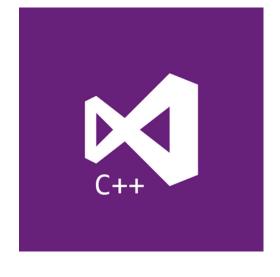


#### C++ Prague Meetup

September 2023

@ciura\_victor
@ciura\_victor@hachyderm.io

Victor Ciura
Principal Engineer
Visual C++





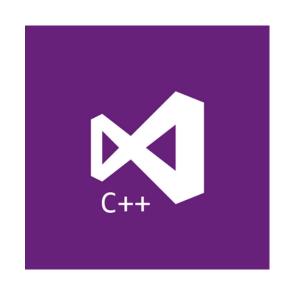
# Myths, Dogma and Practice

C++ Prague Meetup

September 2023



Victor Ciura
Principal Engineer
Visual C++



#### Abstract

The C++ community is very large and quite vocal when it comes to controversial issues. We're very fragmented on many topics, based on the breadth of the C++ ecosystem and the background/experience we each bring from our C++ niche.

From CppCoreGuidelines to opinionated best practices to established idioms, there's a lot of good information easily available. Mixed up with all of this there are also plenty of myths. Some myths stem from obsolete information, some from bad teaching materials.

In this presentation, I will dissect a few of the most popular C++ myths to a level of detail not possible on Twitter... and without the stigma of newb/duplicate/eyeroll one might experience when asking these questions on StackOverflow.

Expect the familiar "Busted", "Plausible", or "Confirmed" verdicts on each myth and come prepared to chat about these.

This is **Part 2** of the Mythbusters series.

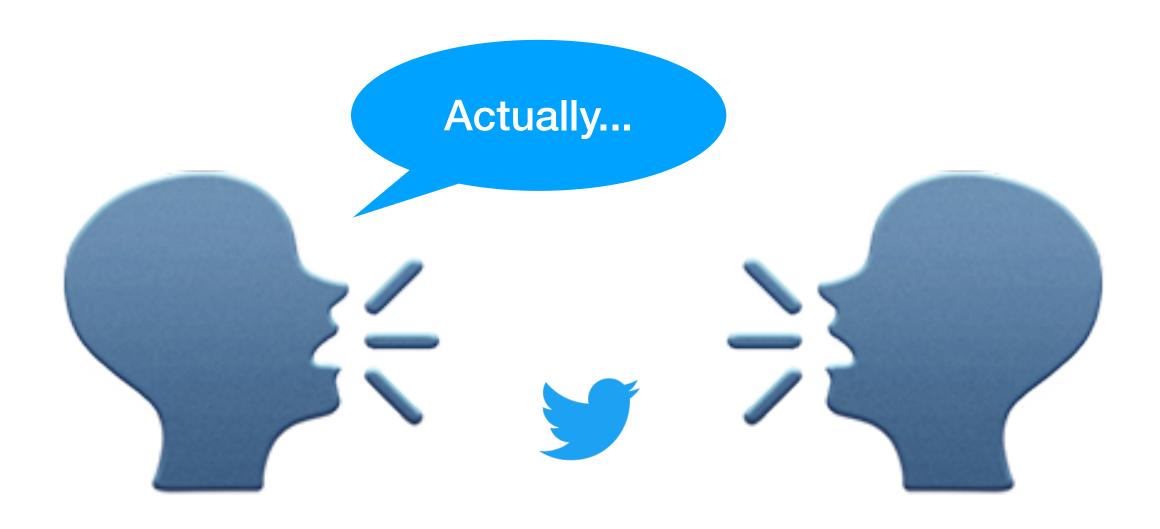


Do ask questions as we go along

Comments are welcome, too

#### Actually, ...

The C++ community is very large and quite vocal when it comes to controversial issues



#### Your opinion...



Developers love to treat their opinions like facts: "This is the right way" No, that's just another way, with a different set of pros and cons.

-- David Fowler

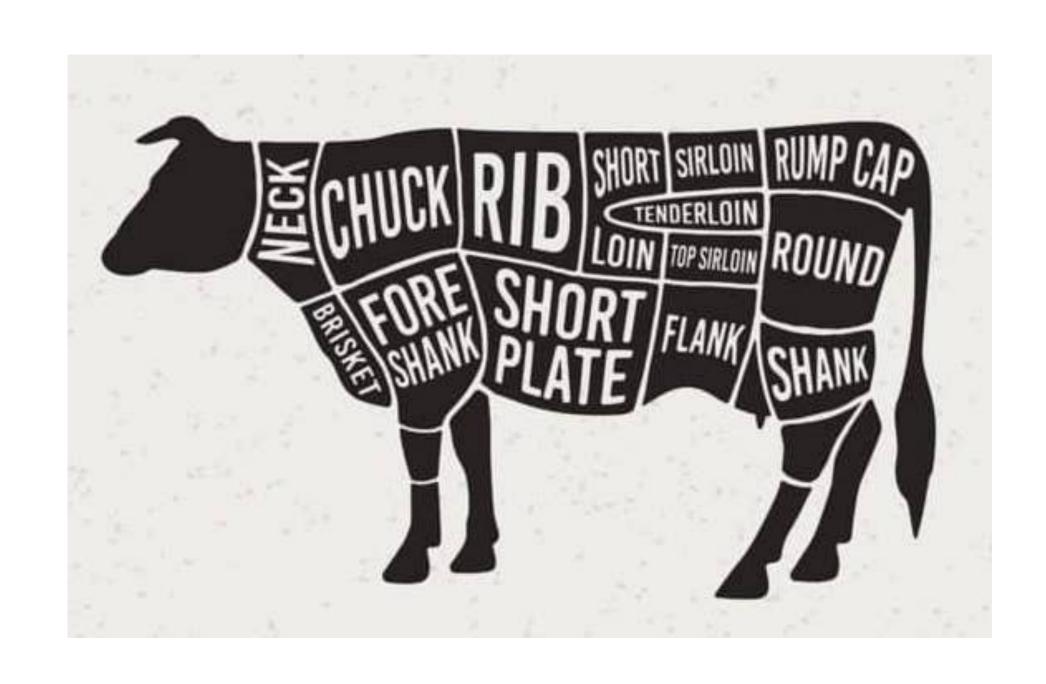
#### We're Different

We're very fragmented on many topics

- based on the breadth of the C++ ecosystem
- background/experience we each bring from our C++ niche

