# Implementing C++ Semantics in Python

NDC TechTown 2021

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# **Pre-COVID Hairstyle**



### Before we start, a few questions

- Who uses C++?
- Who uses C++ their main language?
- Who uses Python?
- Who uses Python as their main language?



# **Your Questions**

• Try to write down slide numbers

### But Why?

C++

- Low level
- "Expert oriented"
- Slowly becoming "Pythonic"



#### Python

- High Level
- Beginner friendly
- Less footguns



### Resource Management

- In C++, all resources are equal
- Python is garbage-collected
- Memory is handled by the language
- Other resources are handled by the programmer
  - Files, sockets, locks, DB connections, etc.

### **Context Managers**

```
_tmp = FileReader(path)
                                       reader = _tmp.__enter__()
with FileReader(path) as f:
    print(f.read()) •
                                                print(reader.read())
         End of block
           Return
                                  _tmp.__exit__(<exception-info>)
          Exception
```

### Context Managers, continued

### Real Code - Archive Reader

```
class ArchiveReader:
    def __init__(self, path: str):
        self.data = {}
        with ZipFile(path) as zipfile:
            for name in zipfile.namelist():
                with zipfile.open(name) as f:
                    self.data[name] = f.read()
    def read(self, name):
        return self.data[name]
```

### Real Code - Archive Reader

```
reader = ArchiveReader("NDCTechTown.zip")
print(reader.read("2021"))
```

Hello NDC TechTown!

### Archive Reader, continued

- Archives got larger
- Time to open archive grows
- Can no longer unzip entire archive in memory
- Need to hold open ZipFile in our Archive Reader

### Big Archive Reader

Create

Use

Destruct

```
class BigArchiveReader:
    def init (self, path: str):
       self.zipfile = ZipFile(path)
    def read(self, name: str):
       with self.zipfile.open(name) as f:
            return f.read()
    def __enter__(self):
       return self
    def __exit__(self, exc_type, exc_val, exc_tb):
        self.zipfile.close()
```

### Big Archive Reader, continued

- Context managers
   change interface
- Interface changes propagate
  - Usage
  - Composition

```
reader = ArchiveReader("NDCTechTown.zip")
print(reader.read("2021"))
```

```
with BigArchiveReader("NDCTechTown.zip") as big_reader:
    print(reader.read("2021"))
```

```
def __exit__(self, exc_type, exc_val, exc_tb):
    self.big_reader.close()
...
```



# C++ To The Rescue!

### Destructors

- C++'s solution to the resource-management problem
- 3 main properties
  - Automatic
  - Composable
  - Implicit

### **Automatic Invocation**

```
auto reader = FileReader(path);
std::cout << reader.read() << '\n';</pre>
         End of block
            Return
                                        reader.~FileReader();
          Exception
```

### **Seamless Composition**

```
class ArchiveReader {
    ...
};
```

```
auto reader = ArchiveReader(path);
}
~ArchiveReader();
```

```
class BigArchiveReader {
    ZipFile zipfile;
    ...
};
```

```
auto big_reader = BigArchiveReader(path);
        ~BigArchiveReader();
             ~ZipFile();
```

### Implicit Interfaces

#### With Destructors

```
{
    auto object = Object();
}
```

#### Without Destructors

```
{
    auto object = Object();
}
```

### Implicit Interfaces

#### With Destructors

```
{
    auto object = Object();
}
```

#### Without Destructors

```
{
    auto object = Object();
}
```

- No change in interface or usage
- No change propagation

### Our Goal - From This

```
class BigArchiveReader:
    zipfile: ZipFile
    def __init__(self, path: str):
        self.zipfile = ZipFile(path)
    def read(self, name: str):
        with self.zipfile.open(name) as f:
            return f.read()
    def __enter__(self):
        return self
    def __exit__(self, exc_type, exc_val, exc_tb):
        self.zipfile.close()
```

- 11 lines
- 4 are resource management

### Our Goal - To This

```
class BestArchiveReader:
   zipfile: ZipFile

def BestArchiveReader(self, path: str):
    self.zipfile = ZipFile(path)

def read(self, name: str):
   with self.zipfile.open(name) as f:
    return f.read()
```

- 7 lines
- 0 are resource management

### Our Goal

```
with BigArchiveReader("NDCTechTown.zip") as big_reader:
   print(reader.read("2021"))
```

- From interface pollution
- To normal objects

```
best_reader = BestArchiveReader("NDCTechTown.zip")
print(best_reader.read("2021"))
```

# Don't try this at work!



Hacks Ahead!

