

# Better Tools in Your Clang Toolbox

September, 2018



**Victor Ciura**  
Technical Lead, Advanced Installer  
[www.advancedinstaller.com](http://www.advancedinstaller.com)

## ***Abstract***

Clang-tidy is the go to assistant for most C++ programmers looking to improve their code. If you set out to modernize your aging code base and find hidden bugs along the way, clang-tidy is your friend. Last year, we brought all the clang-tidy magic to Visual Studio C++ developers with a Visual Studio extension called “Clang Power Tools”.

After successful usage within our team, we decided to open-source the project and make Clang Power Tools available for free in the Visual Studio Marketplace. This helped tens of thousands of developers leverage its powers to improve their projects, regardless of their compiler of choice for building their applications.

Clang-tidy comes packed with over 250 built-in checks for best practice, potential risks and static analysis. Most of them are extremely valuable in real world code, but we found several cases where we needed to run specific checks for our project. This talk will share some of the things we learned while developing these tools and using them at scale on our projects and within the codebases of our community users.

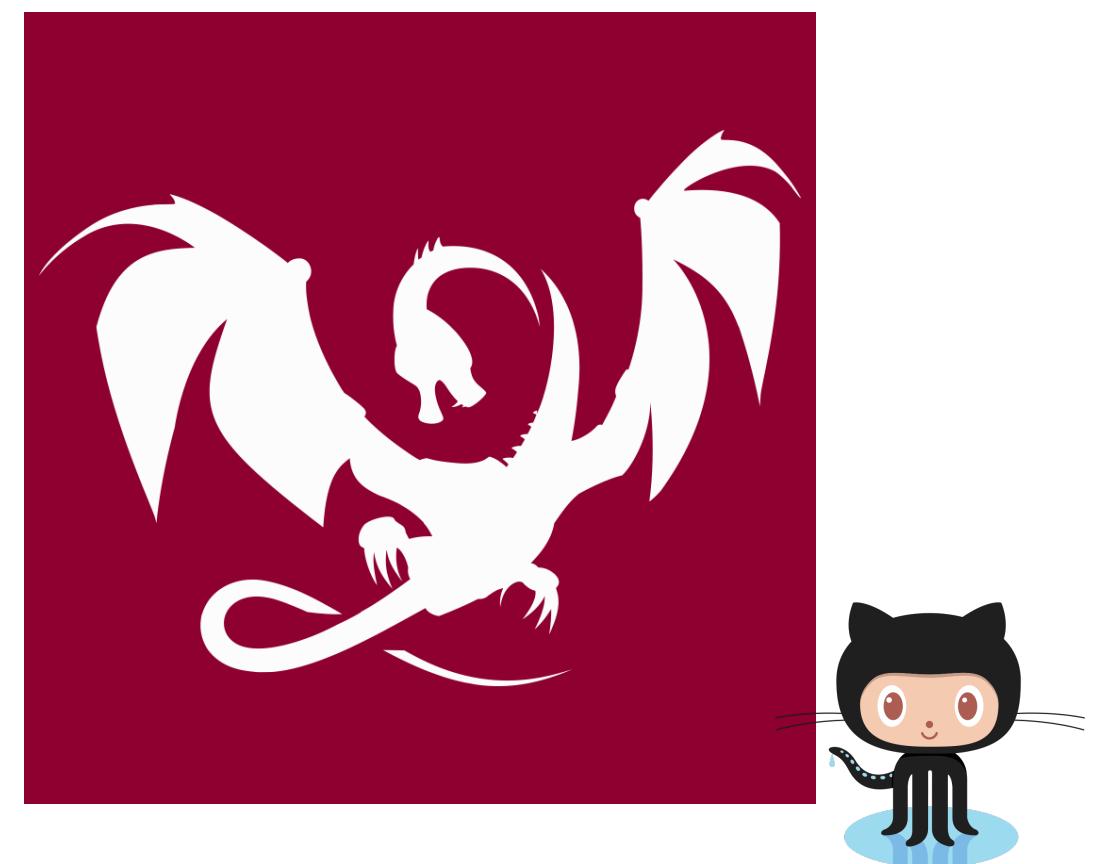
<http://clangpowertools.com>

<https://github.com/Caphyon/clang-power-tools>

# Who Am I?

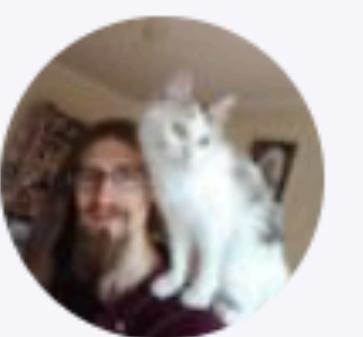


**Advanced Installer**



**Clang Power Tools**





**Simon Brand** @TartanLlama · Jul 6



So this happened  
#CppCon



A photograph of a man with short brown hair, wearing a dark grey suit jacket over a white shirt and a patterned tie. He is laughing heartily, with his head tilted back and mouth wide open. The background is slightly blurred, showing an indoor setting with warm lighting.

Thaaaaats

**Monday, September 24**

11:00

Enough string\_view to Hang Ourselves

Victor Ciura

[Manage](#)

**Tuesday, September 25**

09:00

Regular Types and Why Do I Care ?

Victor Ciura

[Manage](#)

**Wednesday, September 26**

09:00

These Aren't the COM Objects You're Looking For

Victor Ciura

[Manage](#)

**Thursday, September 27**

09:00

Better Tools in Your Clang Toolbox: Extending clang-tidy With Your Custom Checks

Victor Ciura

**You are here --->**



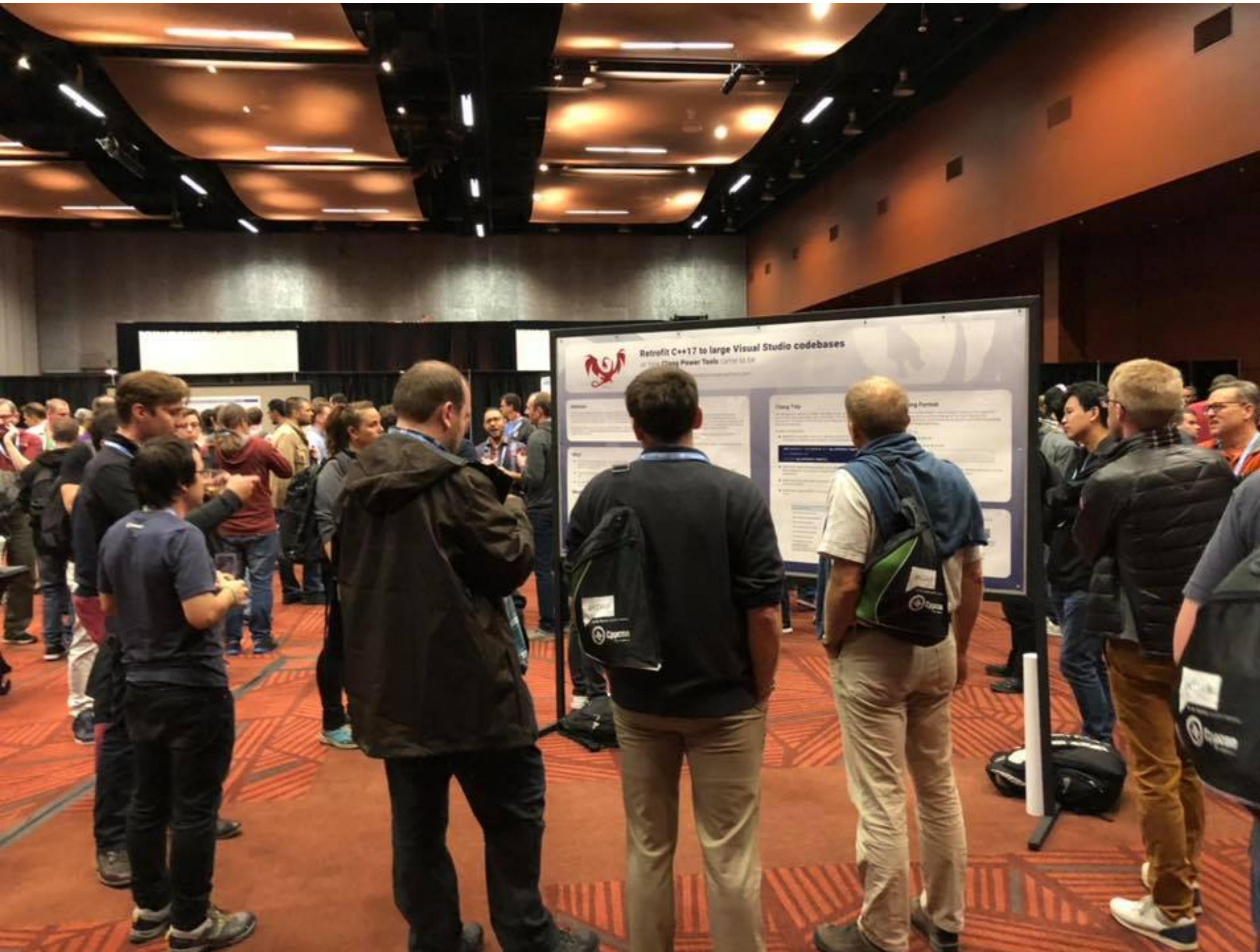
# Better Tools in Your Clang Toolbox

# **Vignette in 3 parts**

# **Part I**

# **The Tools**

# CppCon 2018 Welcome Reception





# Retrofit C++17 to large Visual Studio codebases

## or how Clang Power Tools came to be

Gabriel Diaconita | gabriel.diaconita@caphyon.com  
Caphyon, Romania

### Abstract

You work hard to bring great products to market. Newly written C++17 code is easier to read, less prone to bugs, safer and more performant. However, not even great software products are perfect, they're being continuously developed. What about existing Visual C++ code in your product codebase?

Clang Power Tools is a free, open-source tool that brings C++17 to your existing Visual C++ codebase, effortlessly modernizing thousands of files and millions of lines of code.

### Why?

- The LLVM Compiler Infrastructure offers excellent tools for automatically modernizing large codebases of C++ code, bringing these shiny modern features to production code.
- Visual Studio developers on Windows are not given easy access to these tools.
- Clang Power Tools brings clang-format, clang-compile and clang-tidy directly into Visual Studio.

### What do I need?

- Download and install Clang for Windows (LLVM pre-built binary, v4.0-7.0)
- Clang Power Tools directly from the directly from Visual Studio Marketplace.

Got a build automation server?  
Clang Power Tools integrates seamlessly with popular automation servers.  
Keep builds fast by compiling only translation units affected by the modified source / header files.

