### How to Write a Checker in 24 Hours

**Clang Static Analyzer** 

Anna Zaks and Jordan Rose Apple Inc.

#### What is this talk about?

- The Clang Static Analyzer is a bug finding tool
- It can be extended with custom "checkers"
- We'll teach you how to write your own checker

## Warnings are great!

- Provide free and fast code review
- Catch errors early in the development cycle

## **Compiler Warnings are Limited**

```
void workAndLog(bool WriteToLog) {
   int LogHandle;
   int ErrorId;

   if (WriteToLog)
       LogHandle = getHandle();

   ErrorId = work();
   if (!WriteToLog)
       logIt(LogHandle, ErrorId);
}
```

### Static Analyzer to the Rescue

```
void workAndLog(bool WriteToLog) {
   int LogHandle;
   int ErrorId;

   if (WriteToLog)
        LogHandle = getHandle();

   ErrorId = work();
   if (!WriteToLog)
        logIt(LogHandle, ErrorId);
}
Function call argument is an uninitialized value
```

### Static Analyzer to the Rescue

# Why Static Analysis?

- Explores each path through the program
  - Path-sensitive, context-sensitive analysis
  - Algorithm is exponential (but bounded)
- Produces very precise results
- Able to find more bugs
  - use-after-free
  - resource leaks

• ...

## Check that a File is Closed on <u>each</u> Path

```
void writeCharToLog(char *Data) {
    FILE *F = fopen("mylog.txt", "w");

if (F != NULL) {
    if (!Data)
        return;

    fputc(*Data, F);
    fclose(F);
    }

return;
}
```

### Check that a File is Closed on <u>each</u> Path

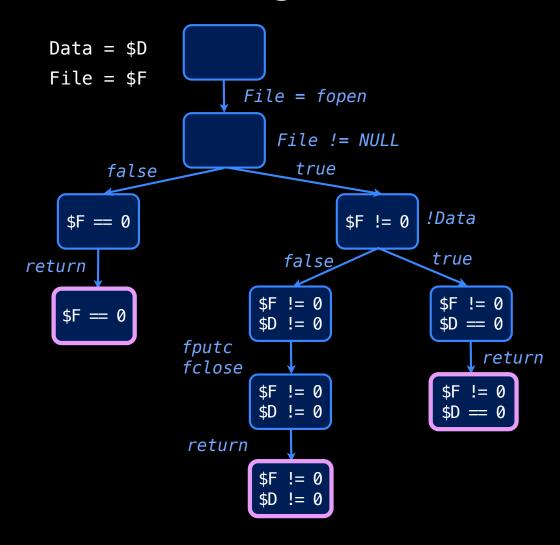
## Check that a File is Closed on each Path

### **Symbolic Execution**

- Performs a path-sensitive walk of Clang's CFG
- Similar to program execution but
  - Explores every possible path through the program
  - Uses symbolic values
- Collects the constraints on symbolic values along each path
- Uses constraints to determine feasibility of paths

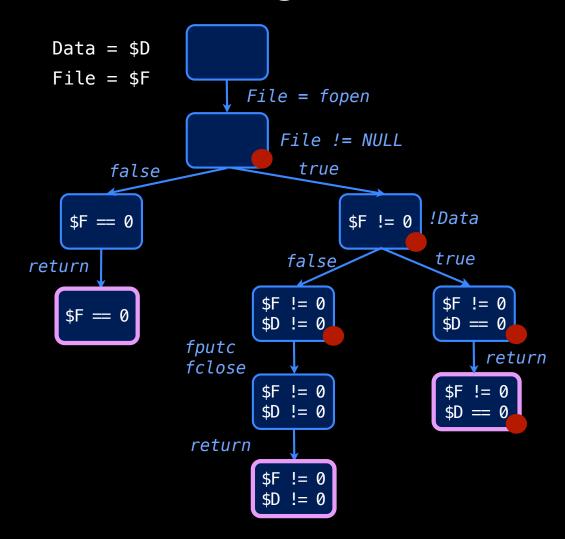
### Builds a Graph of Reachable Program States

```
void writeCharToLog(char *Data) {
   FILE *File = fopen("mylog.txt", "w");
   if (File != NULL) {
      if (!Data)
           return;
      fputc(*Data, File);
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   }
   return;
}
```