### **Greetings!**

```
class Greeter:
    def __init__(self, name):
        self.name = name
        print(f"Hello, {self.name}!")

def __enter__(self):
    return self

def __exit__(self, e_type, e_val, e_tb):
    print(f"Goodbye, {self.name}.")
```

```
def main():
    with Greeter(1):
        print("We have a greeter!")
```

```
Hello, 1!
We have a greeter!
Goodbye, 1.
```

# Automatic

```
def main():
    with Greeter(1):
        print("Hello, Greeters!")
```

Hello, 1! Hello, Greeters! Goodbye, 1.

```
def main():
    with Greeter(1):
        with Greeter(2):
        print("Hello, Greeters!")
```

```
Hello, 1!
Hello, 2!
Hello, Greeters!
Goodbye, 2.
Goodbye, 1.
```

```
def main():
    with Greeter(1):
        with Greeter(2):
        with Greeter(3):
        print("Hello, Greeters!")
```

```
Hello, 1!
Hello, 2!
Hello, 3!
Hello, Greeters!
Goodbye, 3.
Goodbye, 2.
Goodbye, 1.
```

```
def main():
    with Greeter(1):
        with Greeter(2):
        with Greeter(3):
        with Greeter(4):
            print("Hello, Greeters!")
```

```
Hello, 1!
Hello, 2!
Hello, 3!
Hello, 4!
Hello, Greeters!
Goodbye, 4.
Goodbye, 3.
Goodbye, 2.
Goodbye, 1.
```

def main(): with Greeter(1) with Greete with Gr wit Score: 408 Bonus: 0 Press Esc or a mouse button to stop...

```
def main():
    with Greeter(1):
        with Greeter(2):
        with Greeter(3):
        with Greeter(4):
        print("Hello, Greeters!")
```

## A Proper Stack

```
class DtorScope:
   def __init__(self):
       self.stack = []
   def __enter__(self):
       return self
   def __exit__(self, exc_type, exc_val, exc_tb):
       while self.stack:
            self.stack.pop().__exit__(exc_type, exc_val, exc_tb)
   def push(self, cm):
       self.stack.append(cm)
```

## A Proper Stack, continued

```
def main():
    with DtorScope() as dtor_stack:
        greeter1 = Greeter(1)
        dtor_stack.push(greeter1)

        greeter2 = Greeter(2)
        dtor_stack.push(greeter2)
```

Hello, 1! Hello, 2! Goodbye, 2. Goodbye, 1.

# Implicit

### Removing Hiding Boilerplate

```
def main():
    with DtorScope() as dtor_stack:
        greeter1 = Greeter(1)
        dtor_stack.push(greeter1)

        greeter2 = Greeter(2)
        dtor_stack.push(greeter2)
```

```
def main():
    greeter1 = Greeter(1)
    greeter2 = Greeter(2)
```

### A Layer of Indirection

```
class Greeter:
    def __init__(self, name, dtor_stack):
        self.name = name
        print(f"Hello, {self.name}!")
        dtor_stack.push(self)
    ...
```

```
def main():
    with DtorScope() as dtor_stack:
        greeter1 = Greeter(1, dtor_stack)
        greeter2 = Greeter(2, dtor_stack)
```

#### **Another Layer of Indirection**

```
def main():
    with DtorScope() as dtor_stack:
        greeter1 = Greeter(1, dtor_stack)
        greeter2 = Greeter(2, dtor_stack)
```



```
def main():
    with DtorScope():
        greeter1 = Greeter(1)
        greeter2 = Greeter(2)
```