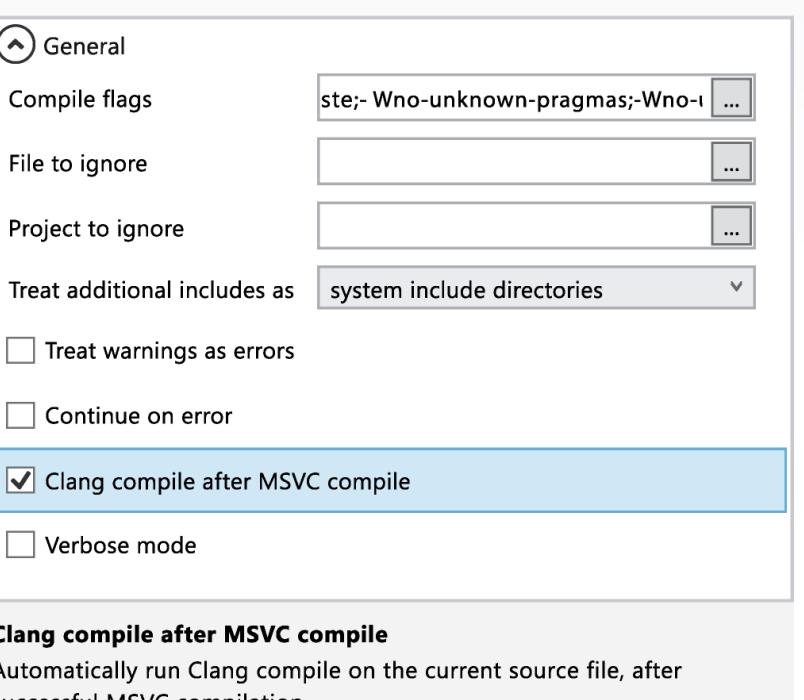
Configure once, run everywhere.  
cpt.config versioned configuration files bring tailored Clang Power Tools settings to your entire team.

### Clang Compile

Clang compile is the first step you take towards modernization. It will gradually lead you to make the code standard-compliant and weed out potential issues, such as double implicit conversions, integer promotions, and more. After your code compiles successfully with Clang you can then move to more advanced tools, like Tidy, LibTooling and Static Analyzer.

It also serves as gateway towards compliance with the latest Visual C++ compilation mode `/permissive-`.

Clang Power Tools can automatically clang compile every source file directly after compiling with MSVC.

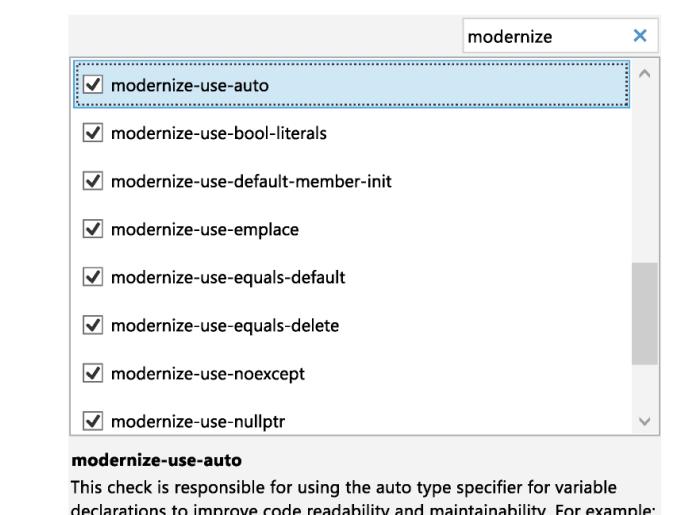


### Clang Tidy

After getting your codebase to compile with clang, you can use clang-tidy to perform large scale refactorings, called modernizers. This will retrofit important C++17 features to your old code, increasing ease of reading, safety, and code performance.

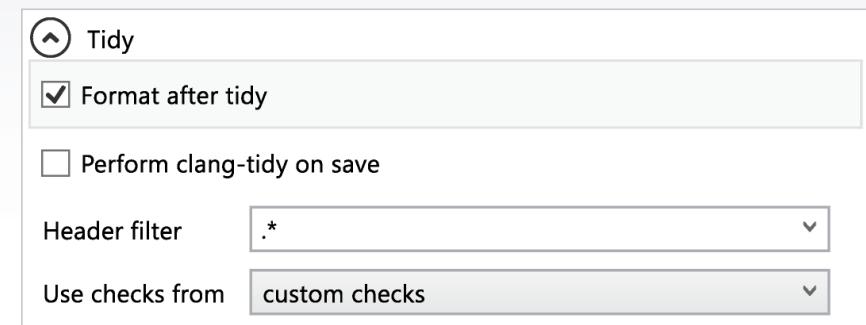
Examples of modernizers:

- `modernize-use-auto`: will insert the 'auto' type specifier for variable declarations to improve code readability and maintainability
- `modernize-make-shared/unique`: inserts `make_shared` and `make_unique` for smart pointer exception safety and memory optimization
- `modernize-use-override`: inserts 'override' keyword to virtual functions overrides
- `modernize-loop-convert`: converts raw loops to range-based for loops

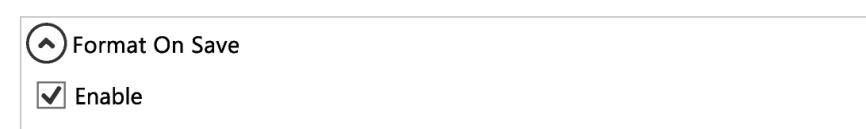


### Clang Format

Even after modernizing the code, keeping it consistent with a particular formatting style is a serious challenge for any team. Eliminate the styling-related part of code reviews by having your source files automatically formatted using clang-format.



After selecting a formatting style (LLVM, Google, Mozilla and more), you can have source files auto-formatted at each Save operation.



Eager to see Clang Power Tools in action? Make sure you check out the following links:



www.clangpowertools.com  
The project's official site



Get Clang Power Tools now  
from Visual Studio Marketplace



github.com/Caphyon  
/clang-power-tools

Clang Power Tools was created with ❤️ by  
some very awesome people at CAPHYON

<https://caphyon.com>



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→



LLVM  
clang-tidy  
clang++  
clang-format

Visual Studio  
2015/2017

Clang Power Tools

[www clangpowertools com](http://www clangpowertools com)

FREE / Open source

# Clang Power Tools

- free open-source Visual Studio extension
- helping developers leverage Clang/LLVM tools (`clang++`, `clang-tidy` and `clang-format`)
- perform various code transformations and fixes like **modernizing** code to C++ 11/14/17
- finding subtle latent **bugs** with its static analyzer and C++ Core Guidelines checks

# Clang Power Tools



**September, 27**



# Exactly 1 Year Ago: September 27

The screenshot shows a video player interface. At the top right is the CppCon logo: "cppcon" in orange with a yellow plus sign, and "the c++ conference" in smaller text below it. The main title of the video is "Bringing Clang-tidy Magic to Visual Studio C++ Developers". Below the title, the speaker's name is listed as "Victor Ciura" with the title "Technical Lead, Advanced Installer" and the website "www.advancedinstaller.com". On the left side of the video frame, there is a small logo for "CAPHYON" featuring a stylized blue and yellow cube. The video player has a progress bar at the bottom showing "0:06 / 1:00:34". On the right side of the video frame, there are several icons: a play button, a volume icon, a closed caption icon (CC), a HD icon, a square icon, and a bracketed icon. The video content itself shows a man with glasses and a patterned shirt standing at a podium, smiling.

CppCon 2017: Victor Ciura “Bringing Clang-tidy Magic to Visual Studio C++ Developers”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wl-9ozmxXbo>

<http://sched.co/BgsQ>



# 1 Year and counting...

- 80,000 installs 🎉
- 35+ releases
- 173 reported issues fixed
- 22 Git forks
- 150+ stars/followers (GitHub)
- 50+ external PRs

Not bad for a "hobby" project 😎



# 1 Year and counting....

A big Thank You to [Gabriel](#) & Ionuț,  
for all the great work they put into this project  
and to all our [community contributors](#)





## Get Involved

<https://github.com/Caphyon/clang-power-tools>

- submit issues/bugs
- give us feedback
- make pull requests
- suggest new features and improvements



[www clangpowertools com](http://www clangpowertools com)



# Clang PowerShell Script

- very configurable (many parameters)
- supports both clang compile and tidy workflows
- works directly on Visual Studio **.vcxproj** files (or MSBuild projects)
  - i** no roundtrip transformation through Clang JSON compilation database
- supports parallel compilation
- constructs Clang PCH from VS project `<stdafx.h>`
- automatically extracts all necessary settings from VS projects:
  - 👉 preprocessor definitions, platform toolset, SDK version, include directories, PCH, etc.

**clang-build.ps1**



# Using The PowerShell Script

<b>-dir</b>	Source directory to process for VS project files
<b>-proj</b>	List of projects to compile
<b>-proj-ignore</b>	List of projects to ignore
<b>-file</b>	What cpp(s) to compile from the found projects
<b>-file-ignore</b>	List of files to ignore
<b>-parallel</b>	Run clang++ in parallel mode, on all logical CPU cores
<b>-continue</b>	Continue project compilation even when errors occur
<b>-clang-flags</b>	Flags passed to clang++ driver
<b>-tidy</b>	Run specified clang-tidy checks
<b>-tidy-fix</b>	Run specified clang-tidy checks with auto-fix
<b>...</b>	

**clang-build.ps1**



# Using The PowerShell Script

You can run `clang-build.ps1` directly,  
by specifying all required parameters (low-level control over details)

or

 You can use a `configuration file` (eg. `cpt.config`),  
that pre-loads some of the constant configurations specific for your team/project  
*=> source control*



# Using The PowerShell Script

```
PS> .\clang-build.ps1 -parallel
```

- Runs clang **compile** on all projects in current directory

```
PS> .\clang-build.ps1 -parallel -proj-ignore foo,bar
```

- Runs clang **compile** on all projects in current directory, except 'foo' and 'bar'

```
PS> .\clang-build.ps1 -proj foo,bar -file-ignore meow -tidy-fix "-*,modernize-*
```

- Runs **clang-tidy**, using all *modernize* checks, on all CPPs not containing 'meow' in their name, from the projects 'foo' and 'bar'.

