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>
constexpr 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**

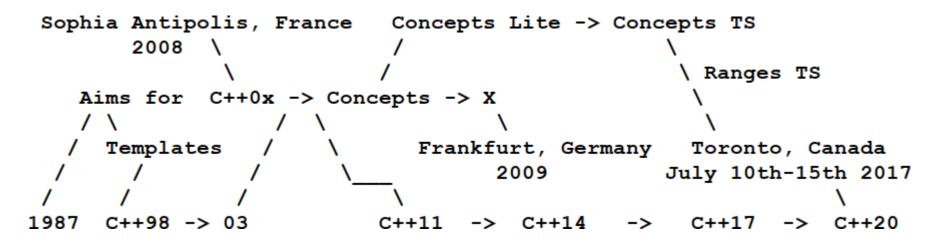
#### Without concepts

#### 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	https://wg21.link/n3351
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

Requirements

Constraints

Named concepts

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

# Requirements

### Requires-clause

Specifies constraints on template arguments or on a function declaration

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

```
template<class> requires false
void foo() {}
```

```
foo<class AnyType>(); // Error: constraints not satisfied
```

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

```
bar<true>(); // Okay
bar<false>(); // Error: constraints not satisfied
```

Note: requires-clause is part of the function signature

### Requires-expression

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

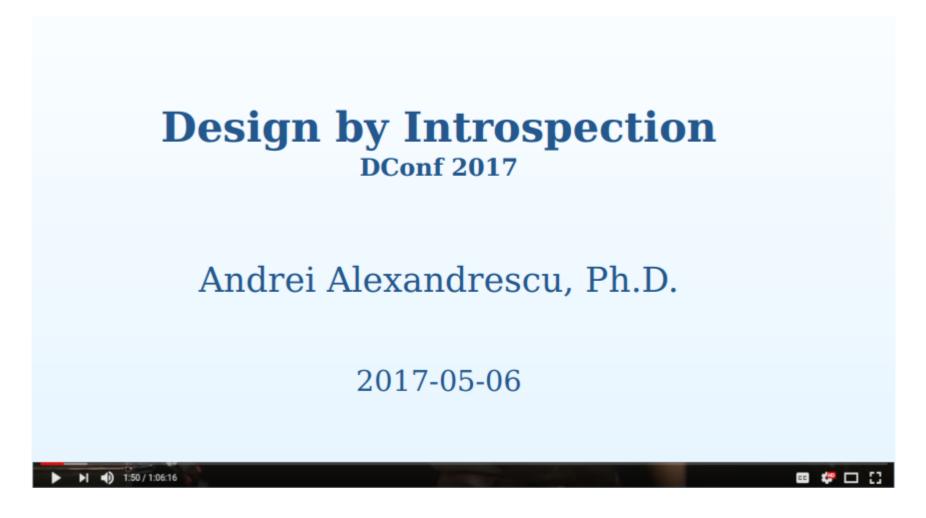
Note: Parameters -> declvals (converts any type to a reference type)

### Requires-clause/Requires-expression

```
template<class T>
constexpr auto foo(T&& x) // immediate context (SFINAE friendly)
  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; }) {
    return x.bar;
 } 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>
                                                                      A₹
       constexpr auto foo(T x) {
                                                                      11010
                                                                                              Demangle
          if constexpr(requires(T t) { t.bar; }) {
            return x.bar;
                                                                             1 main:
          } else {
                                                                                  mov eax, 42
            return 0;
   6
                                                                                  ret
   8
       int main() {
  10
          struct { int bar{42}; } bar;
  11
         return foo(bar);
  12
  13
```

https://godbolt.org/g/MFxqWu

## Requirements

Readability?

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

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

```
template<class T>
concept SignedIntegral = std::is_integral_v<T> and std::is_signed_v<T>;
```

#### 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: More simplifying syntaxes to come

#### Example

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

```
template < class T > void forward(T& t, std::string_view data) { // generic
    t.???(data); // send/write
}
```

**Everything Cpp** 

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

#### Concept definition

```
template < class T > concept File =
  requires(T t, std:string_view data) {
      { t.write(data) } -> void; // compound requirement
};
```

#### 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
- Printable
- Callable member function write which takes type T&
- Callable member function read which returns type T
- Callable either with a member function read\_complete or commit\_read