#### **Another Layer of Indirection**

```
def main():
    with DtorScope() as dtor_stack:
        greeter1 = Greeter(1, dtor_stack)
        greeter2 = Greeter(2, dtor_stack)
      def main():
          with DtorScope():
              greeter1 = Greeter(1)
              greeter2 = Greeter(2)
```



```
_dtor_stack = []

def get_dtor_stack():
    return _dtor_stack
```

```
class DtorScope:
    def __init__(self):
        get_dtor_stack().append(self)

...

def __exit__(self, exc_type, exc_val, exc_tb):
        get_dtor_stack().pop()
        ...
...
```

```
def push_dtor(cm):
    return get_dtor_stack()[-1].push(cm)
```

```
class Greeter:
    def __init__(self, name, dtor_stack):
        dtor_stack.push(self)

    self.name = name
    print(f"Hello, {self.name}!")
...
```

```
class Greeter:
    def __init__(self, name):
        push_dtor(self)

    self.name = name
        print(f"Hello, {self.name}!")
...
```

```
class Greeter:
    def __init__(self, name):
        push_dtor(self)

    self.name = name
        print(f"Hello, {self.name}!")
...
```

```
def main():
    with DtorScope():
        greeter1 = Greeter(1)
        greeter2 = Greeter(2)
```

```
Hello, 1!
Hello, 2!
Goodbye, 2.
Goodbye, 1.
```

```
def main():
    with DtorScope():
        greeter1 = Greeter(1)
        greeter2 = Greeter(2)

main()
```

```
def main():
    greeter1 = Greeter(1)
    greeter2 = Greeter(2)

with DtorScope():
    main()
```

```
def call(f, *args, **kwargs):
    with DtorScope():
        return f(*args, **kwargs)
call(main)
```

```
Closure
def cpp_function(f):
    def _wrapper(*args, **kwargs):
        with DtorScope():
            return f(*args, **kwargs)
    return _wrapper
                                      f is captured
scoped_main = cpp_function(main)
scoped_main()
                          Holds the closure
```

```
def cpp_function(f):
    def _wrapper(*args, **kwargs):
        with DtorScope():
            return f(*args, **kwargs)
    return _wrapper
main = cpp_function(main)
main()
                         Rebind the name "main"
```

```
def cpp_function(f):
                                                 @cpp_function
                                                 def main():
    def _wrapper(*args, **kwargs):
                                                     greeter1 = Greeter(1)
        with DtorScope():
                                                     greeter2 = Greeter(2)
            return f(*args, **kwargs)
                                                 main()
    return _wrapper
main = cpp_function(main)
main()
```

Decorator syntax

```
@cpp_function
def main():
    greeter1 = Greeter(1)
    greeter2 = Greeter(2)
main()
```

- Declarative
- Clean
- Explicit

## Methodic Pause

# Import Hacks

Where things get hairy

#### **Basic File Structure**

#### Wouldn't it be Nice?

## Modest Beginnings

```
from cpp import magic
from greeter import Greeter
def main():
   greeter1 = Greeter(1)
   greeter2 = Greeter(2)
magic() ← Magic!
main()
```

#### Making Magic

```
def magic():
    calling_module = get_calling_module()
    decorate_module_functions(calling_module)
```

#### Making Magic

#### Making Magic

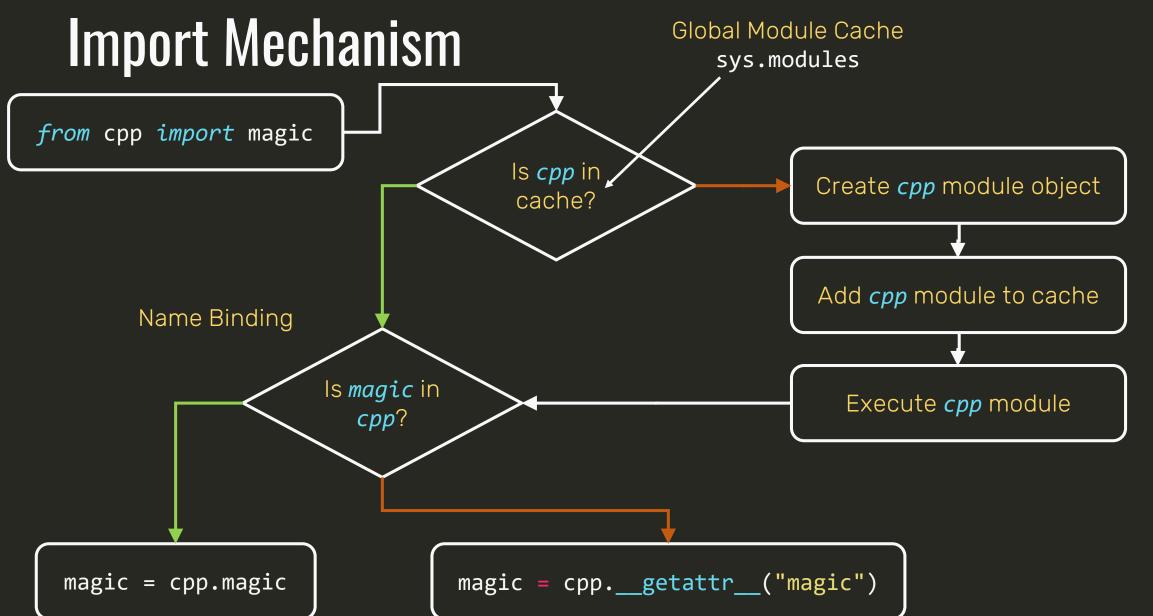
```
def magic():
   calling_module = get_calling_module()
                                         All module
   decorate_module_functions(calling_module)
                                         members
def decorate module functions(module):
   for name, value in inspect.getmembers(module):
      if not inspect.isroutine(value): 	—
                                            Only functions
          continue
      continue
      setattr(module, name, cpp_function(value))
```

