::string_view) = 0;
};
GMock<ErrorPolicy> mock{};
EXPECT_CALL(mock, onError("interface!")).Times(1);
mock.onError("interface!");
```

Concepts based mocking

```
GMock<$(ErrorPolicy)> mock{};
EXPECT_CALL(mock, onError("concept!")).Times(1);
object(mock).onError("concept!");
```

Mocking (testing)

automatic mocks injection

```
"should print read text"_test = [] {
  auto [app, mocks] = testing::make<App>();

EXPECT_CALL(mocks<$(ErrorPolicy)>, onError("error!"));

app.run();
};
```

Note: make creates mocks based on concepts requirements (reflection)

https://github.com/cpp-testing/gunit

Terse template syntax

```
void forward(Socket& socket, std::string_view data);
```

long form

```
template < Socket T>
void forward(T& socket, std::string_view data);
```

longer form

```
template<class T> requires Socket<T>
void forward(T& socket, std::string_view data);
```

Terse template syntax - https://wg21.link/p0696r1

```
void forward(Socket, Socket);
 long form
template<class T>
void forward(T, T);
 VS
void forward(auto, auto);
 long form
template<class T, class U>
```

void forward(T, U);

Template-introduction syntax

```
Socket{T} void forward(T, auto);

or

template<Socket [T]> void forward(T, auto);
```

long form

```
template<class T, class U>
void forward(T, U) requires Socket<T>;
```

```
template < class T >
struct tcp_socket {
    static_assert(Socket < tcp_socket >);
    // always fail, tcp_socket is incomplete
};
```

Metaclasses syntax

```
template<class T>
Socket tcp_socket { };
```

https://wg21.link/p0707r0

Summary

Provides better diagnostics

Simplify usage of SFINAE / enable_if

Introspection by design / Optional interfaces

Allows better design

Can be emulated in C++14/C++17

variable templates / constexpr / constexpr if

C++20 is just the beginning

- syntax improvements / requirements improvements
- virtual concepts / metaclasses / static reflection

Questions?