PS script config



cpt.config

```
<cpt-config>
  <clang-flags>  "-Werror"
                 , "-Wall"
                 , "-fms-compatibility-version=19.10"
                 , "-W microsoft"
                 , "-Wno-invalid-token-paste"
                 , "-Wno-unknown-pragmas"
                 , "-Wno-unused-value"
  </clang-flags>
  <header-filter>'.*'</header-filter>
  <parallel/>
  <treat-sai/>
  <vs-sku>'Professional'</vs-sku>
</cpt-config>
```



## Using The PowerShell Script

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## Jenkins CI Configuration



# Jenkins CI Configuration

**Install PowerShell plugin (available from Jenkins gallery)**



[Manage Plugins](#)

Add, remove, disable or enable plugins that can extend the functionality of Jenkins.

The screenshot shows the Jenkins Plugin Manager interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the Jenkins logo, a search bar, and links for 'Jenkins' and 'Plugin Manager'. Below the navigation, there are two main sections: 'Back to Dashboard' with a green arrow icon and 'Manage Jenkins' with a gear icon. To the right, there are four tabs: 'Updates', 'Available' (which is highlighted in red), 'Installed', and 'Advanced'. Under the 'Available' tab, there's a table with columns for 'Name' and 'Install'. The table currently has one row with a single entry. At the bottom of the page, there's a footer with the Jenkins logo and the text 'Powered by Jenkins'.

<https://wiki.jenkins.io/display/JENKINS/PowerShell+Plugin>



# Jenkins CI Configuration

## Install PowerShell plugin

Jenkins ▶ Plugin Manager

<a href="#"><u>Plain Credentials Plugin</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>1.4</u></a>
Allows use of plain strings and files as credentials.	
<a href="#"><u>PowerShell plugin</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>1.3</u></a>
This plugin allows Jenkins to invoke <a href="#">Windows PowerShell</a> as build scripts.	
<a href="#"><u>SCM API Plugin</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>2.2.2</u></a>
This plugin provides a new enhanced API for interacting with SCM systems.	

<https://wiki.jenkins.io/display/JENKINS/PowerShell+Plugin>



# Jenkins CI Configuration

- Create a **new job** just for clang builds

or

- Attach a **new build step** on an existing job

**Build**

Add build step ▾

- Advanced Installer
- Build a Visual Studio project or solution using MSBuild
- Execute Windows batch command
- Execute shell
- Execute shell script on remote host using ssh
- Inject environment variables
- Invoke Ant
- Invoke top-level Maven targets
- Set build status to "pending" on GitHub commit
- Windows PowerShell**
- [ArtifactDeployer] - Deploy the artifacts from build workspace to remote locations



# Jenkins CI Configuration



Reference PowerShell script from the job working directory: **clang-build.ps1**

## Build

Windows PowerShell

X ?

Command .\scripts\ai-clang-build.ps1 -parallel -proj-ignore LZMA.vcxproj

See the [list of available environment variables](#)

Add build step ▾



# Jenkins CI Configuration



If you configured Clang build as a new Jenkins job, a good workflow is to track and build any SCM changes:

**Build Triggers**

- Trigger builds remotely (e.g., from scripts)
- Build after other projects are built
- Build periodically
- GitHub hook trigger for GITScm polling
- Poll SCM





# Jenkins CI Workflow



When Clang build is broken...

The screenshot shows a Slack window titled "Slack - Caphyon". On the left, the sidebar lists several channels: # ai, # ai-analytics, # ai-appv, # ai-appx, # ai-jenkins (which is highlighted in orange), # ai-qa, # ai-status, and # ai-support. The main pane displays the "#ai-jenkins" channel. The channel header includes a star icon, 16 messages, 0 topics, and a "Add a topic" button. It also features a phone, info, gear, and search icons. The date "Monday, September 18th" is shown. A message from the "jenkins" app at 6:29 PM reports a failure: "Clang - #1382 Failure after 25 min (Open)". Below this, it says "Clang - #1382 Changes:" followed by a list item: "- Fixed "Registry key does not exist" extended search not being correctly added." and "Issue: AI-13480 [ mike.graff ]". At the bottom of the channel view, there's a green button with a plus sign and the text "Message #ai-jenkins", along with icons for @ and 😊.

Slack bot alert ➡ #ai-jenkins



# Jenkins CI Workflow



When Clang build is broken...

Team devs email alert ➔

The screenshot shows an email client interface with the following details:

- Inbox Folders:** victor (selected), Inbox, Local Folders.
- Message Preview:** [AIROBOT] Build Still Failing Clang - Revision: 81423 (Subject), From Jenkins, 9/19/2017 6:54 PM.
- Message Content:**
  - BUILD FAILURE** (Icon: red circle with exclamation)
  - Build URL: <http://airobot/job/Clang/1385/>
  - Project: Clang
  - Date of build: Tue, 19 Sep 2017 18:05:05 +0300
  - Build duration: 49 min
- Changes Section:** Revision 81423 by [REDACTED] (Added support for using formatted references for Service failure operations.)
- Issue Section:** AI-11790
- Log Entries:** A list of file edits:
  - edit advinst\msicomp\appxcfg\AppXNtServiceSync.cpp
  - edit advinst\msicomp\servconfigfailactions\IMsiServConfigFailActionsTable.h
  - edit advinst\msicomp\servconfigfailactions\MsiServConfigFailActionsRow.cpp
  - edit advinst\msicomp\servconfigfailactions\MsiServConfigFailActionsRow.h
  - edit advinst\msicomp\servconfigfailactions\MsiServConfigFailActionsTable.cpp
  - edit advinst\msicomp\servconfigfailactions\MsiServConfigFailActionsTable.h
  - edit advinst\msicomp\servinst\MsiServInstView.cpp
  - edit advinst\msicomp\servinst\ServConfigFailActionsView.cpp
- Attachments:** 1 attachment: build.log 431 KB



# Jenkins CI Workflow



When Clang build is broken...

Team devs email alert ➔

The screenshot shows a Windows Mail window with the following details:

- Subject:** [AIROBOT] Build Still Failing Clang - Revision: 81423
- From:** Jenkins
- Date:** 9/19/2017 6:54 PM
- Message Content (Preview):**

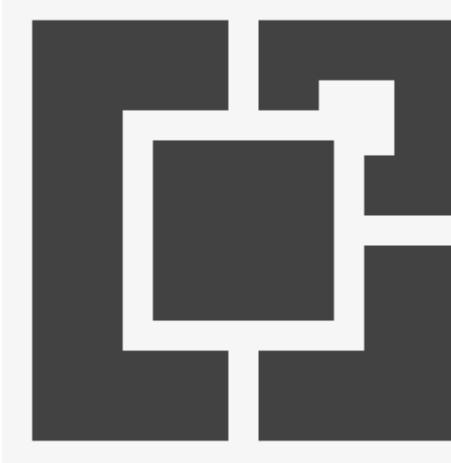
```
6: C:\Jenkins\Clang\workspace\platform\os\UrlUtil.cpp
5: C:\Jenkins\Clang\workspace\platform\os\Version.cpp
4: C:\Jenkins\Clang\workspace\platform\os\WindowUtil.cpp
3: C:\Jenkins\Clang\workspace\platform\os\WinVersion.cpp
2: C:\Jenkins\Clang\workspace\platform\os\WorkerThread.cpp
1: C:\Jenkins\Clang\workspace\platform\os\WowRedirection.cpp
Error: C:\Jenkins\Clang\workspace\stubs\setup\LaunchManager.cpp:264:13: error: no viable conversion from
'ATL::CStringT > >' to 'std::wstring' (aka 'basic_string, allocator >')
wstring cmdWithExe = exeName + L" ";
^ ~~~~~
C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Visual Studio\2017\Professional\VC\Tools\MSVC\14.11.25503\include
\xstring:1922:2: note: candidate constructor not viable: no known conversion from 'ATL::CStringT > >' to
'const std::basic_string, std::allocator > &' for 1st argument
basic_string(const basic_string& _Right)
^
C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Visual Studio\2017\Professional\VC\Tools\MSVC\14.11.25503\include
\xstring:1975:2: note: candidate constructor not viable: no known conversion from 'ATL::CStringT > >' to
'const wchar_t *const' for 1st argument
basic_string(_In_z_ const _Elem * const _Ptr)
^
C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Visual Studio\2017\Professional\VC\Tools\MSVC\14.11.25503\include
\xstring:2052:2: note: candidate constructor not viable: no known conversion from 'ATL::CStringT > >' to
'std::basic_string, std::allocator > &&' for 1st argument
basic_string(basic_string&& _Right) _NOEXCEPT
^
```
- Attachment:** build.log (431 KB)

# What About Developer Workflow?



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# Install The "Clang Power Tools" Visual Studio Extension

[Tools]



Extensions and updates

The screenshot shows the 'Extensions and Updates' window in Visual Studio. The search bar at the top right contains the text 'clang'. The search results are displayed under the heading 'Clang Power Tools'.

**Clang Power Tools**  
A tool bringing clang-tidy magic to Visual Studio C++ developers.  
[Download](#)

**ClangFormat**  
A tool to format C/C++/Obj-C code.

**Sourcetrail Extension**  
This extension allows Visual Studio to communicate with Sourcetrail, a Clang based source code explora...

**CodeBeautifier**  
Code beautifier front end Add-in for Visual Studio environment. Allows to use of any external code for...

**Scheduled For Install:**  
None

**Scheduled For Update:**  
None

**Scheduled For Uninstall:**  
None

1

Change your Extensions and Updates settings

Close

Requires "LLVM for Windows" (pre-built binary) to be installed.

<http://releases.llvm.org/6.0.0/LLVM-6.0.0-win64.exe>



# Configure The "Clang Power Tools" Visual Studio Extension

[Tools]  
↓  
⚙ Options...  
↓  
clang

General

Compile flags: -Wall;-fms-compatibility-version=19

File to ignore:

Project to ignore:

Treat additional includes as: system include directories

Treat warnings as errors

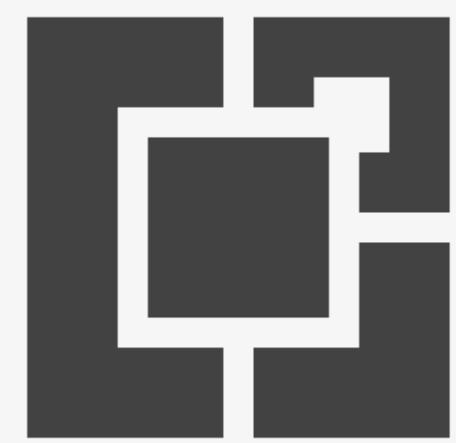
Continue on error

Clang compile after MSVC compile

Verbose mode

**Clang compile after MSVC compile**  
Automatically run Clang compile on the current source file, after successful MSVC compilation.