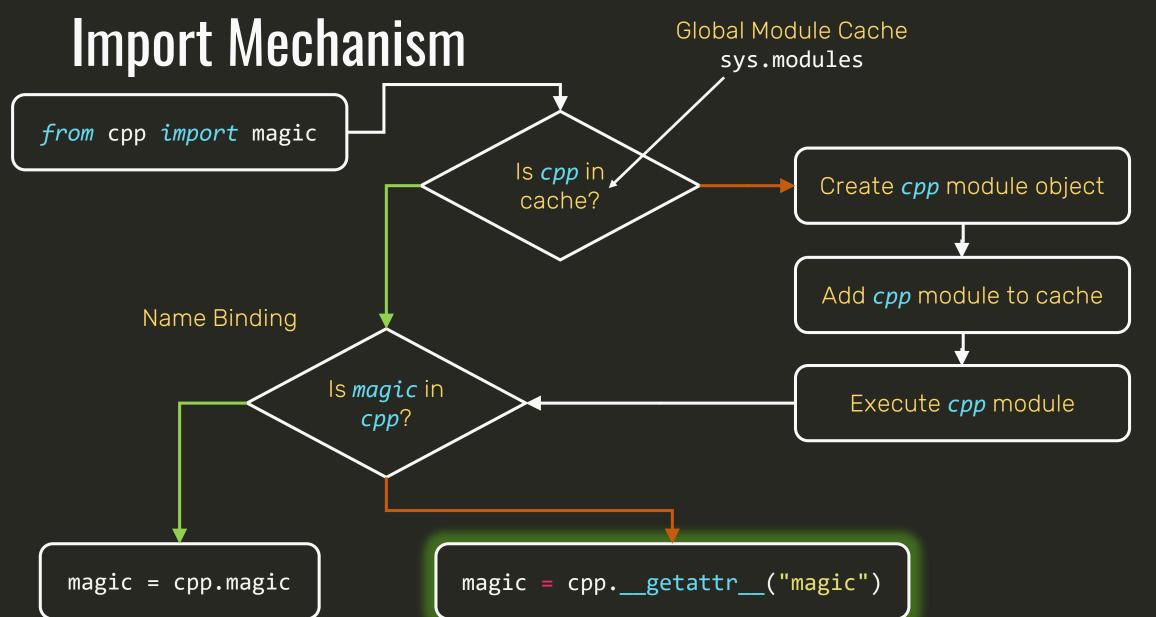
## For My Next Trick...

```
from cpp import magic
                                                 from cpp import magic
                                                 from greeter import Greeter
from greeter import Greeter
def main():
                                                 def main():
                                                     greeter1 = Greeter(1)
    greeter1 = Greeter(1)
    greeter2 = Greeter(2)
                                                     greeter2 = Greeter(2)
magic()
                                                 main()
main()
```