#### We're Different

We're very fragmented on many topics (Bjarne Stroustrup's 🗥 elephant metaphor)





#### Sources

A lot of good information easily available:

- CppCoreGuidelines
- (opinionated) best practices
- established idioms
- books
- conference presentations
- StackOverflow

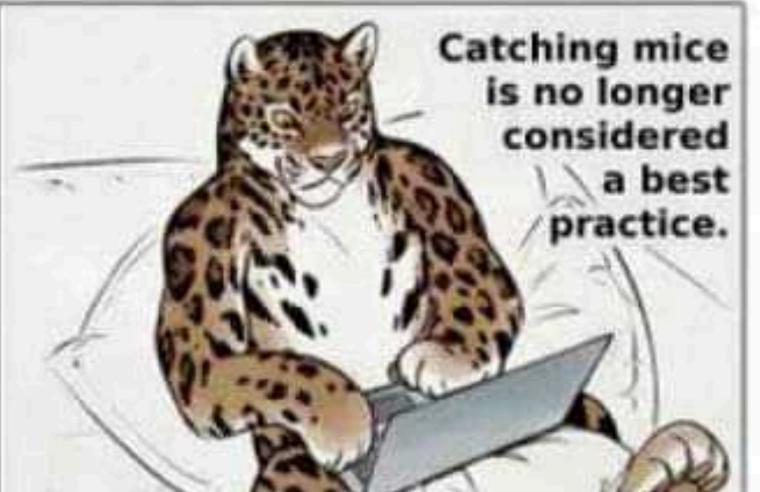
#### Myths

Mixed up with all of this, there are also plenty of myths

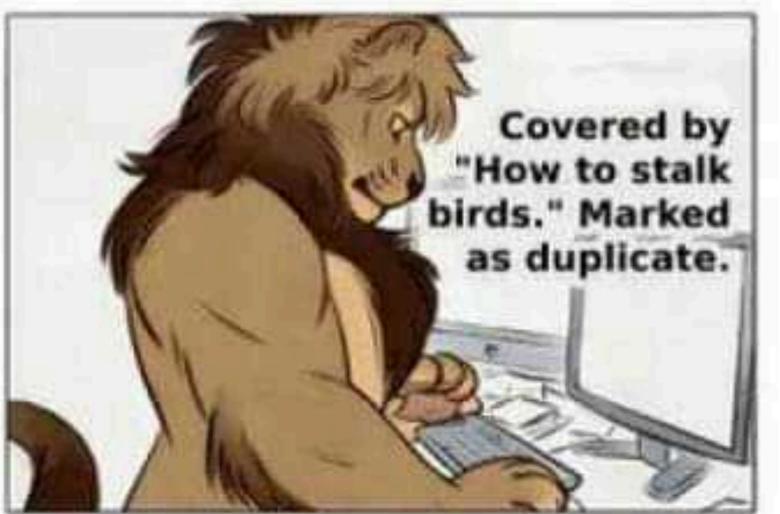
- some myths stem from obsolete information
- some from bad teaching materials
- old coding guidelines in some projects
- onboarding C++ beginners on legacy C++ codebases (bad habits by example)