← Compilation settings



# Configure The "Clang Power Tools" Visual Studio Extension

The screenshot shows the Visual Studio Options dialog with the search bar set to "clang". The "General" section under "Clang Power Tools" is selected. A "String Collection Editor" window is open over the main dialog, with the title "String Collection Editor" and a message "Enter the strings in the collection (one per line)". The list contains the following items:

- std=c++14
- Wall
- fms-compatibility-version=19.10
- fms-compatibility
- W microsoft
- Wno-invalid-token-paste
- Wno-unknown-pragmas
- Wno-unused-variable
- Wno-unused-value

Annotations on the left side of the dialog:

- [Tools]
- Options...
- clang

Annotation on the right side of the "String Collection Editor" window:

- ← clang++ flags



# Configure The "Clang Power Tools" Visual Studio Extension

[Tools]  
↓  
⚙️ Options...  
↓  
clang

The screenshot shows the configuration dialog for the "Tidy" section of the Clang Power Tools extension. On the left, there is a vertical navigation menu with the following items: [Tools] (with a downward arrow), ⚙️ Options... (with a downward arrow), and clang. The main area displays the following settings:

- Tidy**: A section header with an upward arrow icon.
- Format after tidy
- Perform clang-tidy on save
- Header filter: A dropdown menu containing the value ".\*".
- Use checks from: A dropdown menu containing the value "custom checks".



# Configure The "Clang Power Tools" Visual Studio Extension

[Tools]  
↓  
⚙️ Options...  
↓  
clang

modernize X

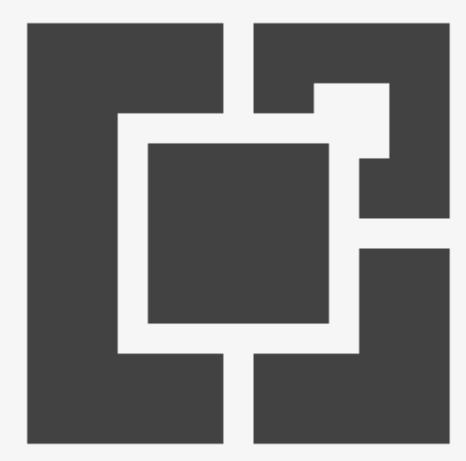
- modernize-use-auto
- modernize-use-bool-literals
- modernize-use-default-member-init
- modernize-use-emplace
- modernize-use-equals-default
- modernize-use-equals-delete
- modernize-use-noexcept
- modernize-use-nullptr

**modernize-use-auto**

This check is responsible for using the auto type specifier for variable declarations to improve code readability and maintainability. For example:

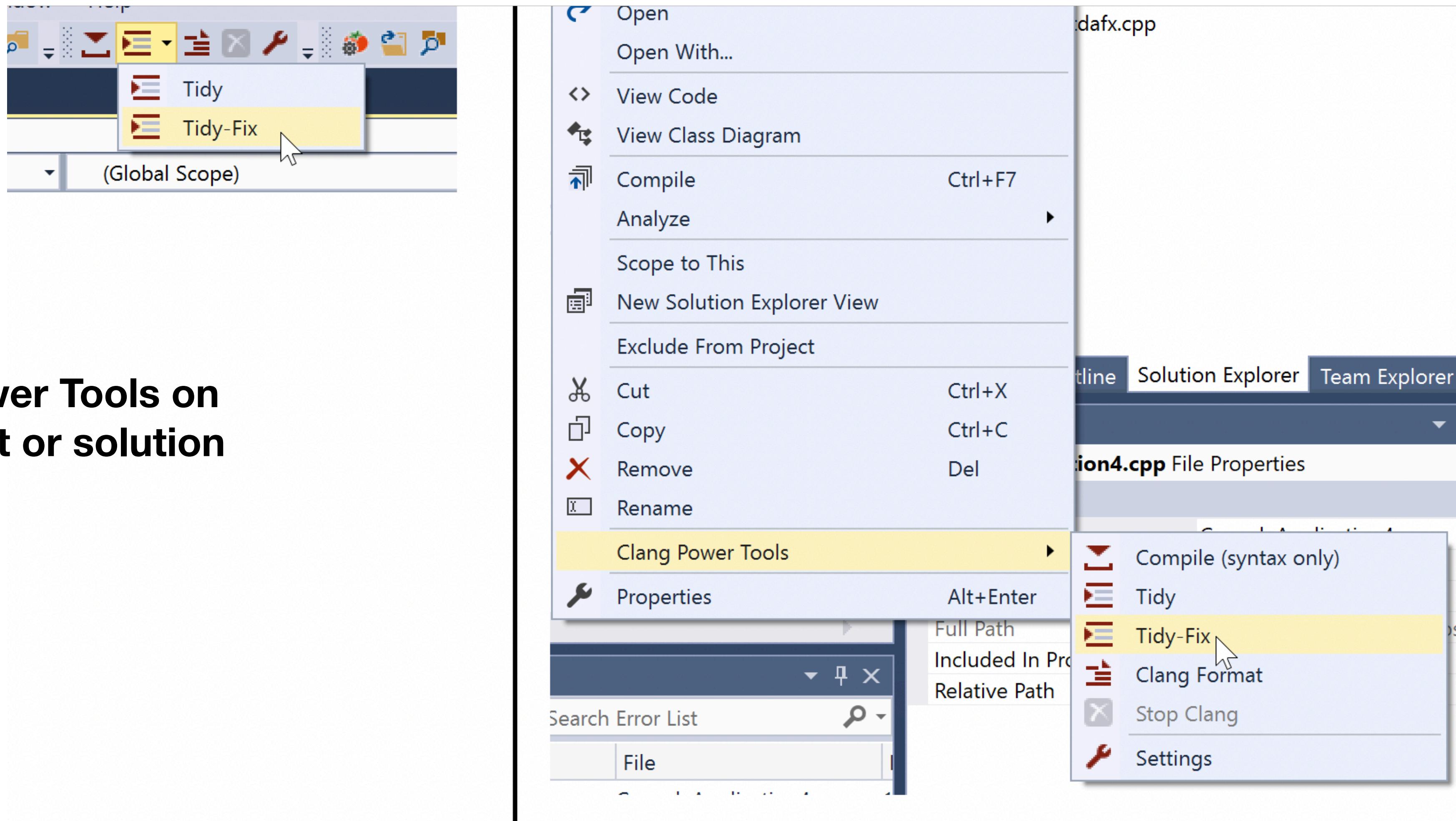
← clang-tidy checks

← inline documentation



# Using The "Clang Power Tools" Visual Studio Extension

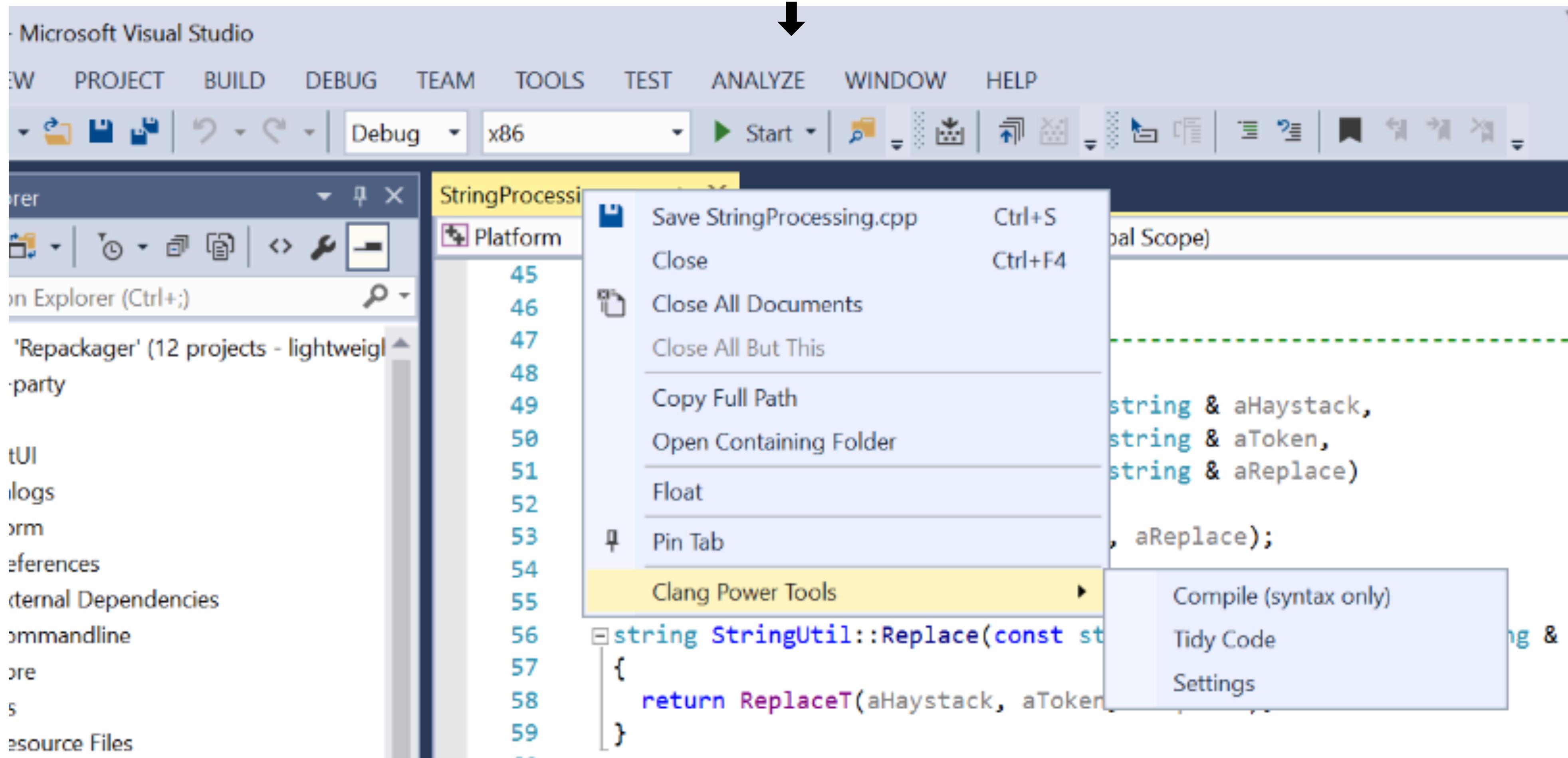
Run Clang Power Tools on a whole project or solution