#### For My Next Trick...

```
from cpp import magic
                                                 from cpp import magic
                                                 from greeter import Greeter
from greeter import Greeter
def main():
                                                 def main():
                                                     greeter1 = Greeter(1)
    greeter1 = Greeter(1)
    greeter2 = Greeter(2)
                                                     greeter2 = Greeter(2)
magic()
                                                 main()
main()
```





#### Import *is* a Function Call

```
def _magic():
    calling_module = get_calling_module()
    decorate_module_functions(calling_module)

def __getattr__(name):
    if name != "magic":
        raise AttributeError()

_magic()
```

#### Where is the Magic?

```
from cpp import magic

from greeter import Greeter

def main():
    greeter1 = Greeter(1)
    greeter2 = Greeter(2)
```

Hello, 1! Hello, 2!

#### Where is the Magic?

#### Parallel Import

```
import importlib.util
import sys

def import_by_path(name: str, path: str):
    spec = importlib.util.spec_from_file_location(name, path)
    module = importlib.util.module_from_spec(spec)
    sys.modules[name] = module
    spec.loader.exec_module(module)
    return module

    Execute cpp module

Execute cpp module
```

#### Parallel Import

## Parallel Import, continued

```
from cpp import magic

from greeter import Greeter

def main():
    greeter1 = Greeter(1)
    greeter2 = Greeter(2)
```

#### Parallel Import, continued

```
_magic()
from cpp import magic
from greeter import Greeter
def main():
    greeter1 = Greeter(1)
    greeter2 = Greeter(2)
                                         RecursionError:
                                                maximum recursion depth exceeded
                                                while calling a Python object
main()
```

#### Break the Loop

#### Break the Loop, continued

```
from cpp import magic

from greeter import Greeter

def main():
    greeter1 = Greeter(1)
    greeter2 = Greeter(2)
```

#### Break the Loop, continued

```
from cpp import magic
from greeter import Greeter
def main():
    greeter1 = Greeter(1)
    greeter2 = Greeter(2)
main()
              Decoration happens here
```

IndexError: list index out of range

def push\_dtor(cm):
 return get\_dtor\_stack()[-1].push(cm)

#### **Main Function**

### Real Magic

```
from cpp import magic

from greeter import Greeter

def main():
    greeter1 = Greeter(1)
    greeter2 = Greeter(2)
```

Hello, 1! Hello, 2! Goodbye, 2. Goodbye, 1.

## Methodic Pause

Questions?

#### Greetings, Again

```
class Greeter:
    def __init__(self, name):
        push_dtor(self)

    self.name = name
    print(f"Hello, {self.name}!")

def __enter__(self):
    return self

def __exit__(self, exc_type, exc_val, exc_tb):
    print(f"Goodbye, {self.name}.")
```

#### **Base Class**

```
class Greeter(CppClass):
    def Greeter(self, name):
        self.name = name
        print(f"Hello, {self.name}!")

def _Greeter(self):
        print(f"Goodbye, {self.name}.")

Sorry, no ~
```

#### Base Class, implementation

```
class CppClass:
    def __init__(self, *args, **kwargs):
        push_dtor(self)
        ctor = getattr(self, self.__class__.__name__, None)
        if ctor:
            ctor(*args, **kwarqs)
                                                                 Only call if exists
    def __enter__(self):
        return self
    def __exit__(self, exc_type, exc_val, exc_tb):
        dtor = getattr(self, "_" + self.__class__._name__, None)
        if dtor:
            dtor()
```

#### **Decorated Methods**

```
def decorate_object_methods(obj):
   for name, value in inspect.getmembers(obj):
        if name.startswith("__"): ←_____
            continue
                                                            No special methods
        if not inspect.isroutine(value):
                                                          Only functions
            continue
        setattr(self, name, cpp_function(value))
class CppClass:
    def __init__(self, *args, **kwargs):
        decorate object methods(self)
```

## **Progress Check**

```
class Greeter(CppClass):
    def Greeter(self, name):
        self.name = name
        print(f"Hello, {self.name}!")

def _Greeter(self):
    print(f"Goodbye, {self.name}.")
```

#### (More) Problems with Inheritance

```
class Greeter(CppClass):
    def Greeter(self, name):
        self.name = name
        print(f"Hello, {self.name}!")

    def _Greeter(self):
        print(f"Goodbye, {self.name}.")
```