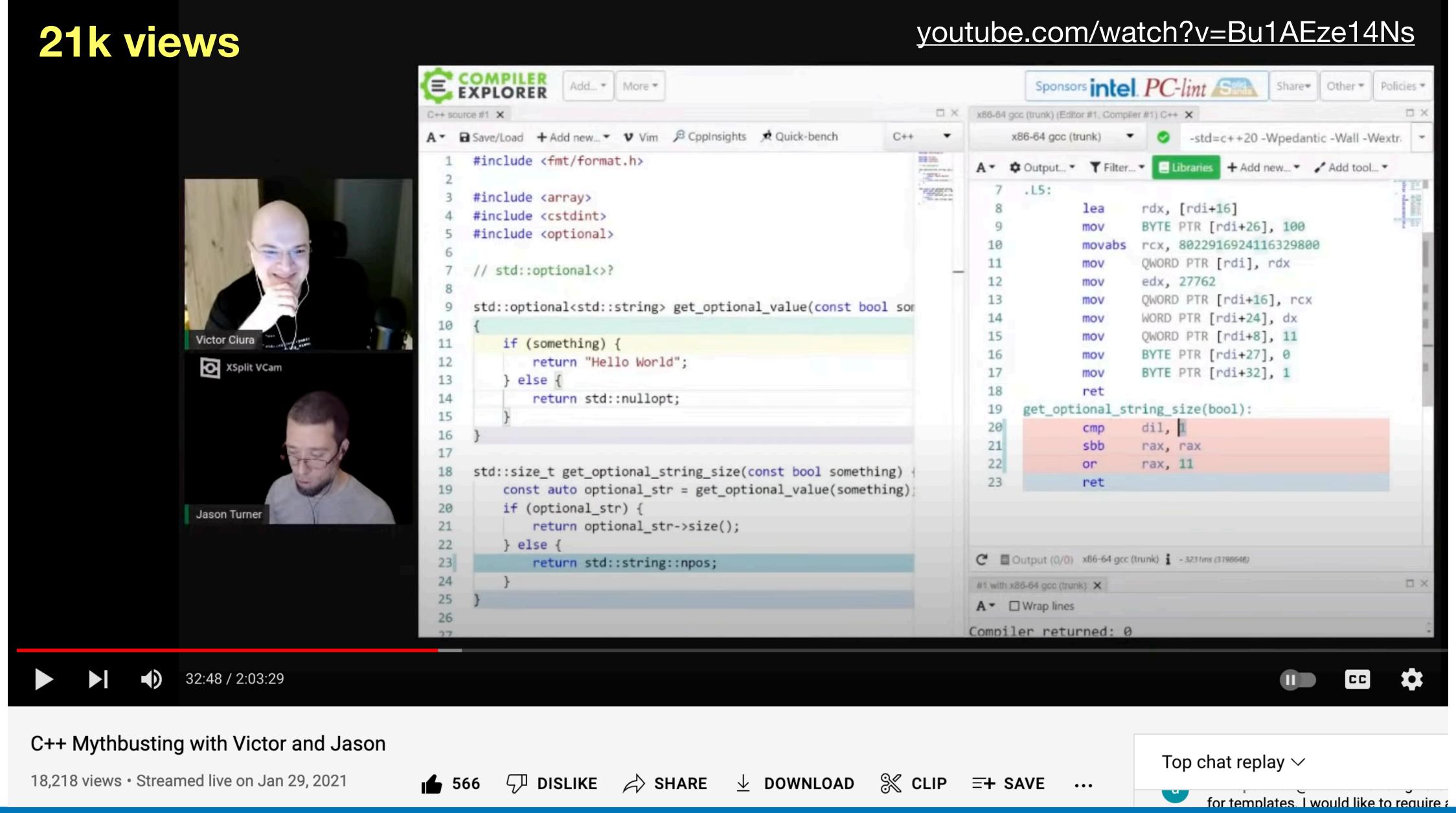


StackOverflow

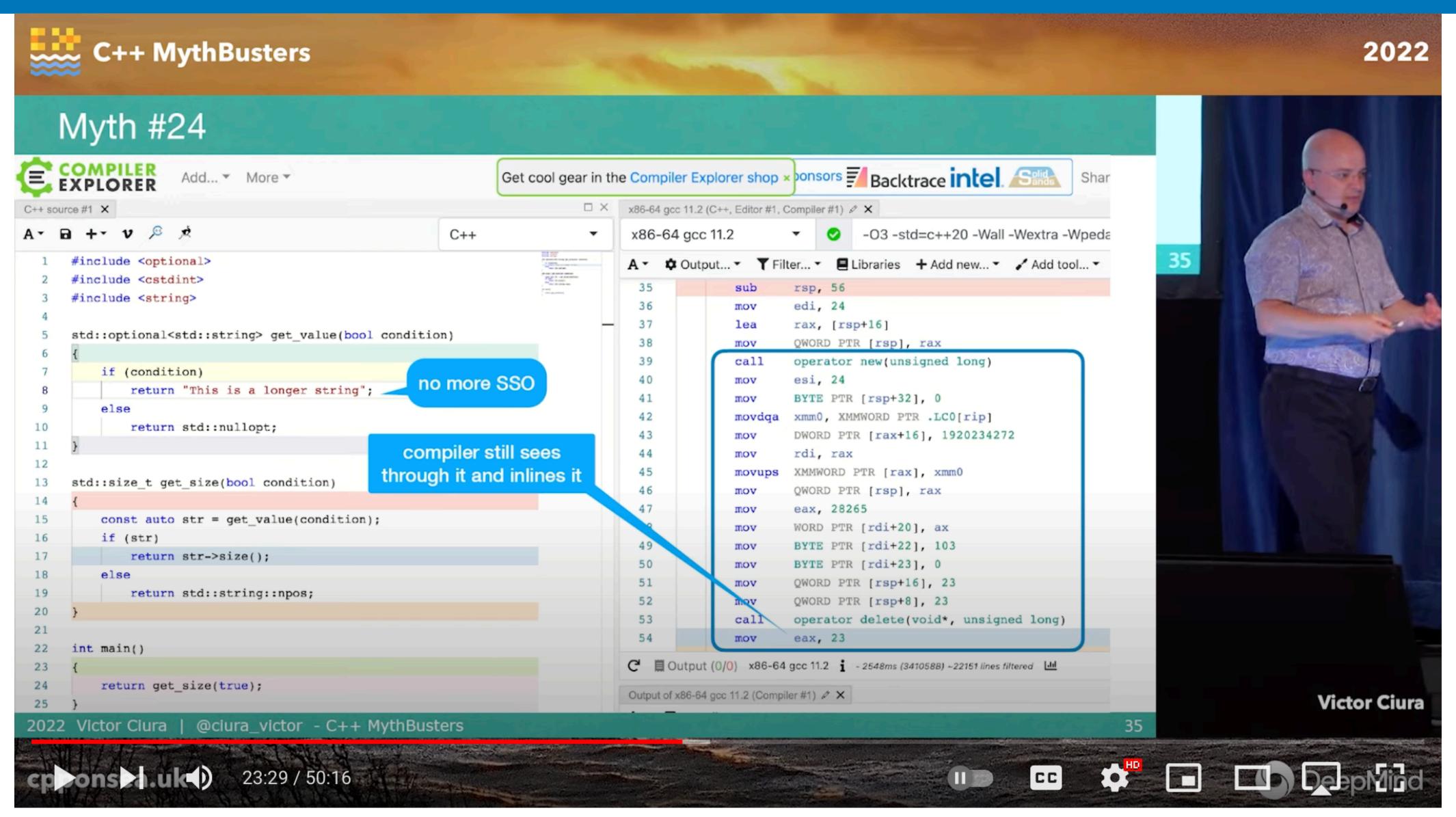
#### Motivation

How it started...

## Mythbusting with Jason - unscripted improv (Pandemic edition)



#### C++ Mythbusters - Season 1



youtube.com/watch?v=ZGgrUhVNsSI

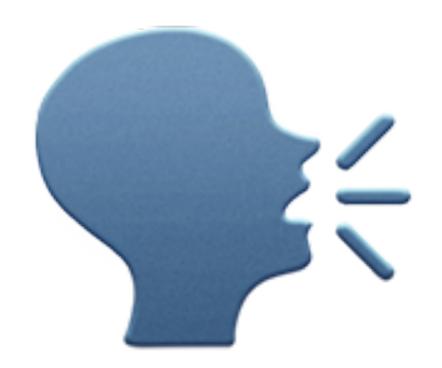
#### Season 1 Recap

#### What we covered so far (Part 1):

- #11 printf/sprintf are very fast
- #14 C++ is not easily toolable \*X
- #19 std::regex is too slow for production use
- #24a std::optional inhibits optimizations
- #24b std::optional complicates APIs (boxes, lifting, continuation monads)
- #31 std::move() moves
- #36 Always pass input arguments by const reference (move, sinks)
- #5 Adding `const` always helps (places where not to use `const`)
- #37 Make All Data Members Private? (abstraction, structs, perf, DOD)
- #40 Iterators must go!
- #0 New (C++) is the enemy of the old

youtube.com/watch?v=ZGgrUhVNsSI

#### Motivation



I want to instigate a healthy dialog, so speak up







A programmer's staple response:

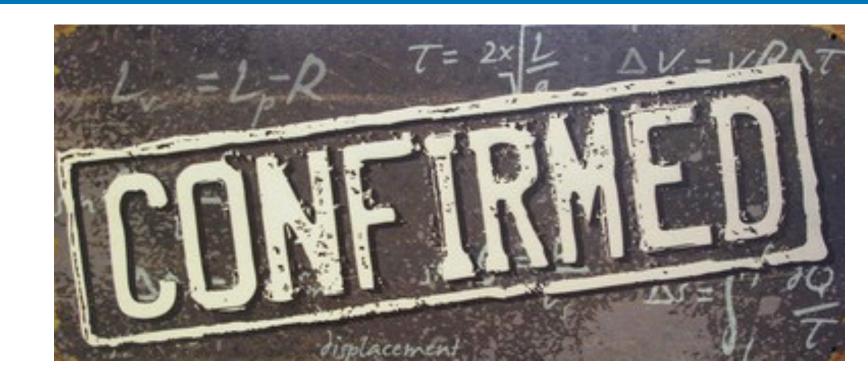
"It depends..."



Let's test this...



C++ is inherently unsafe and there's very little\* we can do about it



Just kidding 👄

It's not a myth, we've known this for years before NSA

media.defense.gov/2022/Nov/10/2003112742/-1/-1/0/CSI\_SOFTWARE\_MEMORY\_SAFETY.PDF



National Security Agency | Cybersecurity Information Sheet

Software Memory Safety

It's 2023, we should be able to leverage the power of C++20 modules to (re)structure our codebase and improve build times.



Where are all the compilers?!



It's 2023, we should be able to leverage the power of C++20 modules to (re)structure our codebase and improve build times.



Where are all the compilers?!



Integrating C++ header units into Office using MSVC (Part 2).

The path to a clean code structure and better build throughput.

devblogs.microsoft.com/cppblog/integrating-c-header-units-into-office-using-msvc-2-n/

coroutines shipped in C++20

th Meeting C++ reposted

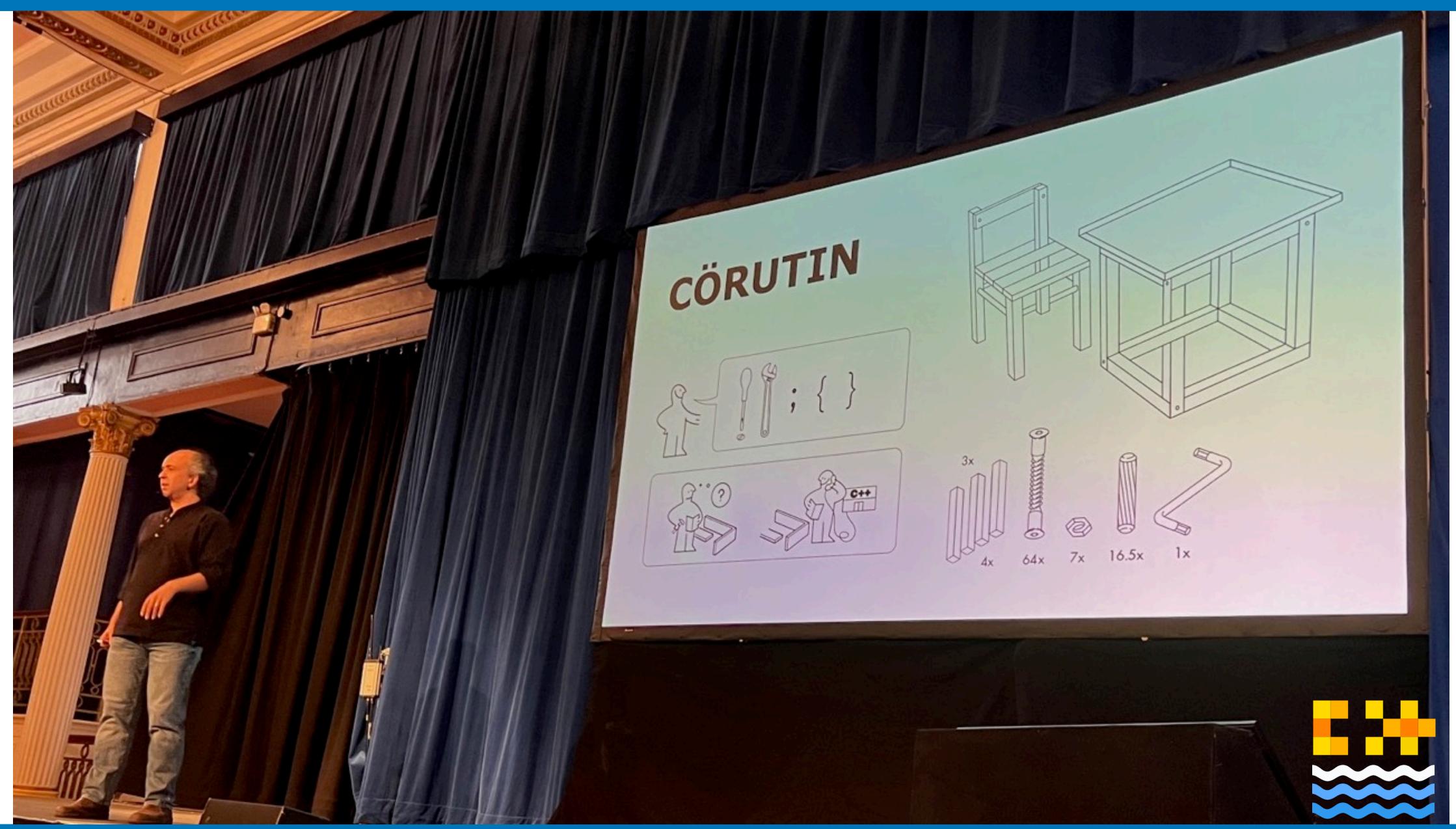


I think 3 years of conference talks and blog posts trying to explain the "basic use case" of a new C++ feature is a hint that the feature isn't designed well

The committee really loves adding configuration options but seem to forget hello world case

No I will not submit a paper

# CÖRUTIN



coroutines shipped in C++20







We're going to get a generators library in C++23 (ranges library)

