Louis Dionne

Education

Jan 2013 – Dec 2015

B.Sc. Mathematics, Université Laval, Québec.

Sep 2011 – May 2012

B.Sc. Software Engineering (not completed), Université Laval, Québec.

Experience

May 2017 – present

Member of the Boost Steering Committee, Boost.org.

Participate in technical decisions impacting the future of the Boost community, but also day-to-day procedural and policy-related issues.

Dec 2016 – present

Amazon Representative on the C++ Standards Committee.

Jun 2016 – present

Software Development Engineer, A9.com (an Amazon company), Palo Alto.

Member of the search infrastructure team powering Amazon's search engine. Notable contributions:

- Replace parts of the internal key-value store with a lock-free prefix tree backed by a variant of RCU and a custom allocator allowing the structure to be stored in a memory mapped file. Achieved throughput improvement of more than 50% for real-time updates.
- Replace the component that applies real-time updates to search indices by a new one that scales better.
- Played key role in the low-level design of a novel query processing pipeline allowing the space and time cost of any query to be bounded. Achieved significant fleet cost reduction.
- Pioneer a C++ library of high-quality fundamental utilities for use throughout Amazon.

Dec 2014 – Jun 2016

C++ consulting, (finance, embedded systems).

Development of C++ libraries to retain a high level of abstraction in applications where both performance and correctness matter. Also some refactoring of existing systems to add new features and/or improve performance.

2014 - 2017

Development of Hana, a Boost library for C++ metaprogramming.

Design and implementation of a library to manipulate heterogeneous sequences at compile-time and at runtime. The library introduces a new paradigm for expressing meta-computations allowing a very high level of expressiveness with little to no performance penalty.

2014 - 2015

GSoC student with Boost, Google Summer of Code.

Work on Boost. Hana during the summers of 2014 and 2015 as part of the Google Summer of Code program. I also received a grant from the Boost Steering Committee to continue working during the winter of 2015, which had never been done before for a GSoC student.

Sep 2012 – Dec 2012

Software Developer, Coveo Solutions, Québec.

Work on a MIME parser in C++. Resigned to pursue a degree in mathematics.

May 2012 – Aug 2012

Intern, Coveo Solutions, Québec.

- o Conception and implementation of a deadlock detection system for internal use
- $\circ\,$ Presentations on C++ techniques and idioms to co-workers:
 - The Boost.ConceptCheck library and associated template metaprogramming techniques
 - C++11 rvalue references

Selected talks (full list)

- 2017 Runtime Polymorphism: Back to the Basics (slides/video), CppCon, Bellevue.
- 2016 Closing keynote on metaprogramming (slides/video), Meeting C++, Berlin. Was voted the best presentation by attendees
- Metaprogramming: a paradigm shift (slides/video), C++Now, Aspen. Awards for the best presentation and the most inspiring presentation
- 2014 Hana: Expressive metaprogramming (slides/video), CppCon, Bellevue.
- 2013 A system for resource deadlock prevention (slides/video), C++Now, Aspen.

Personal Projects

Metabench A simple framework for doing compile-time benchmarks

Implemented a self-contained CMake module to perform compile-time benchmarks of C++ metaprograms. Such benchmarks are very useful when writing a metaprogramming library, where the performance of the library must be measured in terms of compilation time. The module works by having the user write ERB templates that are then used to generate C++ programs. The C++ programs are compiled and various metrics such as compilation time, link time and executable size are gathered. The module generates HTML5 charts to easily visualize the metrics.

- mpl11 Conception and implementation of a C++11 replacement for the Boost.MPL
 - Reimplemented the functionality of the Boost.MPL library using new template metaprogramming techniques made possible by C++11. Redesigned the API of the library using ideas from Haskell to make it more powerful, easier to use and to extend.
 - d2 Conception and implementation of a deadlock detection system in C++
 Detects deadlocks that would have happened under different thread scheduling conditions by performing intrusive dynamic analysis on a non-deadlocking run of a program.
 Additionally, provides statistics about lock and thread usage.
 - joy Implementation of a preprocessor metaprogramming library Implemented associative sequences and other utilities for preprocessor metaprogramming on top of the Chaos preprocessor library.
 - nstl Conception and implementation of a generic algorithm library in pure C Implemented a basic name mangling system and "preprocessor-based classes" using PMP techniques. Using these facilities, implemented a subset of the C++ standard library algorithms. The result is a collection of generic algorithms instantiable and usable from pure C without sacrificing type safety or performance by using traditional techniques like pointers to void.
- duck Implementation of a minimal concept-based overloading library
 Implemented a subset of Boost.ConceptCheck's concepts as metafunctions, which allows
 overloading based on the modeling of a concept by a type.
- cisp Implementation of a minimalist object system with the preprocessor Created a system to manipulate complex preprocessor objects using associative sequences imbued with object semantics.
- nstl-lang Implementation of a translator for a toy language in Python Implemented basic parsing, semantic analysis and code generation to C.

Contributions to other projects

- Contribution of the hawick_circuits algorithm to Boost.Graph
- Occasional patches to Boost (Spirit, Graph, Archive, MPL and others)
- Active on the Boost.Dev mailing list
- CMake port of the FastPFor integer compression library's build system
- $\circ\,$ Too frequent bug reports against the Clang and GCC compilers.