### Builds a Graph of Reachable Program States

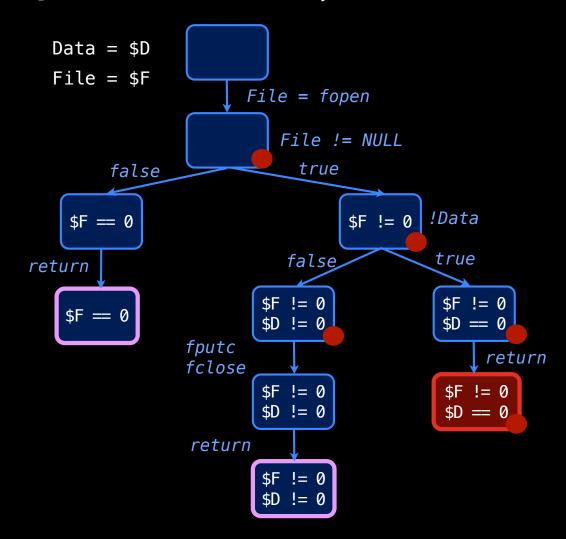
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      fputc(*Data, File);
      fclose(File);
   }
   return;
}
```



Denotes that the file is open

# Finding a Bug ~ Graph Reachability

```
void writeCharToLog(char *Data) {
   FILE *File = fopen("mylog.txt", "w");
   if (File != NULL) {
      if (!Data)
          return;
      fputc(*Data, File);
      fclose(File);
   }
   return;
}
```



Denotes that the file is open

#### What's in a Node?

Program Point

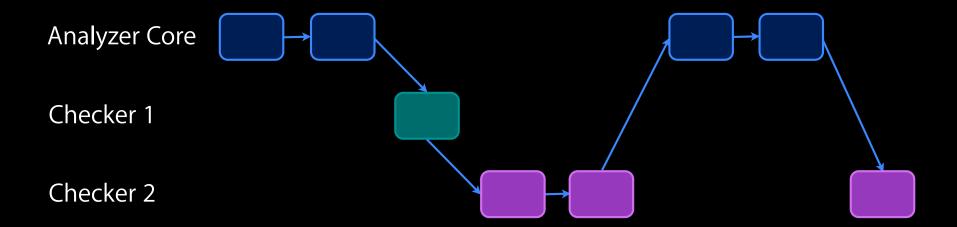
Program State

- Execution location
  - pre-statement
  - post-statement
  - entering a call
  - •
- Stack frame

- Environment: Expr -> values
- Store: memory location -> values
- Constraints on symbolic values
- Generic Data Map (GDM)

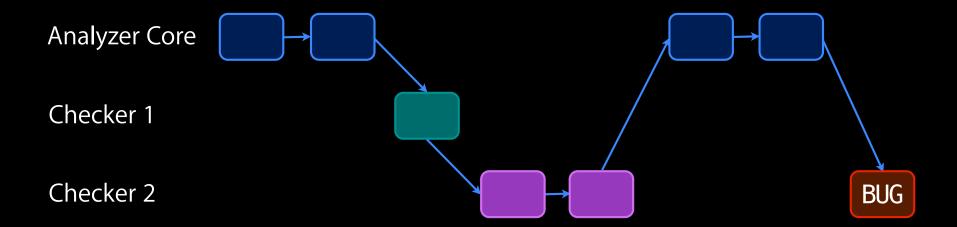
## **Extending with Checkers**

Checkers participate in the graph construction



## **Extending with Checkers**

- Checkers participate in the graph construction
- Checkers can stop path exploration by creating sink nodes



#### **Checkers are Visitors**

checkPreStmt (const ReturnStmt \*S, CheckerContext &C) const

Before return statement is processed

checkPostCall (const CallEvent &Call, CheckerContext &C) const

After a call has been processed

checkBind (SVal L, SVal R, const Stmt \*S, CheckerContext &C) const

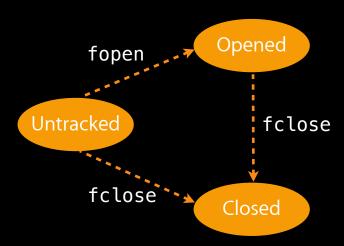
On binding of a value to a location as a result of processing the statement

See the checker writer page for more details: http://clang-analyzer.llvm.org/checker\_dev\_manual.html



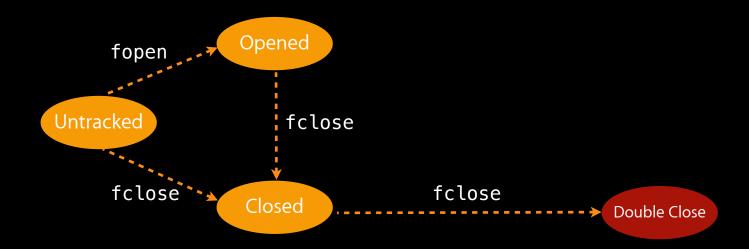
### **Stream State Transitions**

• File handle state changes are driven by the API calls