#include <generator>

## I think you got how it works



# Mythbusting Series



<Part 2 of N>

## C++ Myths

# Let's dig in!



# Humans Depend on Tools



C++ is not easily toolable 🏋

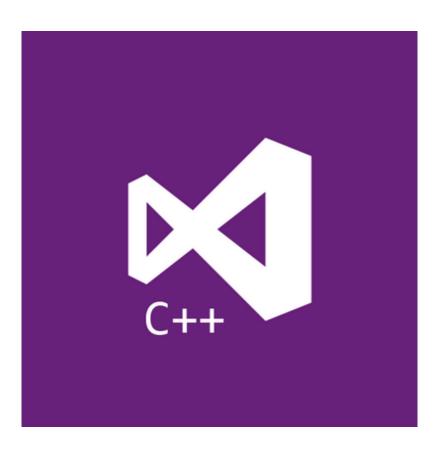


# I'm a tool builder





Clang Power Tools



Visual C++

#### Programmers Depend on Tools

code editor/IDE

IntelliSense

perf profiler

linter/formatter

(visual) debugger

(automated) refactoring tools

build system

CI/CD service

package manager

code reviews platform

recent compiler(s) [conformant/strict]

test framework

static analyzer

dynamic analyzer (runtime)

+ fuzzing

SCM client

#### Programmers Depend on Tools



lefticus commented 26 days ago

#### We are in a golden age of C++ tools

If you are developing blindly, without any tool guidance, you are doing C++ wrong. Think of these tools like a backup camera in your car. Certainly you can back up without a camera, but having one gives you a second set of eyes, deeper into the action than is possible with your human eyes.

#### You need:

- Continuous build environment
  - github
  - gitlab
  - jenkins
  - <what's your favorite, did I leave it out?>
- As many compilers as you can
  - GCC
  - Clang
  - cl (visual studio)
  - clang-cl (clang's msvc compatibility)
- An organized testing framework
  - doctest
  - catch
  - gtest
  - boosttest
  - <what's your favorite, did I leave it out?>

• test coverage analysis, reporting and tracking (you need to know if your test rate is decreasing!)

⊙ …

Author

- o coveralls
- codecov
- o <what else am I missing here?>
- As much static analysis as you can (most are free or have free options)
  - o at least -Wall -Wextra -Wshadow -Wconversion -Wpedantic -Werror and -W4 on Windows
  - o gcc -fanalyzer https://gcc.gnu.org/onlinedocs/gcc/Static-Analyzer-Options.html
  - cl.exe /analyze
  - cppcheck
  - clang-tidy
  - pvs studio https://pvs-studio.com/en/
  - sonar's tools
  - <countless many options, I expect many of you to tell me that I'm midon't work with C++>
- Runtime analysis during testing
  - address sanitizer (https://clang.llvm.org/docs/index.html)
  - undefined behavior sanitizer
  - o thread sanitizer
  - valgrind (if you can tolerate it)
  - debug checked iterators
     https://gcc.gnu.org/onlinedocs/libstdc++/manual/debug\_mode\_usin
     https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/cpp/standard-library/checked-iter
  - drmemory

#### Fuzz Testing

- More on this coming, but every library should be fuzz tested
- It generates novel / unique inputs for your library in an attempt to generate 100% code coverage
- Should be used in conjunction with runtime analysis, to hard-catch any bug
- Ship with hardening enabled
  - Control Flow Guard https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/cpp/build/reference/guard-enable-control-flow-guard?
     view=msvc-170

C++ Weekly - The Right Way to Write C++ Code

youtube.com/watch?v=q7Gv4J3FyYE

github.com/lefticus/cpp\_weekly/issues/175

- \_FORITFY\_SOURCE https://developers.redhat.com/articles/2022/09/17/gccs-new-fortification-level
- Stack Protector https://gcc.gnu.org/onlinedocs/gcc/Instrumentation-Options.html
- UBSan "Minimal runtime" mode https://clang.llvm.org/docs/UndefinedBehaviorSanitizer.html#minimal-runtime

See more info about tools and specific compiler options and flags here: https://github.com/cpp-best-practices/cppbestpractices/blob/master/02-Use\_the\_Tools\_Available.md

Using an IDE or plugin for your IDE can help integrate many of these things as well.

C++ is not easily toolable 🏋



# Get to know your tools well

C++ is slow to compile



It's all about the structure & build configuration you have.

So, you think you know why your builds take so long... you'd be surprised.

#### Multiple ways to improve (or screw up) your build:

- build configuration
- project dependencies (graph)
- header usage (compilation firewalls)
- unity builds
- PCH
- C++ modules/header units
- build caches
- build accelerators
- vfs
- ... use ranges

Header / Source filter column	<ul><li>Version</li></ul>	Impact 1	Timing <b>①</b> ▼	Lines 🗈 🔺	Binary 🚹 🔺
▼ C++ Standard Library (79 files, https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/header)					
+ <regex></regex>			238 365 ms	38.9 43.7 kLoC	0 188 kB
± <filesystem></filesystem>			263 341 ms	30.4 31.1 kLoC	0 363 kB
± <future></future>			179 292 ms	20.5 23.5 kLoC	0 278 kB
+ <random></random>			130 239 ms	23.0 28.3 kLoC	0 143 kB
<pre></pre>			125 236 ms	19.1 25.1 kLoC	0 140 kB
± <functional></functional>			82 228 ms	12.9 27.4 kLoC	0 141 kB
± <iomanip></iomanip>			115 221 ms	18.8 24.7 kLoC	0 180 kB
± <locale></locale>			113 196 ms	18.6 22.1 kLoC	0 178 kB
<pre>+ <shared_mutex></shared_mutex></pre>			125 195 ms	17.5 19.6 kLoC	0 153 kB
± <condition_variable></condition_variable>			112 192 ms	16.5 19.4 kLoC	0 153 kB
± <fstream></fstream>			115 192 ms	17.3 20.6 kLoC	0 138 kB
± <thread></thread>			110 189 ms	17.5 20.3 kLoC	0 153 kB
<pre>± <unordered_map></unordered_map></pre>			96 188 ms	15.3 20.4 kLoC	0 137 kB
<pre>+ <unordered_set></unordered_set></pre>			94 186 ms	15.3 20.3 kLoC	0 137 kB
± <sstream></sstream>			104 180 ms	16.3 19.6 kLoC	0 138 kB
± <iostream></iostream>			101 176 ms	15.8 19.1 kLoC	0.9 142 kB
± <iterator></iterator>			100 176 ms	15.9 19.2 kLoC	0 138 kB
± <istream></istream>			100 175 ms	15.8 19.1 kLoC	0 138 kB
+ <mutex></mutex>			92 170 ms	14.4 17.2 kLoC	0 153 kB