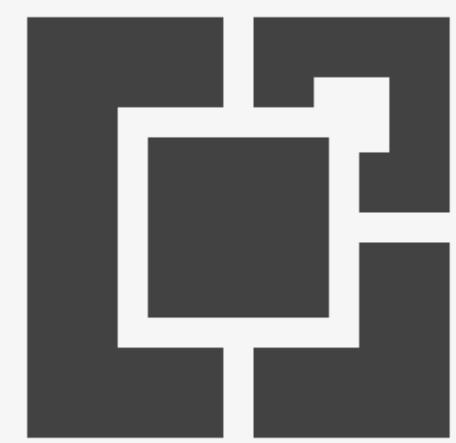




# Using The "Clang Power Tools" Visual Studio Extension

Run Clang Power Tools on an open source file





# Using The "Clang Power Tools" Visual Studio Extension

Handy Toolbar

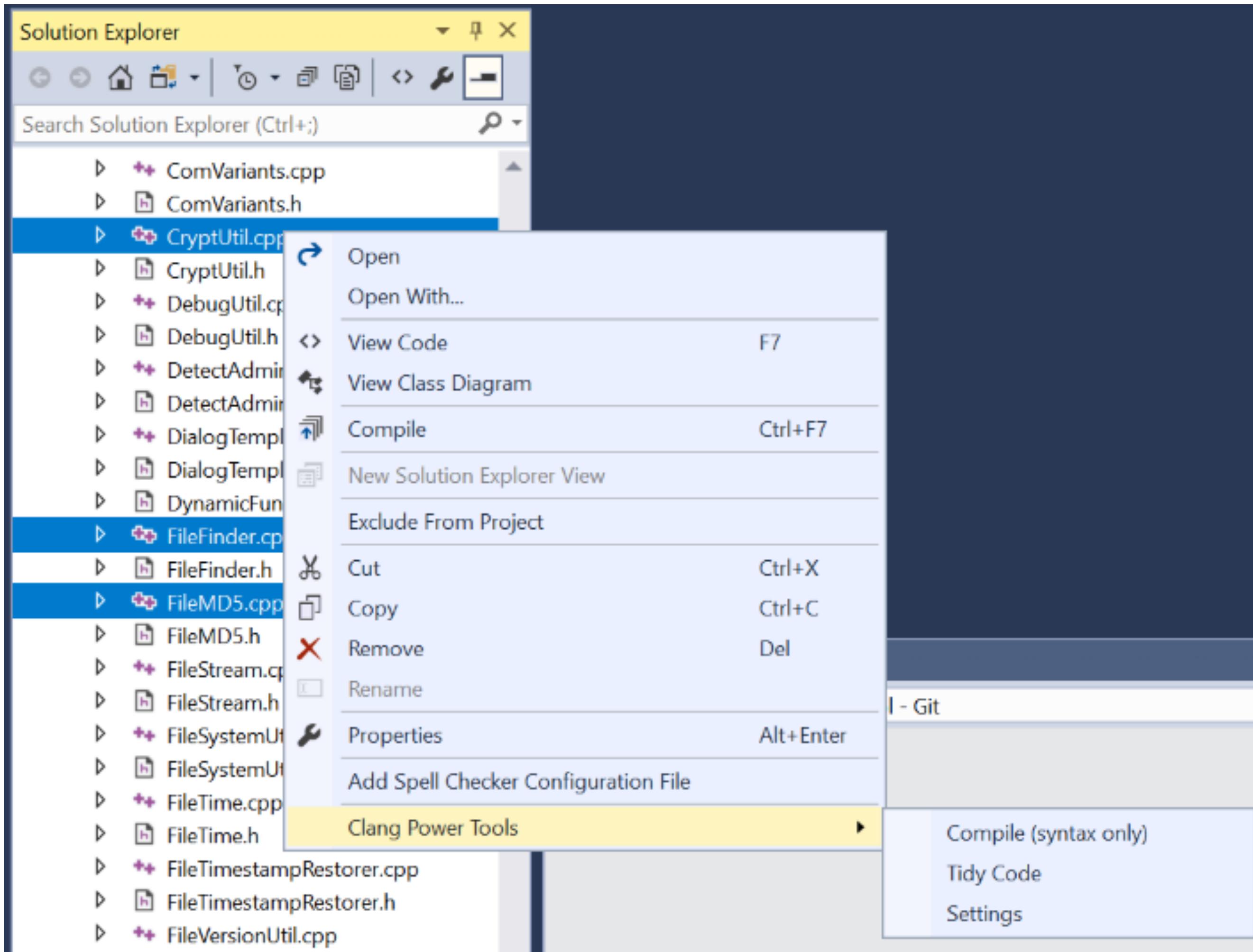
A screenshot of the Visual Studio IDE interface. At the top is the menu bar with DEBUG, TEAM, TOOLS, TEST, ANALYZE, WINDOW, and HELP. Below the menu is the toolbar with various icons, some of which are highlighted with yellow boxes. A callout arrow labeled 'Handy Toolbar' points to the icon for 'Tidy Code'. The solution explorer shows files like cstdint, SHA256.h, SHA256.cpp, AccessControl.cpp, Tidy Code, and Header.h. The code editor window displays two lines of C++ code:

```
1 #include "stdafx.h"
2 #include "SHA256.h"
```



# Using The "Clang Power Tools" Visual Studio Extension

Run Clang Power Tools →  
on selected files



← Compile or Tidy code



# Using The "Clang Power Tools" Visual Studio Extension

A screenshot of the Visual Studio IDE interface. The top menu bar shows tabs for "StringProcessing.cpp" and "StringEncoding.cpp". Below the tabs, there's a toolbar with icons for Platform, StringUtil, and IsRTL(const wstring & aString). The main code editor window displays C++ code for string processing. The output window at the bottom shows a Clang compile error message.

StringProcessing.cpp StringEncoding.cpp

Platform StringUtil IsRTL(const wstring & aString)

```
498 {  
499     size_t textLength = aString.length();  
500  
501     CAutoVectorPtr<WORD> charsType;  
502     charsType.Allocate(textLength);  
503  
504     Facet facet = DEFAULT_LOCALE;  
505  
506     // get type of each character from string  
507     BOOL ret = ::GetStringTypeW(CT_CTYPE2, aString.c_str(), (int)textLength, charsType);  
508     if (!ret)  
509         return false;  
510  
511     for (size_t i = 0; i < textLength; i++)  
512     {  
513         // at least one char is RTL so we consider entire string as RTL  
514         if (charsType[i] == C2_RIGHTTOLEFT)
```

Output

Show output from: Clang Power Tools

```
1: C:\JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp  
Error: C:\JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp:504:9: error: no viable conversion from 'const wchar_t [6]' to 'Facet'  
    Facet facet = DEFAULT_LOCALE;  
           ^ ~~~~~~  
C:\JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp  
:344:7: note: candidate constructor (the implicit copy constructor) not viable: no known conversion from 'const wchar_t [6]' to 'cons  
class Facet  
^  
C:\JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp:344:7: note: candidate constructor (the implicit move constructor) not viable: no  
class Facet  
^
```

← Clang compile error





# Using The "Clang Power Tools" Visual Studio Extension

```
StringProcessing.cpp  X
Platform → StringUtil  ⓘ IsRTL(const wstring & aString)
491 // get type of each character from string
492 BOOL ret = ::GetStringTypeW(CT_CTYPE2, aString.c_str(), (int)textLength, charsType);
493
494 if (!ret)
495     return false;
496
497 for (size_t i = 0; i < textLength; i++)
498 {
499     // at least one char is RTL so we consider entire string as RTL
500     if (charsType[i] == C2_RIGHTTOLEFT)
501         return true;
100 %
```

Output

Show output from: Clang Power Tools

```
C:\JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp:500:9: warning: Array access results in a null pointer dereference [clang-analyzer-core.NullDereference]
    if (charsType[i] == C2_RIGHTTOLEFT)
        ^
C:\JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp:494:7: note: Assuming 'ret' is not equal to 0
    if (!ret)
        ^
C:\JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp:494:3: note: Taking false branch
    if (!ret)
        ^
C:\JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp:497:22: note: Assuming 'i' is < 'textLength'
    for (size_t i = 0; i < textLength; i++)
        ^
C:\JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp:497:3: note: Loop condition is true. Entering loop body
    for (size_t i = 0; i < textLength; i++)
        ^
C:\JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp:500:9: note: Array access results in a null pointer dereference
    if (charsType[i] == C2_RIGHTTOLEFT)
Suppressed
```

Error List Output Find Symbol Results

← clang-tidy : analyzer report



Eg.

[clang-analyzer-core.NullDereference]

# Why Do I Care ?

15 year old code base under active development

3 million lines of C++ code

a few brave nerds...

or

“How we managed to **clang-tidy** our whole code base,  
while maintaining our monthly release cycle”

# *Mandatory Slide*

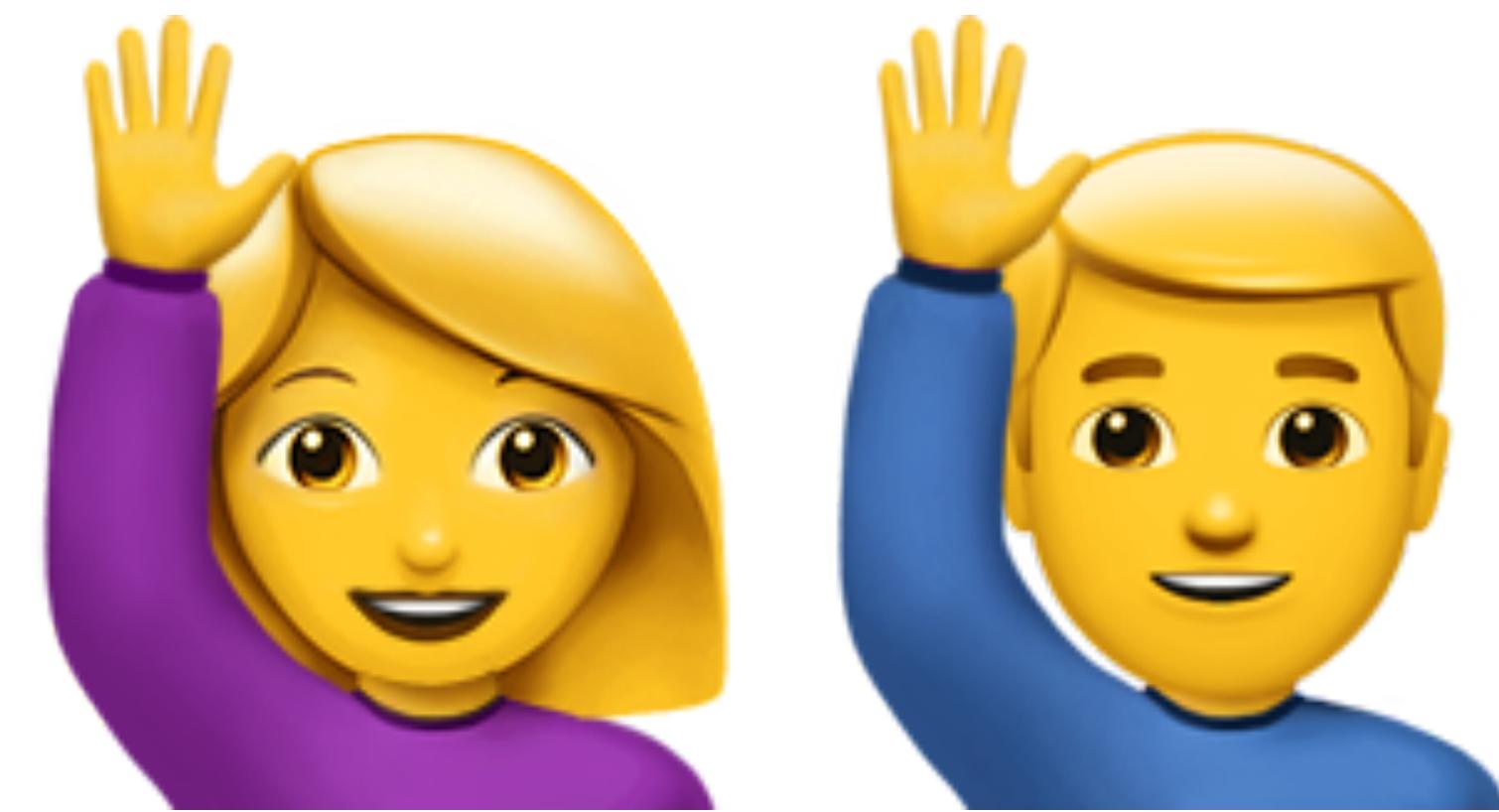
Gauging the audience...