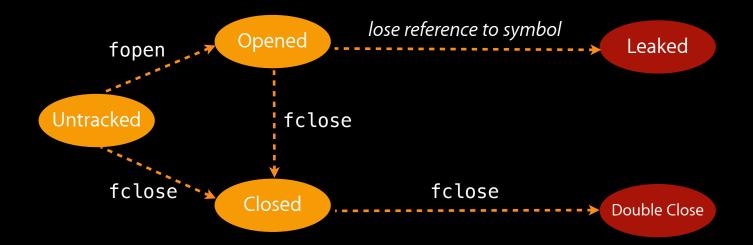
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  - If a file has been closed, it should not be accessed again.



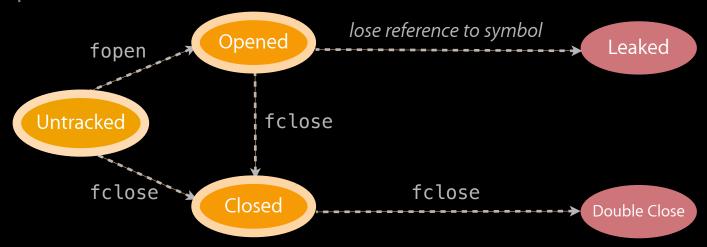
#### **Stream State Transitions**

- File handle state changes are driven by the API calls
- Error States:
  - If a file has been closed, it should not be accessed again.
  - If a file was opened with fopen, it must be closed with fclose



### **Stream Checker Recipe**

- Define the state of a file descriptor
- Add state transition corresponding to fopen
- Add transitions driven by fclose
- Report error on double close
- Report error on leak



# Defining the State of a File Descriptor

```
struct StreamState {
  enum Kind { Opened, Closed } K;

StreamState(Kind InK) : K(InK) { }

};
```

### Defining the State of a File Descriptor

```
struct StreamState {
  enum Kind { Opened, Closed } K;

StreamState(Kind InK) : K(InK) { }

bool operator==(const StreamState &X) const {
    return K == X.K;
  }

void Profile(llvm::FoldingSetNodeID &ID) const {
    ID.AddInteger(K);
  }

};
```

### Defining the State of a File Descriptor

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struct StreamState {
  enum Kind { Opened, Closed } K;

StreamState(Kind InK) : K(InK) { }

bool operator==(const StreamState &X) const {
    return K == X.K;
  }

void Profile(llvm::FoldingSetNodeID &ID) const {
    ID.AddInteger(K);
  }

bool isOpened() const { return K == Opened; }

bool isClosed() const { return K == Closed; }

static StreamState getOpened() { return StreamState(Opened); }

static StreamState getClosed() { return StreamState(Closed); }
};
```

• We need to store a map from file handles to <a href="StreamState">StreamState</a>

