

Emplace Enhancements for Maps and Unordered Maps

Here we'll work with some of the new methods available in maps.

WE'LL COVER THE FOLLOWING ^

- `try_emplace` Method
- `insert_or_assign` Method

With C++17 you get two new methods for maps and unordered maps:

- `try_emplace()` - if the object already exists, then it does nothing; otherwise, it behaves like `emplace()`.
- `emplace()` might move from the input parameter when the key is in the map, that's why it's best to use `find()` before such emplacement.
- `insert_or_assign()` - gives more information than operator `[]` - as it returns if the element was newly inserted or updated and also works with types that have no default constructor.

`try_emplace` Method

Here's an example:

```
#include <iostream>
#include <string>
#include <map>
int main() {
    std::map<std::string, int> m; m["hello"] = 1;
    m["world"] = 2;
    // C++11 way:
    if (m.find("great") == std::end(m)) m["great"] = 3;
    // the lookup is performed twice if "great" is not in the map
    // C++17 way:
    m.try_emplace("super", 4);
    m.try_emplace("hello", 5); // won't emplace, as it's
    // already in the map
    for (const auto& [key, value] : m)
        std::cout << key << " -> " << value << '\n';
}
```



The behaviour of `try_emplace` is important in a situation when you move elements into the map:

```
#include <iostream>
#include <string>
#include <map>
int main() {
    std::map<std::string, std::string> m;
    m["Hello"] = "World";
    std::string s = "C++";
    m.emplace(std::make_pair("Hello", std::move(s)));
    // what happens with the string 's'?
    std::cout << s << '\n';
    std::cout << m["Hello"] << '\n';
    s = "C++";
    m.try_emplace("Hello", std::move(s));
    std::cout << s << '\n';
    std::cout << m["Hello"] << '\n';
}
```

The code tries to replace `["Hello", "World"]` into `["Hello", "C++"]`.

If you run the example string `s` after `emplace` is empty, and the value “World” is not changed into “C++”!

`try_emplace` does nothing in the case where the key is already in the container, so the `s` string is unchanged.

`insert_or_assign` Method

The second function `insert_or_assign`, inserts a new object in the map or assigns the new value. But as opposed to operator `[]`, it also works with non-default constructible types.

For example:

```
#include <iostream>
#include <map>
#include <string>
```

```

struct User {
    std::string name;

    User(std::string s) : name(std::move(s)) {
        std::cout << "User::User(" << name << ")\n";
    }
    ~User() {
        std::cout << "User::~User(" << name << ")\n";
    }
    User(const User& u) : name(u.name) {
        std::cout << "User::User(copy, " << name << ")\n";
    }

    friend bool operator<(const User& u1, const User& u2) {
        return u1.name < u2.name;
    }
};

int main() {
    std::map<std::string, User> mapNicks;
    //mapNicks["John"] = User("John Doe"); // error: no default ctor for User()

    auto [iter, inserted] = mapNicks.insert_or_assign("John", User("John Doe"));
    if (inserted)
        std::cout << iter->first << " entry was inserted\n";
    else
        std::cout << iter->first << " entry was updated\n";
}

```



In the example, above we cannot use the operator `[]` to insert a new value into the container, as it doesn't support types with non-default constructors. We can do it with the new function.

`insert_or_assign` returns a pair of `<iterator, bool>`. If the boolean value is true, it means the element was inserted into the container. Otherwise, it was reassigned.

Extra Info: See more information in [Splicing Maps and Sets P0083](#) and [New emplacement routines N4279](#).

Now, we'll examine how `emplace` now returns something.