C++98/03

C++11

C++14

C++17



# **Part II**

# **Massaging The Code**

# Why do we need this ?

**ISO C++ standard  
conformance**

**Finding bugs**

# ISO C++ standard conformance

MSVC /permissive-

Problem: Windows SDK

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/cpp/build/reference/permissive-standards-conformance?view=vs-2017>

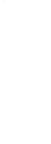
# ISO C++ standard conformance

Latest MSVC STL

Compiles/requires with Clang 7

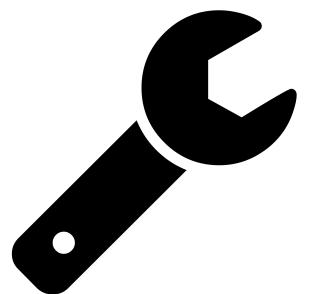
<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/cpp/build/reference/permissive-standards-conformance?view=vs-2017>

# Goals

- It all started with **clang-format**
- Building on the success of **clang-format** adoption within the team, we gained courage to experiment with **clang-tidy**
- New problem: getting all our code to fully **compile** with Clang, using the correct project settings (synced with Visual Studio) and Windows SDK dependencies
- We found several compatibility issues between MSVC compiler (VS2017) and Clang
- Note that we were already using MSVC **/W4** and **/WX** on all our projects  

# Goals

- Welcome to the land of **non-standard C++** language extensions and striving for C++ ISO conformance in our code
- We started **fixing** all non-conformant code... (some automation required)
- Perform large scale **refactorings** on our code with clang-tidy:  
**modernize-\* , readability-\***
- Run **static analysis** on our code base to find subtle latent bugs



# Fixes, fixes, fixes...



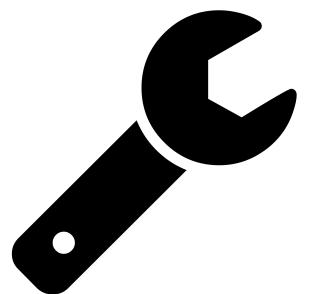
## Just a few examples:

Error: delete called on non-final 'AppPathVar' that has virtual functions but non-virtual destructor [-Werror, **-Wdelete-non-virtual-dtor**]

Error: 'MsiComboBoxTable::PreRowChange' hides overloaded virtual function  
[-Werror, **-Woverloaded-virtual**]

```
void PreRowChange(const IMsiRow & aRow, BitField aModifiedContext);
```

Error: variable 'it' is incremented both in the loop header and in the loop body  
[-Werror, **-Wfor-loop-analysis**]



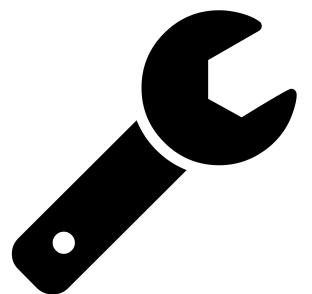
# Fixes, fixes, fixes...



## Just a few examples:

```
Error: FilePath.cpp:36:17: error: moving a temporary object prevents copy elision  
[-Werror,-Wpessimizing-move]  
: GenericPath(move(Unbox HugePath(aPath)))
```

```
Error: moving a local object in a return statement prevents copy elision  
[-Werror,-Wpessimizing-move]  
return move(replacedConnString);
```



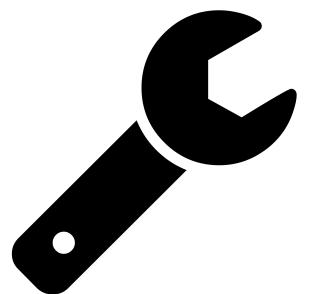
# Fixes, fixes, fixes...



**Just a few examples:**

```
Error: field 'mCommandContainer' will be initialized after field 'mRepackBuildType'  
[-Werror, -Wreorder]
```

```
Error: PipeServer.cpp:42:39: error: missing field 'InternalHigh' initializer  
[-Werror, -Wmissing-field-initializers]
```



# Fixes, fixes, fixes...

```
StringProcessing.cpp:504:9: error: no viable conversion from 'const wchar_t [6]'  
to 'Facet'
```

```
Facet facet = DEFAULT_LOCALE;  
^ ~~~~~~
```

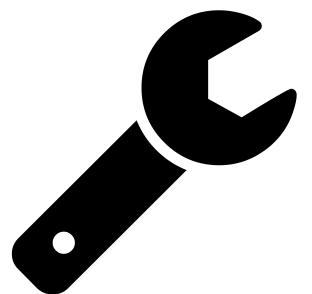
```
StringProcessing.cpp:344:7: note: candidate constructor (the implicit copy  
constructor) not viable: no known conversion from 'const wchar_t [6]' to  
'const Facet &' for 1st argument
```

```
class Facet  
^
```

```
StringProcessing.cpp:349:3: note: candidate constructor not viable: no known  
conversion from 'const wchar_t [6]' to 'const std::wstring &' for 1st argument  
Facet(const wstring & facet)  
^
```



**Frequent offender:** **Two user-defined conversions needed**



# Fixes, fixes, fixes...

Error: destructor called on non-final 'InternalMessageGenerator' that has virtual functions but non-virtual destructor [-Werror, -Wdelete-non-virtual-dtor]

```
_Getptr() ->~_Ty();  
^
```

MessageCenter.cpp:49:29: note: in instantiation of function template specialization 'std::make\_shared<InternalMessageGenerator>' requested here

```
mInternalMsgGenerator = make_shared<InternalMessageGenerator>(...);  
^
```

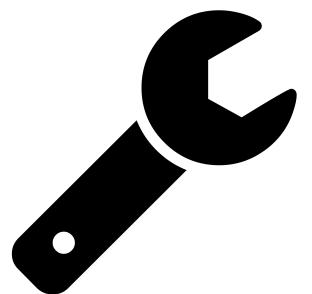
C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Visual Studio\2017\Professional\VC\Tools\MSVC\14.14.26428\include\memory:1783:15: note:

qualify call to silence this warning

```
_Getptr() ->~_Ty();
```



## Frequent offender



# Fixes, fixes, fixes...

Error: delete called on 'NetFirewall::INetFirewallMgr' that is **abstract** but has non-virtual destructor [-Werror, -Wdelete-non-virtual-dtor]

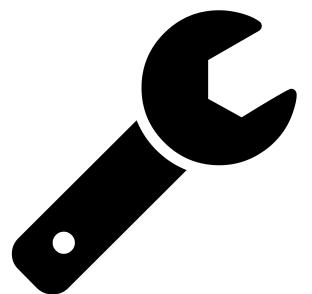
```
    delete _Ptr;  
    ^
```

```
C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Visual  
Studio\2017\Professional\VC\Tools\MSVC\14.14.26428\include\memory:2267:4: note:  
in instantiation of member function  
'std::default_delete<NetFirewall::INetFirewallMgr>::operator()' requested here  
            this->get_deleter() (get());  
            ^
```

```
NetFirewallMgrFactory.cpp:21:44: note: in instantiation of member function  
'std::unique_ptr<NetFirewall::INetFirewallMgr,  
std::default_delete<NetFirewall::INetFirewallMgr> >::~unique_ptr' requested here  
unique_ptr<NetFirewall::INetFirewallMgr> fwMgr;
```



## Frequent offender

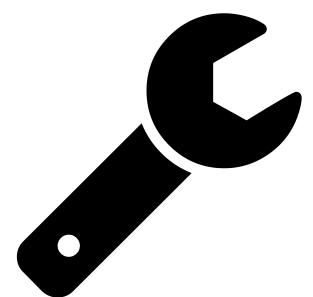


# Fixes, fixes, fixes...

```
FormattedLexer.cpp(2982): error [-Werror, -Wenum-compare-switch]:  
comparison of two values with different enumeration types in switch statement  
'FormattedLexer::CharType' and 'FormattedLexer::CharSubType'  
case REGULAR:  
^~~~~~
```



**Frequent offender**



## Iterative Conformance

-fno-delayed-template-parsing

-Werror=microsoft

-Werror=typename-missing

-Wno-xyz-warn

eg. -Wno-microsoft-sealed



# clang-tidy



# clang-tidy

**over 250 checks**

## Extra Clang Tools 7 documentation

### CLANG-TIDY - CLANG-TIDY CHECKS

#### Clang-Tidy Checks

- [abseil-string-find-startswith](#)
  - [Options](#)
- [android-cloexec-accept](#)
- [android-cloexec-accept4](#)
- [android-cloexec-creat](#)
- [android-cloexec-dup](#)
- [android-cloexec-epoll-create](#)
- [android-cloexec-epoll-create1](#)
- [android-cloexec-fopen](#)
- [android-cloexec-inotify-init](#)
- [android-cloexec-inotify-init1](#)
- [android-cloexec-memfd-create](#)
- [android-cloexec-open](#)
- [android-cloexec-socket](#)
- [android-comparison-in-temp-failure-retry](#)
- [boost-use-to-string](#)
- [bugprone-argument-comment](#)
  - [Options](#)
- [bugprone-assert-side-effect](#)
  - [Options](#)
- [bugprone-bool-pointer-implicit-conversion](#)
- [bugprone-copy-constructor-init](#)