artificial-mind.net/projects/compile-health/

- Standard Library (3 libraries)
- boost (24 libraries)
- **▼** format (1 library)
  - fmt (11 files, https://github.com/fmtlib/fmt)
- geometry (1 library)
- image (2 libraries)
- **▼** json (6 libraries)
  - Boost.JSON (20 files, https://github.com/CPPAlliance/json)
  - cJSON (2 files, https://github.com/DaveGamble/cJSON)
  - jsonxx (2 files, https://github.com/hjiang/jsonxx)
  - nlohmann-json (2 files, https://github.com/nlohmann/json)
  - picojson (1 file, https://github.com/kazuho/picojson)
  - rapidjson (16 files, https://github.com/Tencent/rapidjson)
- math (2 libraries)
- **▼ testing (3 libraries)** 
  - ▶ Catch2 (1 file, https://github.com/catchorg/Catch2)
  - doctest (3 files, https://github.com/onqtam/doctest)
  - googletest (1 file, https://github.com/google/googletest)

artificial-mind.net/projects/compile-health/



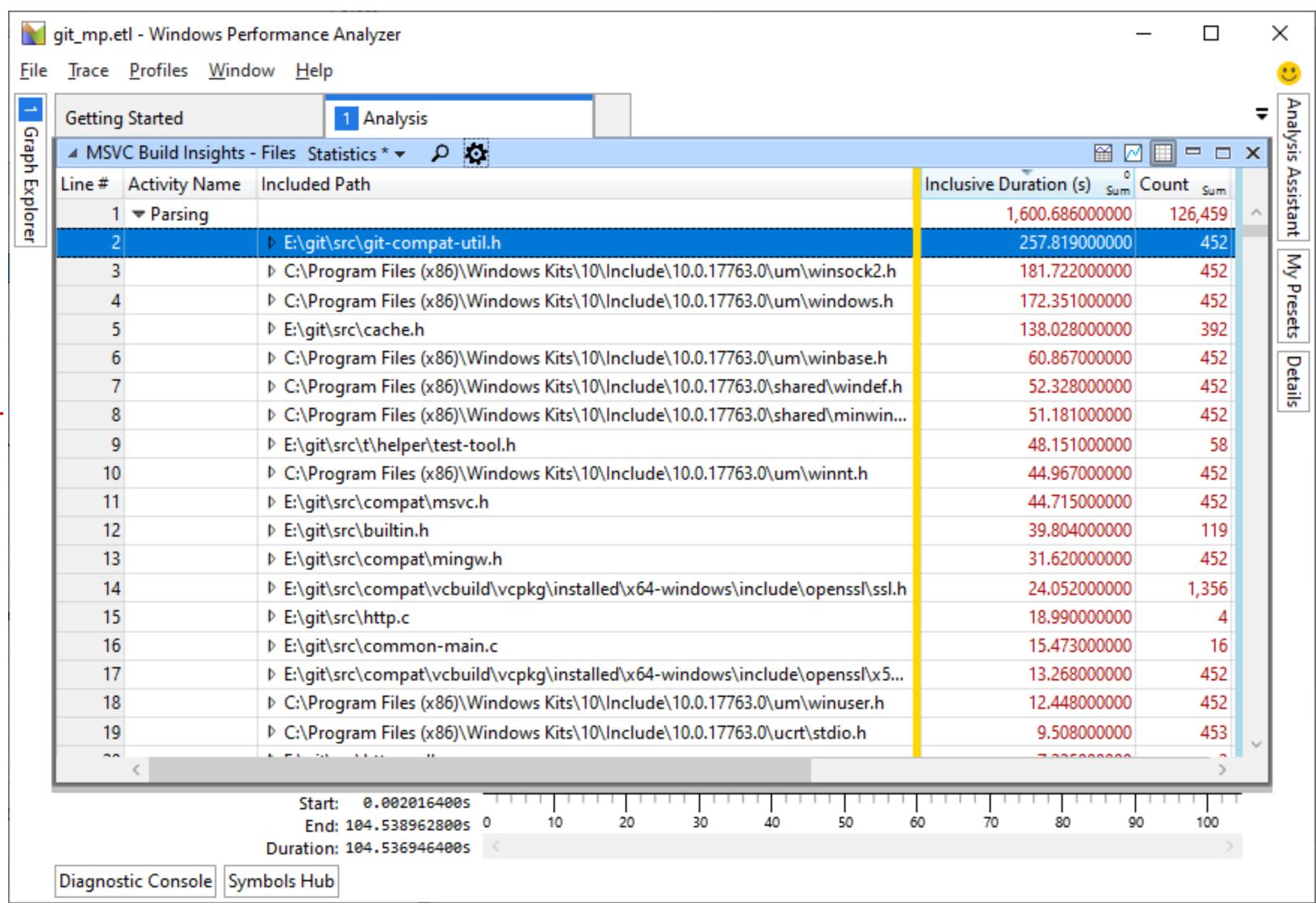
#### Tooling can help: ClangBuildAnalyzer -ftime-trace

- Free & open-source tool developed by Aras Pranckevičius
  - Parses Clang's -ftime-trace output and produces a human-friendly report
  - The report provides actionable information
- -ftime-trace
  - Developed by Aras himself, merged upstream since Clang 9 [STC]
  - Produces Chrome Tracing . json files for each compiled object file
  - No equivalent in GCC or MSVC
- How to use
  - Use clang++ as your compiler, passing -ftime-trace to your compiler flags
  - Compile everything you want to profile
  - Run ClangBuildAnalyzer in the build directory

#### Tooling can help: vcperf + WPA

devblogs.microsoft.com/cppblog/introducing-c-build-insights/

- vcperf /start MySession
- build your C++ project
- vcperf /stop MySession outputFile.etl