Optional interfaces: Inheritance / 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;
 /// ??? one of
  virtual void read_complete() = 0;
  virtual void commit_read() = 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 t.commit_read(); // Readable 2/2
  } or requires(T t, std::ostream& out, TData& data) {
                // Printable
    out << t;
   t.write(data);
{ t.read() } -> TData;
t.read_complete();
// Readable 1/2
// Readable 2/2
};
```

Optional interfaces: Usage

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

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

};

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

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

#### **Placeholders**

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

```
auto foo1 = Foo{42}; // C++11 - auto -> least constrained concept
Foo foo2 = Foo{42}; // C++17 - Constructor Template Argument Deduction
Fooable foo3 = Foo{42}; // C++20 - placeholder
```

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

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

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

## Concepts in 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
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25	Destructible requirements	468
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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++17)

```
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&&>()...))> // if is well-formed return
constexpr auto requires_impl(int) { return true; } // true otherwise remove
                                                   // the candidate from the
                                                   // overload set
template <class...>
constexpr auto requires_impl(...) { return false; } // the last man standing
                                                    // 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
}
```

Note: Default template pramaters aren't part of the function signature (no SFINAE)

```
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
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 print(T const& d) { d.draw(std::cout); }
int main() {
  print(Square{}); // prints Square
  print(Circle{}); // prints Circle
```

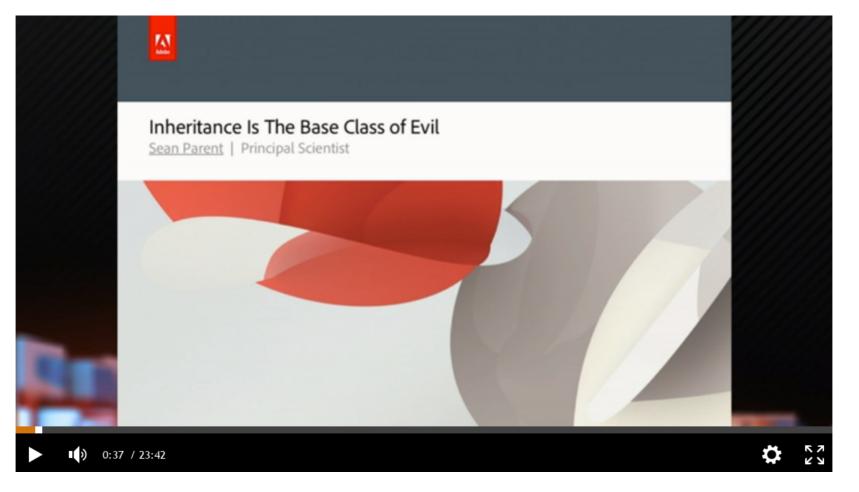
Static polymorphism

```
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



Inheritance-Is-The-Base-Class-of-Evil

Dynamic polymorphism / type-erasure

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

Dynamic polymorphism / type-erasure

```
void print(Drawable const& d) { d.draw(std::cout); }
int main() {
  print(Square{}); // prints Square
  print(Circle{}); // prints Circle
}
```

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

Dynamic polymorphism / Virtual concepts (C++2?) - Dynamic Generic Programming with Virtual Concepts

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

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

void print(virtual Drawable const& d) { d.draw(std::cout); }

// ~~~^~~~ type-erasure

int main() {
  print(Square{}); // prints Square
  print(Circle{}); // prints Circle
}</pre>
```

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

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

No inheritance

No heap

100% value semantics

Might be inlined (Small buffer optimization - SBO)

Dynamic polymorphism / Metaclasses (C++2?) - https://wg21.link/p0707r0

```
$class any { // type-erasure metaclass
 void* ptr_{};
 struct {
    constexpr {
      void (*delete_ptr)(void*);
      for... (const auto f: $any.functions()) {
        -> {
          idexpr(f).ret_type() (*idexpr(f)())(void*, idexpr(f).args());
 } const vptr_{};
```

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

int main() {
  print(Square{}); // prints Square
  print(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**

- Allows well specified interfaces (precised documentation)
- Provides better diagnostics
- Simplify usage of SFINAE / enable\_if
  - Introspection by design / Optional interfaces
- Can be emulated in C++14/C++17 (So far!)
  - variable templates / constexpr / constexpr if
- C++20 is just the beginning
  - syntax improvements / requirements improvements
  - virtual concepts / metaclasses / static reflection

#### **Questions?**

C++20 draft	http://eel.is/c++draft/temp.constr
Concepts	https://wg21.link/P0734R0
Virtual Concepts	https://github.com/andyprowl/virtual- concepts/blob/master/draft/Dynamic Generic Programming with Virtual Concepts.pdf