<https://clang.llvm.org/extra/clang-tidy/checks/list.html>



# clang-tidy

## Large scale refactorings we performed:

- **modernize-use-nullptr**
- **modernize-loop-convert**
- **modernize-use-override**
- **readability-redundant-string-cstr**
- **modernize-use-emplace**
- **modernize-use-auto**
- **modernize-make-shared & modernize-make-unique**
- **modernize-use-equals-default & modernize-use-equals-delete**



## Large scale refactorings we performed:

- **modernize-use-default-member-init**
- **readability-redundant-member-init**
- **modernize-pass-by-value**
- **modernize-return-braced-init-list**
- **modernize-use-using**
- **cppcoreguidelines-pro-type-member-init**
- **readability-redundant-string-init & misc-string-constructor**
- **misc-suspicious-string-compare & misc-string-compare**
- **misc-inefficient-algorithm**
- **cppcoreguidelines-\***



# clang-tidy



## Issues we found:

### [readability-redundant-string-cstr]

```
// mChRequest is a 1KB buffer, we don't want to send it whole.  
// So copy it as a C string, until we reach a null char.  
ret += mChRequest.c_str();
```



# clang-tidy



## Issues we found:

[**modernize-make-shared**, **modernize-make-unique**]

- requestData.reset(new BYTE[reqLength]);
- + requestData = std::make\_unique<BYTE>();



# clang-tidy



## Issues we found:

[**modernize-use-auto**]

=> error: **unused typedef** 'BrowseIterator' [-Werror,-Wunused-local-typedef]

```
typedef vector<BrowseSQLServerInfo>::iterator BrowseIterator;
```



## Issues we found:

### [modernize-loop-convert]

=> **unused values (orphan)** [-Werror, -Wunused-value]

```
vector<ModuleInfo>::iterator first = Modules_.begin();  
vector<ModuleInfo>::iterator last = Modules_.end();
```

or:

```
size_t count = Data_.size();
```

```
for (auto & module : Modules_){  
    ...  
}
```



# clang-tidy



## Issues we found:

[modernize-use-using] => errors & incomplete

```
- typedef int (WINAPI * InitExtractionFcn) (ExtractInfo *);  
+ using InitExtractionFcn =  
    int (*) (ExtractInfo *) __attribute__((stdcall)) (ExtractInfo *);  
  
=> using InitExtractionFcn = int (WINAPI *) (ExtractInfo *);
```



## Issues we found:

[modernize-use-using] => errors & incomplete

```
template<typename KeyType>
class Row
{
    - typedef KeyType KeyT;           <= substitutes concrete key type (template argument)
    + using KeyT = basic_string<wchar_t, char_traits<wchar_t>, allocator<wchar_t> >;
...
    KeyType mID;
};

// purpose of type alias being to access that template type from a derived class:
typename Row:::KeyT
```

Concrete type used in code: **Row<wstring>**

# Beyond clang-tidy

- we wrote custom tools for our needs (project specific)
- fixed hundreds of member initializer lists with wrong order [-Wreorder]
- removed unused class private fields (references, pointers) [-Wunused-private-field]
- refactored some heavily used class constructors (changed mechanism for acquiring dependencies - interface refs)
- even more on the way...



# Roadmap

- **-Wextra** (a few remaining issues in our code)
- improve **Clang Power Tools** Visual Studio extension
- run more clang-tidy checks (fix more issues with **clang-analyzer-\***)
- re-run previous checks (for new code)
- more custom code transformations (project-specific)

# **Part III**

# **Take Control**



## More clang-tidy checks

<https://github.com/llvm-mirror/clang-tools-extra/tree/master/clang-tidy>

Checks are organized in **modules**, which can be linked into clang-tidy  
with minimal or no code changes in clang-tidy

Checks can plug into the analysis on the **preprocessor** level using **PPCallbacks**  
or on the AST level using **AST Matchers**

Checks can **report** issues in a similar way to how Clang diagnostics work.  
A **fix-it** hint can be attached to a diagnostic message

# Tools

- `add_new_check.py` - automate the process of adding a new check  
(creates check, update the CMake file and creates test)
- `rename_check.py` - renames an existing check
- `clang-query` - interactive prototyping of AST matchers and exploration of the Clang AST
- `clang-check -ast-dump` - provides a convenient way to dump the AST

```
clang-tidy/
|-- ClangTidy.h
|-- ClangTidyModule.h
|-- ClangTidyModuleRegistry.h
...
|-- mymod/
| +- MyModTidyModule.cpp
| +- MyModTidyModule.h
...
|-- tool/
...
test/clang-tidy/
...
unittests/clang-tidy/
|-- ClangTidyTest.h
|-- MyModModuleTest.cpp
# Clang-tidy core.
# Interfaces for users and checks.
# Interface for clang-tidy modules.
# Interface for registering of modules.
# My Own clang-tidy module.
# Sources of the clang-tidy binary.
# Integration tests.
# Unit tests.
```

# Setup

```
# download the sources
git clone http://llvm.org/git/llvm.git
cd llvm/tools/
git clone http://llvm.org/git/clang.git
cd clang/tools/
git clone http://llvm.org/git/clang-tools-extra.git extra

# build everything
cd ../../..
mkdir build && cd build/
cmake -DCMAKE_BUILD_TYPE=RelWithDebInfo ..
make check-clang-tools
```

# Init

We will add our check to the [readability] category/module

`add_new_check.py readability pretty-func`

This will create:

`/readability/PrettyFuncCheck.h`  
`/readability/PrettyFuncCheck.cpp`

=> include it in:

`/readability/ReadabilityTidyModule.cpp`

```
#include "../ClangTidy.h"

namespace clang {
namespace tidy {
namespace readability {

class PrettyFuncCheck : public ClangTidyCheck
{
public:
    PrettyFuncCheck(StringRef Name, ClangTidyContext * Context)
        : ClangTidyCheck(Name, Context) {}

    void registerMatchers(ast_matchers::MatchFinder * Finder) override;
    void check(const ast_matchers::MatchFinder::MatchResult & Result) override;
};

} // namespace readability
} // namespace tidy
} // namespace clang
```

# ClangTidyCheck

Our check needs to operate on the AST level:

- `registerMatchers()` - register clang AST matchers to filter out interesting source locations
- `check()` - provide a function which is called by the Clang whenever a match was found;  
we can perform further actions here (eg. emit diagnostics)

If we wanted to analyze code on the **preprocessor** level  
=> override `registerPPCallbacks()` method

```
using namespace astMatchers;

void PrettyFuncCheck::registerMatchers(MatchFinder * Finder)
{
    Finder->addMatcher(functionDecl().bind("needle"), this);
}
```

```
using namespace ast_matchers;

void PrettyFuncCheck::check(const MatchFinder::MatchResult & Result)
{
    const auto * MatchedDecl = Result.Nodes.getNodeAs<FunctionDecl>("needle");

    if (MatchedDecl->getName().startswith_lower("get_"))
    {
        diag(MatchedDecl->getLocation(), "function %0 needs your attention")
            << MatchedDecl
            << FixItHint::CreateInsertion(MatchedDecl->getLocation(), "Get");
    }
}
```

# Test

```
clang-tidy -checks='-* ,readability-pretty-func' some/file.cpp
```

# Check Options

If a check needs configuration **options**, it can access check-specific options using:

```
Options.get<Type>("SomeOption", DefaultValue)
```

# Check Options

```
class PrettyFuncCheck : public ClangTidyCheck
{
    const unsigned    Tolerance; // option 1
    const std::string TargetFunc; // option 2
public:

    PrettyFuncCheck(StringRef Name, ClangTidyContext * Context)
        : ClangTidyCheck(Name, Context),
          Tolerance(Options.get("Tolerance", 0)),
          TargetFunc(Options.get("TargetFunc", "get_")) {}

    void storeOptions(ClangTidyOptions::OptionMap & Opts) override
    {
        Options.store(Opts, "Tolerance", Tolerance);
        Options.store(Opts, "TargetFunc", TargetFunc);
    }
}
```

# .clang-tidy

## CheckOptions:

- key: readability-pretty-func.Tolerance a1  
value: 123 b1
- key: readability-pretty-func.TargetFunc a2  
value: 'get\_' b2

## clang-tidy

```
-config="{CheckOptions: [{key: a1, value: b1}, {key: a2, value: b2}]}" ...
```

# Testing Our Check

Write some test units...

% ninja check-clang-tools

or

% make check-clang-tools

check\_clang\_tidy.py

# Debug AST Matcher

```
% clang-check -ast-dump my_source.cpp --
```

```
TranslationUnitDecl 0x2b3cd20 <<invalid sloc>> <invalid sloc>
|-TypedefDecl 0x2b3d258 <<invalid sloc>> <invalid sloc> implicit __int128_t '__int128'
|-TypedefDecl 0x2b3d2b8 <<invalid sloc>> <invalid sloc> implicit __uint128_t 'unsigned __int128'
|-TypedefDecl 0x2b3d698 <<invalid sloc>> <invalid sloc> implicit __builtin_va_list '__va_list_tag [1]'
|-CXXRecordDecl 0x2b3d6e8 </test.cpp:1:1, line:3:1> line:1:8 referenced struct A definition
| |-CXXRecordDecl 0x2b3d800 <col:1, col:8> col:8 implicit struct A
| `|-CXXMethodDecl 0x2b3d8e0 <line:2:9, col:19> col:14 f 'void (void)'
|   `|-CompoundStmt 0x2b3d9b8 <col:18, col:19>
`-CXXRecordDecl 0x2b3d9d0 <line:5:1, line:7:1> line:5:8 struct B definition
|-public 'struct A'
|-CXXRecordDecl 0x2b85050 <col:1, col:8> col:8 implicit struct B
|-CXXMethodDecl 0x2b85100 <line:6:3, col:21> col:16 f 'void (void)' virtual
| `|-CompoundStmt 0x2b854f8 <col:20, col:21>
...
...
```

**Write custom checks for your needs  
(project specific)**

**Run them regularly !**





**Theme Of The Week For Me:**

**STRINGS**

# These Aren't the COM Objects You're Looking For

CppCon 2018



Part 1 of N: Strings

# Enough `string_view` to hang ourselves

**CppCon 2018**

# String related checks



clang-tidy

- abseil-string-find-startswith
- boost-use-to-string
- bugprone-string-constructor
- bugprone-string-integer-assignment
- bugprone-string-literal-with-embedded-nul
- bugprone-suspicious-string-compare
- modernize-raw-string-literal
- performance-faster-string-find
- performance-inefficient-string-concatenation
- readability-redundant-string-cstr
- readability-redundant-string-init
- readability-string-compare

<https://clang.llvm.org/extra/clang-tidy/checks/list.html>



## bugprone-dangling-handle

"

Detect dangling references in value handles like `std::string_view`.