## Compositionally Speaking

```
class Greeter(CppClass):
    Greeter
    _Greeter
    _Greeter
    _CppClass.__init__
    CppClass.__enter__
    CppClass.__exit__
class CppClass:
    __init__
    __enter__
    __exit__
```

### Compositionally Speaking, continued

```
class Greeter:
    ...

Greeter.__init__ = __init__
Greeter.__enter__ = __enter__
Greeter.__exit__ = __exit__
```

#### **Decorated Classes**

```
def cpp class(cls):
                                                                @cpp_class
 decorate_object_methods(self)
                                                                class Greeter:
    def __init__(self, *args, **kwargs):
    def __enter__(self):
    def __exit__(self, exc_type, exc_val, exc_tb):
   cls.__init__ = __init__
    cls.__enter__ = __enter__
    cls.__exit__ = __exit__
```

#### **Decorated Classes**

```
def cpp class(cls):
                                                               @cpp_class
 decorate_object_methods(self)
                                                               class Greeter:
    def __init__(self, *args, **kwargs):
    def __enter__(self):
    def __exit__(self, exc_type, exc_val, exc_tb):
                                                  def is_cpp_class(obj):
    cls.__init__ = __init__
                                                      return hasattr(obj, '__cpp_class__')
    cls. enter = enter
    cls.__exit__ = __exit__
    cls.__cpp_class__ = True
                                    A little extra
return cls
```

#### More Magic!

```
def decorate_module_classes(module):
   for name, value in inspect.getmembers(module):
      if not inspect.isclass(value):
                                        — Only classes
         continue
      continue
      setattr(module, name, cpp_class(value))
def _magic():
   decorate_module_classes(imported_module)
```

## Applied Magic

```
from cpp import magic

class Greeter:
    def Greeter(self, name):
        self.name = name
        print(f"Hello, {self.name}!")

def _Greeter(self):
        print(f"Goodbye, {self.name}.")
```

```
def main():
    greeter1 = Greeter(1)
    greeter2 = Greeter(2)
```

```
Hello, 1!
Hello, 2!
Goodbye, 2.
Goodbye, 1.
```

## Methodic Pause

Any Questions?

## A Short Recap

- Automatic
  - Dtors are called automatically
- Implicit
  - Just import magic!
  - Functions & classes automatically converted
  - main() is automatically called
- Our next stop: Composition

# Composition

#### **Looking Back**

```
class BigArchiveReader:
    zipfile: ZipFile
   def __init__(self, path: str):
        self.zipfile = ZipFile(path)
   def read(self, name: str):
        with self.zipfile.open(name) as f:
            return f.read()
   def __enter__(self):
        return self
    def __exit__(self, exc_type, exc_val, exc_tb):
        self.zipfile.close()
```

- 11 lines
- 4 are resource management

### **Looking Back**

```
class BetterArchiveReader:
    zipfile: ZipFile

def BetterArchiveReader(self, path: str):
    self.zipfile = ZipFile(path)

def read(self, name: str):
    with self.zipfile.open(name) as f:
        return f.read()

def _BetterArchiveReader(self):
    self.zipfile.close()
```

- 9 lines
- 2 are resource management

#### Looking Back, issues

```
class BetterArchiveReader:
    zipfile: ZipFile

def BetterArchiveReader(self, path: str):
    self.zipfile = ZipFile(path)

def read(self, name: str):
    with self.zipfile.open(name) as f:
    return f.read()

def _BetterArchiveReader(self):
    self.zipfile.close()
Dtor
```

#### Looking Back, issues solution?

```
class BetterArchiveReader:
    zipfile: ZipFile
    def BetterArchiveReader(self, path: str):
        self.zipfile = ZipFile(path)
                                                    Remove from Dtor scope
        remove dtor(self.zipfile) 
    def read(self, name: str):
        with self.zipfile.open(name) as f:
            return f.read()
    def _BetterArchiveReader(self):
        self.zipfile.close()
```

## Remove from Dtor Scope

### Remove from Dtor Scope

```
class IdentityComparator:
    def __init__(self, obj):
        self.obj = obj

def __eq__(self, other):
    return self.obj is other

operator==

Identity check
```

