

Course C^{++} , Exercise Number 10

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This exercise is about templates. The task is to implement the class below. It cannot be called `union`, because `union` is a reserved word in C^{++} .

```
template< typename A, typename B >
class unionof
{
    A* a;
    B* b;
    // Invariant: Exactly one of them is non-zero.

public:
    unionof( const A& a );
    unionof( const B& b );
    unionof( const unionof& u );

    void operator = ( const A& a );
    void operator = ( const B& b );
    void operator = ( const unionof& u );

    const A& first( ) const;
    A& first( );

    const B& second( ) const;
    B& second( );

    bool hasfirst( ) const;
    bool hassecond( ) const;

    ~unionof( );
};

template< typename A, typename B >
std::ostream& operator << ( std::ostream& stream,
                           const unionof< A, B > & u );
```

1. Implement the constructors of `unionof`.
2. Implement the assignment operators of `unionof`.
3. Implement the destructor of `unionof`.
4. Implement the `first()` methods and the `second()` methods.
5. Implement `hasfirst() const` and `hassecond() const`.
6. Implement `operator << (std::ostream& , const unionof< > &)`. You will need to make it friend of `class unionof`, which is not as easy as it seems. Write, before the definition of `class unionof`:

```
template< typename A, typename B > class unionof;

template< typename A, typename B >
std::ostream& operator << ( std::ostream& stream,
                           const unionof< A, B > & );
```

The friend declaration has the following form:

```
friend std::ostream& operator << < > ( std::ostream& stream,
                                       const unionof< A, B > & );
```

Now it should work. If you declare something friend, that is not a template, then two things happen: (1) it is declared, (2) it is made a friend. With templates, step (1) is not done automatically, so you have to declare the object (in this case `operator <<`) in advance. Because the declaration of `operator <<` requires `unionof`, it has to be declared incompletely before `operator <<`.

7. Make sure that `unionof< >` has no memory leaks. Test it on a few different classes, e.g. `double`, `int`, `std::string`, etc.