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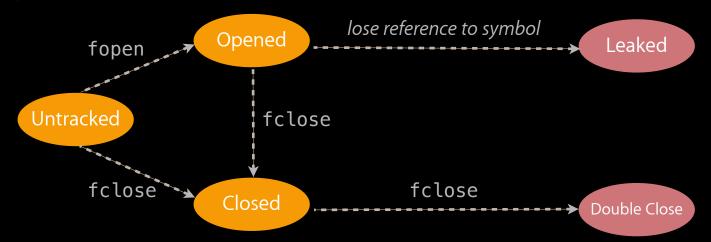
```
const StreamState *SS = State->get<StreamMap>(FileDesc);
```

• The map itself must be registered in advance

```
/// Register a map from tracked stream symbols to their state.
REGISTER_MAP_WITH_PROGRAMSTATE(StreamMap, SymbolRef, StreamState)
```

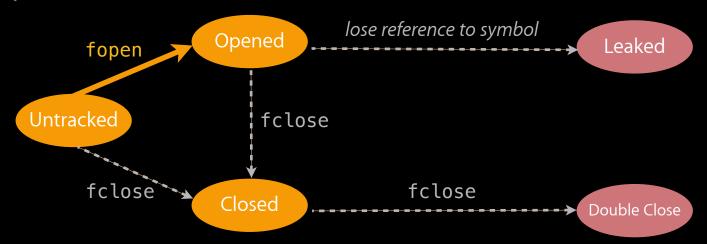
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### Register for fopen

```
class SimpleStreamChecker : public Checker<check::PostCall> {
  public:
    /// Process fopen.
    void checkPostCall(const CallEvent &Call, CheckerContext &C) const;
};
```

- Visitor callbacks are implemented using templates
- A PostCall visit means the checker is called after processing a call
- Checkers are stateless! State belongs in ProgramState

# Process fopen

#### Process fopen

- SVals are symbolic execution values
  - Transient, like values in a real program!

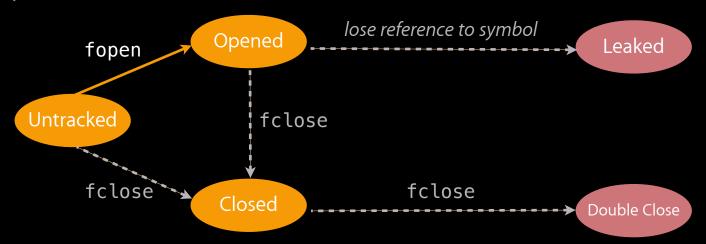
### Process fopen

- SVals are symbolic execution values
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- Symbols are a **persistent** representation of opaque values

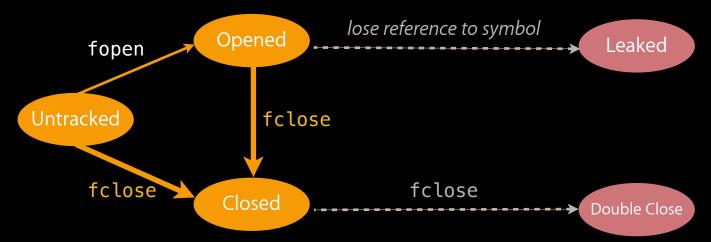
#### Process fopen

- SVals are symbolic execution values
  - Transient, like values in a real program!
- Symbols are a **persistent** representation of opaque values
- Checkers add new nodes to the graph with addTransition

- ✓ Define the state of a file descriptor
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- ✓ Define the state of a file descriptor
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# Register for fclose

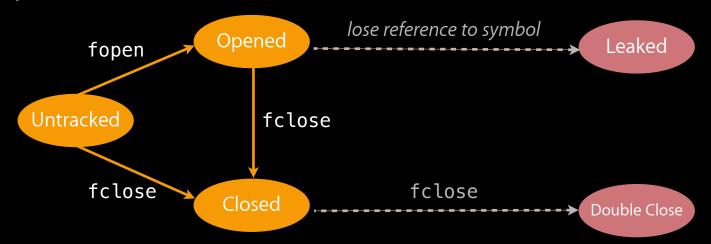
• PreCall allows us to check the parameters before the call is processed