#### Tooling can help: Build Insights in Visual Studio

Included Files Include Tree				
Diagnostics Session: 75.462 seconds Build: 72.59 seconds			iles	
File Path	Time [sec, %]  ▼	Parse Count	Project	
▶ W C:\Program Files (x86)\Windows Kits\10\Include\10.0.22000.0\um\windows.h	10.002 (13.8%)	45	Irrlicht15.0	
▶ C:\src\irrlicht\include\irrAllocator.h	7.174 (9.9%)	217	Irrlicht15.0	
C:\Program Files\Microsoft Visual Studio\2022\Main\VC\Tools\MSVC\14.37.326	6.862 (9.5%)	217	Irrlicht15.0	
C:\Program Files\Microsoft Visual Studio\2022\Main\VC\Tools\MSVC\14.37.326	6.495 (8.9%)	217	Irrlicht15.0	
C:\src\irrlicht\include\irrString.h	5.069 (7.0%)	206	Irrlicht15.0	
▷ C:\Program Files (x86)\Windows Kits\10\Include\10.0.22000.0\ucrt\stdio.h	4.649 (6.4%)	296	Irrlicht15.0	
C:\src\irrlicht\include\ISceneNode.h	4.567 (6.3%)	80	Irrlicht15.0	
▷ C:\Program Files\Microsoft Visual Studio\2022\Main\VC\Tools\MSVC\14.37.326	4.532 (6.2%)	217	Irrlicht15.0	
▶ C:\src\irrlicht\include\IrrCompileConfig.h	4.286 (5.9%)	227	Irrlicht15.0	
▷ C:\src\irrlicht\include\irrTypes.h	4.011 (5.5%)	222	Irrlicht15.0	

devblogs.microsoft.com/cppblog/build-insights-now-available-in-visual-studio-2022/



#### Tooling can help: Build Insights in Visual Studio

Trace230609110806.et ≠ × What's New?			<b>→</b> ‡
Included Files Include Tree			
Diagnostics Session: 76.549 seconds Build: 73.506 seconds			5
File Path	Time [sec, %] ▼	Include Count	Project
∠ C:\src\irrlicht_pch\source\Irrlicht\Irrlicht.cpp	0.821 (1.1%)	6	Irrlicht15.
C:\Program Files (x86)\Windows Kits\10\Include\10.0.22621.0\um\	0.431 (0.6%)	34	Irrlicht15.
C:\src\irrlicht_pch\include\irrlicht.h	0.308 (0.4%)	97	Irrlicht15.
	0.042 (0.1%)	1	Irrlicht15.
∠ C:\Program Files (x86)\Windows Kits\10\Include\10.0.22621.0\uc	0.042 (0.1%)	2	Irrlicht15.
C:\Program Files (x86)\Windows Kits\10\Include\10.0.22621.0\	0.019 (0.0%)	1	Irrlicht15.
C:\Program Files (x86)\Windows Kits\10\Include\10.0.22621.0\	0.005 (0.0%)	1	Irrlicht15.
C:\src\irrlicht_pch\source\Irrlicht\CIrrDeviceWin32.h	0.012 (0.0%)	3	Irrlicht15.
C:\src\irrlicht_pch\source\Irrlicht\CIrrDeviceConsole.h	0.004 (0.0%)	0	Irrlicht15.
C:\Program Files (x86)\Windows Kits\10\Include\10.0.22621.0\ucrt\	0.003 (0.0%)	1	Irrlicht15.
	0.662 (0.9%)	5	Irrlicht15.
C:\Program Files (x86)\Windows Kits\10\Include\10.0.22621.0\um\	0.382 (0.5%)	34	Irrlicht15.
C:\src\irrlicht_pch\source\Irrlicht\CSoftwareDriver2.h	0.203 (0.3%)	4	Irrlicht15.
▷ C:\src\irrlicht pch\include\IrrCompileConfia.h	0 032 (0 0%)	1	Irrlicht15

devblogs.microsoft.com/cppblog/build-insights-now-available-in-visual-studio-2022/



#### Tooling can help: Build Insights in Visual Studio

Included Files   Include Tree   Functions				
Diagnostics Session: 73.271 seconds Build: 69.847 seconds				
Function Name	Time [sec, %] →	Forceinline Size	Project	File Path
public: struct wabt::Tokencdecl wabt::WastLexer::GetToken(class wa	0.623 (0.9%)	0		C:\Users\t-e\
private: void *ptr64cdecl Js::InterpreterStackFrame::ProcessAsmJ	0.200 (0.3%)	0		C:\Users\t-ev
private: void *ptr64cdecl Js::InterpreterStackFrame::ProcessWith	0.119 (0.2%)	0		C:\Users\t-e\
private: void *ptr64cdecl Js::InterpreterStackFrame::ProcessWith	0.116 (0.2%)	0		C:\Users\t-e\
private: void *ptr64cdecl Js::InterpreterStackFrame::ProcessProfil	0.113 (0.2%)	0		C:\Users\t-e\
private: void *ptr64cdecl Js::InterpreterStackFrame::ProcessUnpr	0.109 (0.2%)	0		C:\Users\t-e\
private: unsigned char const * _ptr64 _cdecl Js::InterpreterStackFra	0.036 (0.1%)	0		C:\Users\t-e\
private: unsigned char const * _ptr64 _cdecl Js::InterpreterStackFra	0.034 (0.0%)	0		C:\Users\t-e\
private: unsigned char const *ptr64cdecl Js::InterpreterStackFra	0.030 (0.0%)	0		C:\Users\t-e
public: voidcdecl Js::ConfigFlagsTable::VerboseDump(void)ptr64	0.014 (0.0%)	0		C:\Users\t-e
public: void _cdecl IRBuilderAsmJs::Build(void) _ptr64	0.014 (0.0%)	0		C:\Users\t-e
private: unsigned char const * _ptr64 _cdecl Js::InterpreterStackFra	0.012 (0.0%)	0		C:\Users\t-e
private: unsigned char const * _ptr64 _cdecl Js::InterpreterStackFra	0.012 (0.0%)	0		C:\Users\t-e
■ public: voidcdecl Lowerer::LowerRange(class IR::Instr *ptr64,class)	0.012 (0.0%)	114		C:\Users\t-e\
public: boolcdecl IR::Instr::IsLabelInstr(void)constptr64	0.000 (0.0%)	19		
public: boolcdecl IR::Instr::IsLabelInstr(void)constptr64	0.000 (0.0%)	19		
public: boolcdecl IR::Instr::IsLabelInstr(void)constptr64	0.000 (0.0%)	19		
public: boolcdecl IR::Instr::IsLabelInstr(void)constptr64	0.000 (0.0%)	19		
public: boolcdecl IR::Instr::IsLabelInstr(void)constptr64	0.000 (0.0%)	19		