#### Remove from Dtor Scope, continued

```
class BetterArchiveReader:
    zipfile: ZipFile
    def BetterArchiveReader(self, path: str):
        self.zipfile = ZipFile(path)
                                                    Explicit
        remove dtor(self.zipfile) 	
    def read(self, name: str):
        with self.zipfile.open(name) as f:
            return f.read()
    def _BetterArchiveReader(self):
        self.zipfile.close()
```

#### A Case for Getters & Setters

```
Just return
def get_zipfile(self):
    return getattr(self, "zipfile")
def set_zipfile(self, zipfile):
    old = getattr(self, "zipfile", None)
    if is_cpp_class(old):
                                                           Destruct old value
        old.__exit__(None, None, None)
    if is_cpp_class(zipfile):
        remove_dtor(zipfile)
    setattr(self, "zipfile", zipfile)
                                                       Handle new value
```

### Descriptors

```
BetterArchiveReader.zipfile.__set_name__(BetterArchiveReader, "zipfile")
class BetterArchiveReader:
    zipfile = CppMember()
    def BetterArchiveReader(self, path):
        self.zipfile = ZipFile(path)
                                               zipfile.__set__(self, ZipFile(path))
    def read(self, name: str):
        with self.zipfile.open(name) as f:
    def _BetterArchiveReader(self):
        self.zipfile.close()
                                         zipfile. get (self)
```

## Descriptors, continued

```
class CppMember:
                                                Save & prefix member name
    def __set_name__(self, owner, name):
        self.private_name = "_" + name *
                                                    Use member name
    def get (self, instance, owner=None):
        return getattr(instance, self.private name)
    def __set__(self, instance, value):
        old = getattr(instance, self.private_name, None)
        setattr(instance, self.private_name, value)
```

#### Remove the Dtor

```
class BetterArchiveReader:
    zipfile = CppMember()
    def BetterArchiveReader(self, path):
        self.zipfile = ZipFile(path)
    def read(self, name: str):
    def _BetterArchiveReader(self):
        self.zipfile.close()
                                               Should be implicit
```

#### Remove the Dtor, continued

#### Final Touches

```
class BetterArchiveReader:
    zipfile = CppMember()

def BetterArchiveReader(self, path):
    self.zipfile = ZipFile(path)

def read(self, name: str):
```

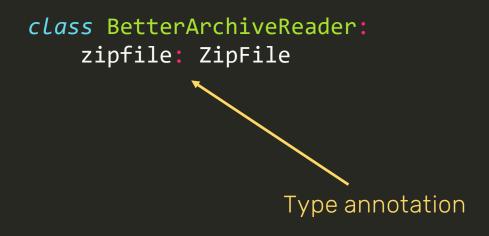
#### Final Touches

```
class BetterArchiveReader:
   zipfile = CppMember()

def BetterArchiveReader(self, path):
    self.zipfile = ZipFile(path)

def read(self, name: str):
   ...
```

## Type Annotations



- Do nothing
- Stored in \_\_annotations\_\_

#### Type Annotations, continued

```
def create_members(cls):
    member_names = list(getattr(cls, "__annotations__", {}))
    for name in member_names:
                                                  Must call manually
        member = CppMember()
        member.__set_name__(cls, name)
        setattr(cls, name, member)
    setattr(cls, "__member_names___", member_names)
                                                  Save for later
def cpp_class(cls):
    create_members(cls)
```

#### Type Annotations, continued

#### Finally - Best Archive Reader

```
class BestArchiveReader:
    zipfile: ZipFile

def BestArchiveReader(self, path: str):
    self.zipfile = ZipFile(path)

def read(self, name: str):
    with self.zipfile.open(name) as f:
    return f.read()
```

- 7 lines
- 0 are resource management

#### Wrap Up

- Automatic
  - Dtors are called when/where needed
- Composable
  - Members don't add boilerplate
- Implicit\* \* Assuming the entire project uses cpp...
  - No extra code
  - No change in interfaces
  - No interface pollution!

# Questions?

#### Thanks

- Barak Itkin
- Adi Shavit
- Inbal Levi
- NDC Staff

## Extras

### Extras

- Return
- This
- Member Access Specifiers

#### Questions?

Code & Slides: https://github.com/tmr232/cpppy

Tamir Bahar (He/Him)