#### Process fclose

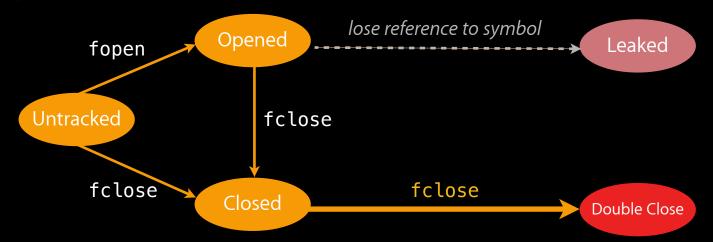
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### Report Double Close

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# Generating a BugReport

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#### **Test Double Close**

```
void checkDoubleFClose(int *Data) {
   FILE *F = fopen("myfile.txt", "w");

   if (!Data)
       fclose(F);
   else
       fputc(*Data, F);

   fclose(F);
}
```

#### **Test Double Close**

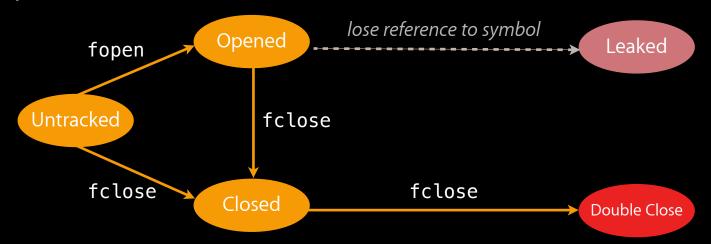
```
void checkDoubleFClose(int *Data) {
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if (!Data)
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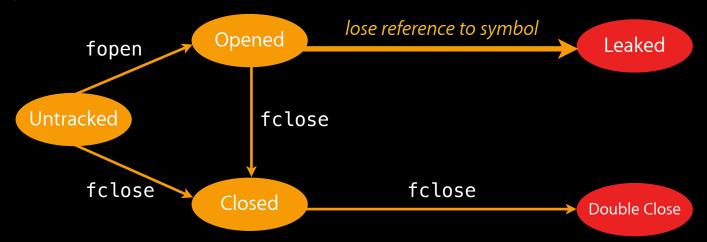
fclose(F);
   Closing a previously closed file stream
}
```

#### **Test Double Close**

- ✓ Define the state of a file descriptor
- √ Add state transition corresponding to fopen
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- ✓ Define the state of a file descriptor
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# Register for Dead Symbols

- A "dead" symbol can never be referenced again along this path
- Checkers can be notified when symbols die

- Future expressions cannot refer to a dead symbol
- If a dead stream is still open, it's a leak!

• Don't create a sink node to keep exploring the given path

# Don't Forget to Clean Out the State

- Don't create a sink node to keep exploring the given path
- Will never refer to these symbols again, so keep ProgramState lean

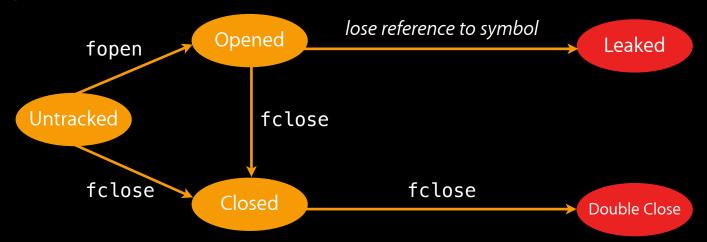
#### **Test Leak**

```
int checkLeak(int *Data) {
    FILE *F = fopen("myfile.txt", "w");
    fputc(*Data, F);
    return *Data;
}
```

#### **Test Leak**

#### Test Leak

- ✓ Define the state of a file descriptor
- √ Add state transition corresponding to fopen
- √ Add transitions driven by fclose
- ✓ Report error on double close
- √ Report error on leak