These dangling references can be a result of constructing handles from temporary values, where the temporary is destroyed soon after the handle is created.

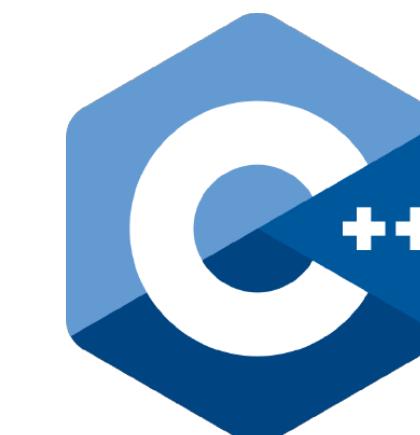
<https://clang.llvm.org/extra/clang-tidy/checks/bugprone-dangling-handle.html>



# Lifetime profile v1.0

<https://herbsutter.com/2018/09/20/lifetime-profile-v1-0-posted/>

- “ A dangling `string_view`, which is important because it turns out to be **easy** to convert a `std::string` to a `string_view`, so that **dangling** is almost the default behavior.



CppCoreGuidelines

<https://github.com/isocpp/CppCoreGuidelines/blob/master/docs/Lifetime.pdf>



# Lifetime profile v1.0

<https://herbsutter.com/2018/09/20/lifetime-profile-v1-0-posted/>

```
void example_2_6_2_1()
{
    std::string_view s = "foo"s;      // A
    s[0];   // ERROR (lifetime.3): 's' was invalidated when
            // temporary '"foo"s' was destroyed (line A)
}
```



CppCoreGuidelines

<https://github.com/isocpp/CppCoreGuidelines/blob/master/docs/Lifetime.pdf>



# Lifetime profile v1.0

<https://herbsutter.com/2018/09/20/lifetime-profile-v1-0-posted/>

```
<source>:7:5: warning: passing a dangling pointer as argument [-Wlifetime]
    s[0];                                // ERROR (lifetime.3): 's' was invalidated when
    ^
<source>:6:32: note: temporary was destroyed at the end of the full expression
    std::string_view s = "foo"s;           // A
    ^
1 warning generated.
Compiler returned: 0
```

clang -Wlifetime



CppCoreGuidelines

<https://github.com/isocpp/CppCoreGuidelines/blob/master/docs/Lifetime.pdf>



# Lifetime profile v1.0

<https://herbsutter.com/2018/09/20/lifetime-profile-v1-0-posted/>

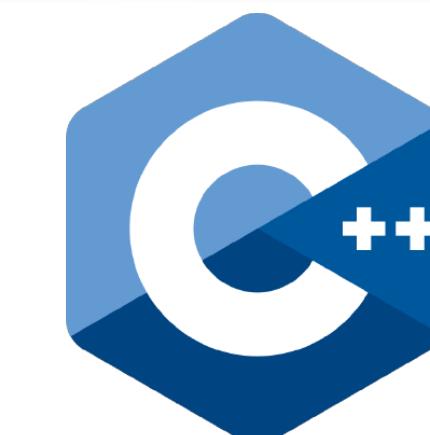


Today, September 27 • 14:00-15:00

<http://sched.co/Gqti>

***Implementing the C++ Core Guidelines' Lifetime Safety Profile in Clang***

Matthias Gehre & Gabor Horvath



CppCoreGuidelines

<https://github.com/isocpp/CppCoreGuidelines/blob/master/docs/Lifetime.pdf>



# Explore Further

A new series of blog articles started last week on Visual C++ Team blog:

***Exploring Clang Tooling, Part 0: Building Your Code with Clang***

<https://blogs.msdn.microsoft.com/vcblog/2018/09/18/exploring-clang-tooling-part-0-building-your-code-with-clang/>



# Explore Further

A new Visual Studio [extension](#) is available in the **Marketplace**:

The screenshot shows a Visual Studio Marketplace page. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the Visual Studio logo and the word "Marketplace". Below it, a breadcrumb navigation shows "Visual Studio > Tools > LLVM Compiler Toolchain". The main content area features a large thumbnail image of the dragon logo. To the right of the thumbnail, the extension name "LLVM Compiler Toolchain" is displayed in large bold letters. Below the name, it says "LLVM Extensions" and shows "1,432 installs" with a download icon. A red star rating of "★★★★★ (2)" is also shown. A descriptive text block below the rating states: "Allows the LLVM Compiler Toolchain (installed separately) to be used from within Visual Studio to build C/C++ Projects." At the bottom of the card, there's a green "Download" button. To the right of the card, the word "FREE" is written in green capital letters.

Visual Studio | Marketplace

Visual Studio > Tools > LLVM Compiler Toolchain

**LLVM Compiler Toolchain**

LLVM Extensions | 1,432 installs | ★★★★★ (2)

Allows the LLVM Compiler Toolchain (installed separately) to be used from within Visual Studio to build C/C++ Projects.

**Download**

**FREE**

<https://marketplace.visualstudio.com/items?itemName=LLVMEextensions.llvm-toolchain>

# Better Tools in Your Clang Toolbox



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@ClangPowerTools

4 of 4 talks done ✓



# C++ Slack is your friend



<https://cpplang.slack.com>

CppLang Slack auto-invite:  
<https://cpplang.now.sh/>

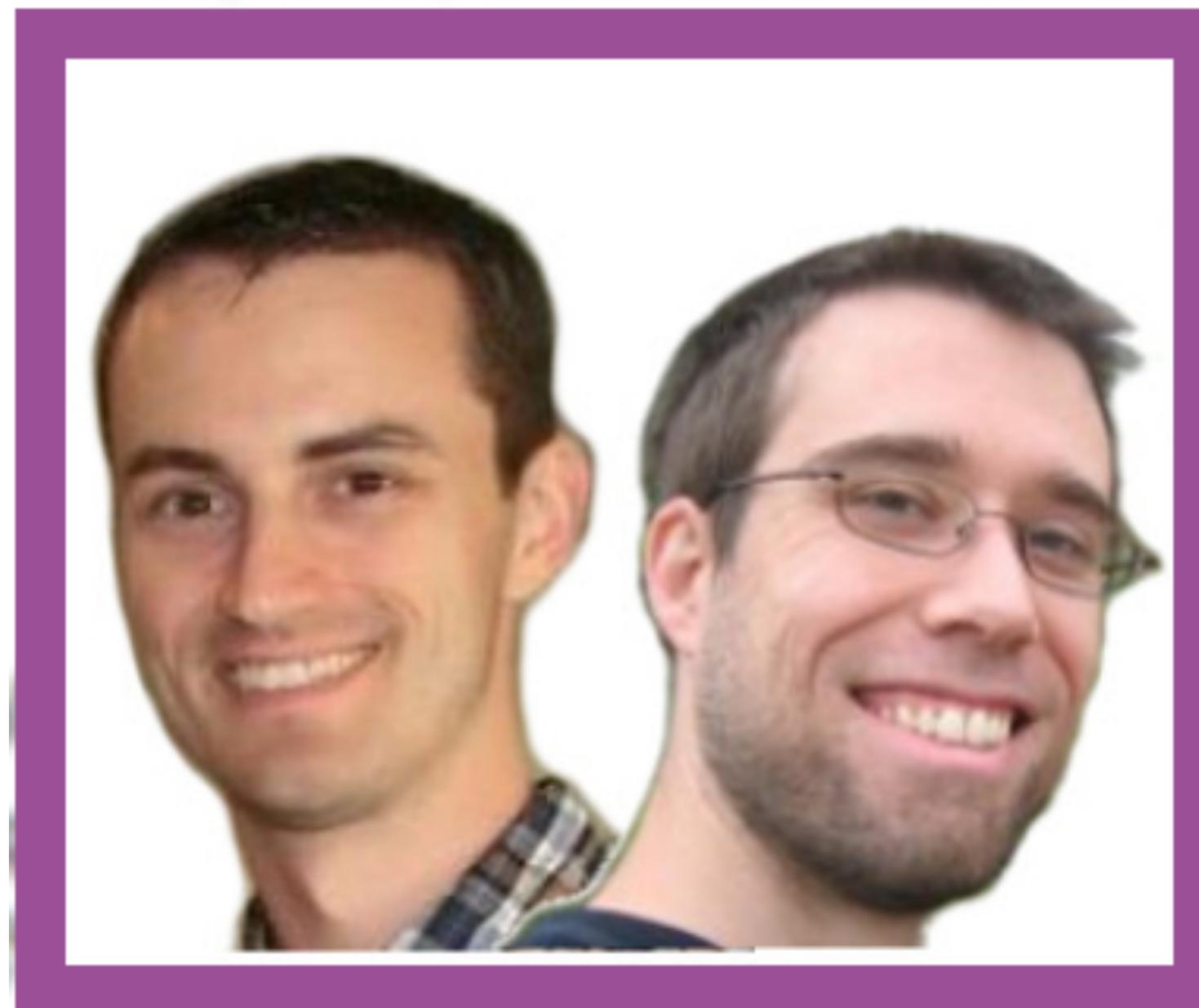


**CppLang**  
cpplang.slack.com



# CppCast

```
auto CppCast = pod_cast<C++>("http://cppcast.com");
```



**Rob Irving**

**@robwirving**

**Jason Turner** **@lefticus**

# <http://cpp.chat>



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsefcSZGxO9lTBqFbsV3sJg/>

<https://overcast.fm/itunes1378325120/cpp-chat>

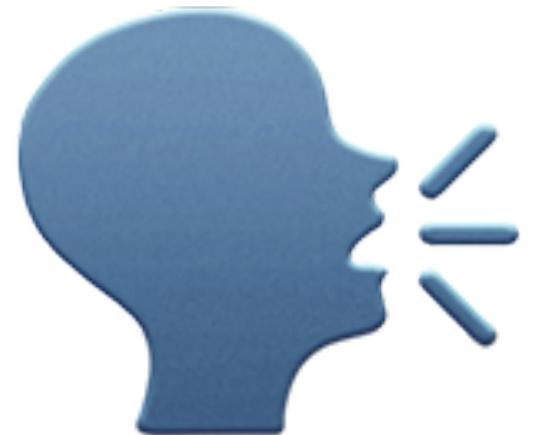
**Jon Kalb**

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**Phil Nash**

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# Questions



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