### Let's Use the Intro Testcase

```
void writeCharToLog(char *Data) {
    FILE *F = fopen("mylog.txt", "w");

    if (F != NULL) {
        if (!Data)
            return;

        fputc(*Data, F);
        fclose(F);
    }

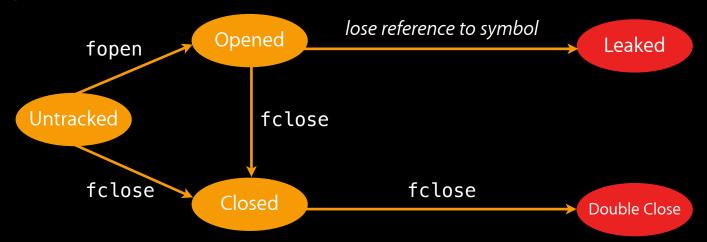
    return;
}
```

# Ooops...

#### **Moral: Test Well!**

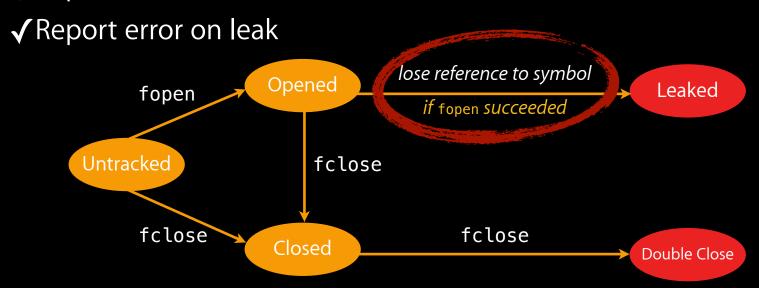
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void writeCharToLog(char *Data) {
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}
```

- ✓ Define the state of a file descriptor
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# **Stream Checker Recipe**

- ✓ Define the state of a file descriptor
- √ Add state transition corresponding to fopen
- √ Add transitions driven by fclose
- ✓ Report error on double close



# Don't Warn If fopen Fails

• Why don't we just register for PreStmt<IfStmt>?

```
if (F != 0) {
  fclose(F);
}
else {
  fclose(F);
}

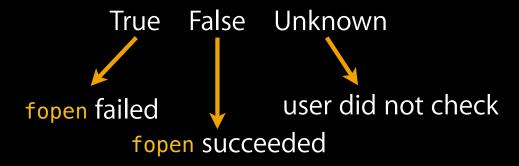
while (F != 0) {
  fclose(F);
  fclose(F);
}

preak;
fclose(F);
}

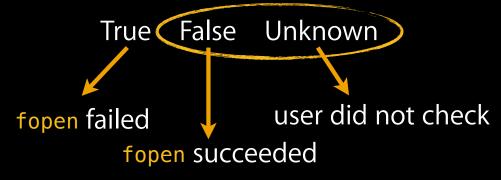
fclose(F);
}
```

• Need to know if the file handle is constrained to NULL

ConditionTruthVal is a tri-state:



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### Let's See if the False Positive is Gone

```
void writeCharToLog(char *Data) {
    FILE *F = fopen("mylog.txt", "w");

if (F != NULL) {
    if (!Data)
        return;

    fputc(*Data, F);
    fclose(F);
    }

return;
}
```

## We did it!

#### Homework

- Checker registration
- Improving diagnostics
- Relinquishing ownership
- Writing more regression tests
- The checker we wrote today is available at clang/lib/StaticAnalyzer/Checkers/SimpleStreamChecker.cpp
- The tests for the checker can be found at clang/tests/Analysis/simple-stream-checker.c

#### **Current Limitations**

- Constraint solver is limited
  - Bitwise operations (\$F & 0x10)
  - Constraints involving multiple symbols (\$x > \$Y)
- Analysis is inter-procedural, but not (yet) cross-translation-unit
- The analyzer is only as good as its checkers!
  - http://clang-analyzer.llvm.org/potential\_checkers.html
  - Patches welcome :-)

## Summary

- The analyzer performs a symbolic, path-sensitive execution of a program
- Extendable with custom checks
- Provides comprehensive diagnostics
- Both plist (Xcode) and HTML output formats are available
- It is possible to write syntactic (AST-based) checkers as well
- For more info go to http://clang-analyzer.llvm.org/
- Send your questions to cfe-dev mailing list