[Functions View] - how long a function takes during compilation, as well as the number of forceinline



#### #include cleanup

```
∃#include <iostream>
#include <atlcomcli.h>
#include <winnt.h>
#include <winerror.h>
#include cessthreadsapi.h>
#include <minwindef.h>
#include <queue>
#include <vector>
#include <errhandlingapi.h>
#include <string>
```

devblogs.microsoft.com/cppblog/include-cleanup-in-visual-studio/



#### #include cleanup

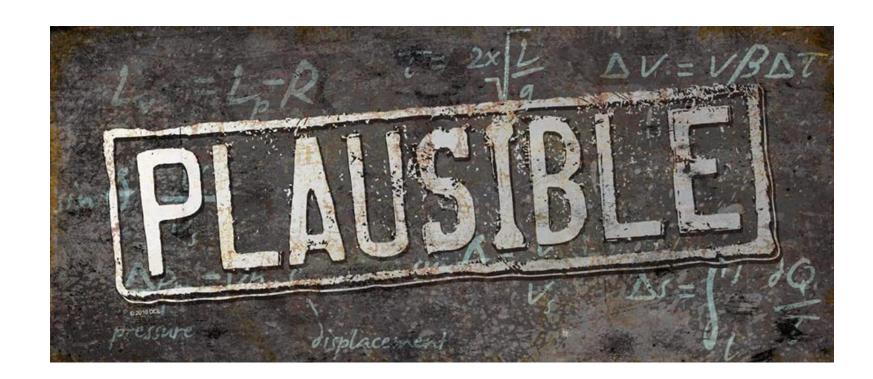
```
∃#include <iostream>
#include <atlcomcli.h>
#include <winnt.h>
#include <winerror.h>
#include cessthreadsapi.h>
#include <minwindef.h>
#include <queue>
#include <vector>
#include <errhandlingapi.h>
#include <string>
```

devblogs.microsoft.com/cppblog/include-cleanup-in-visual-studio/



youtube.com/watch?v=PfHD3BsVsAM

C++ is slow to compile



It can be, but if you work on it (+good tooling) you can drastically improve it.

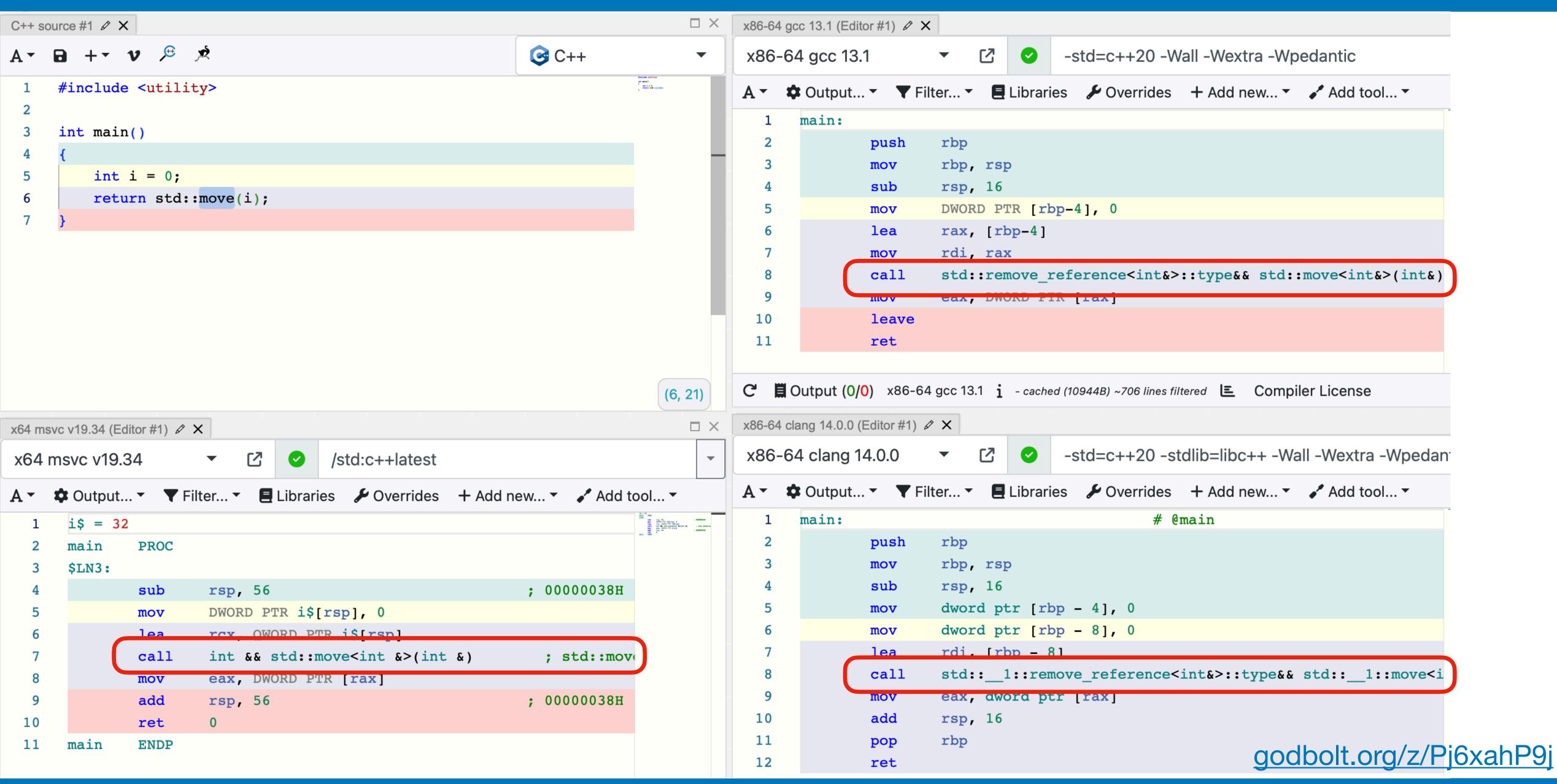
The sad state of Debug performance in C++

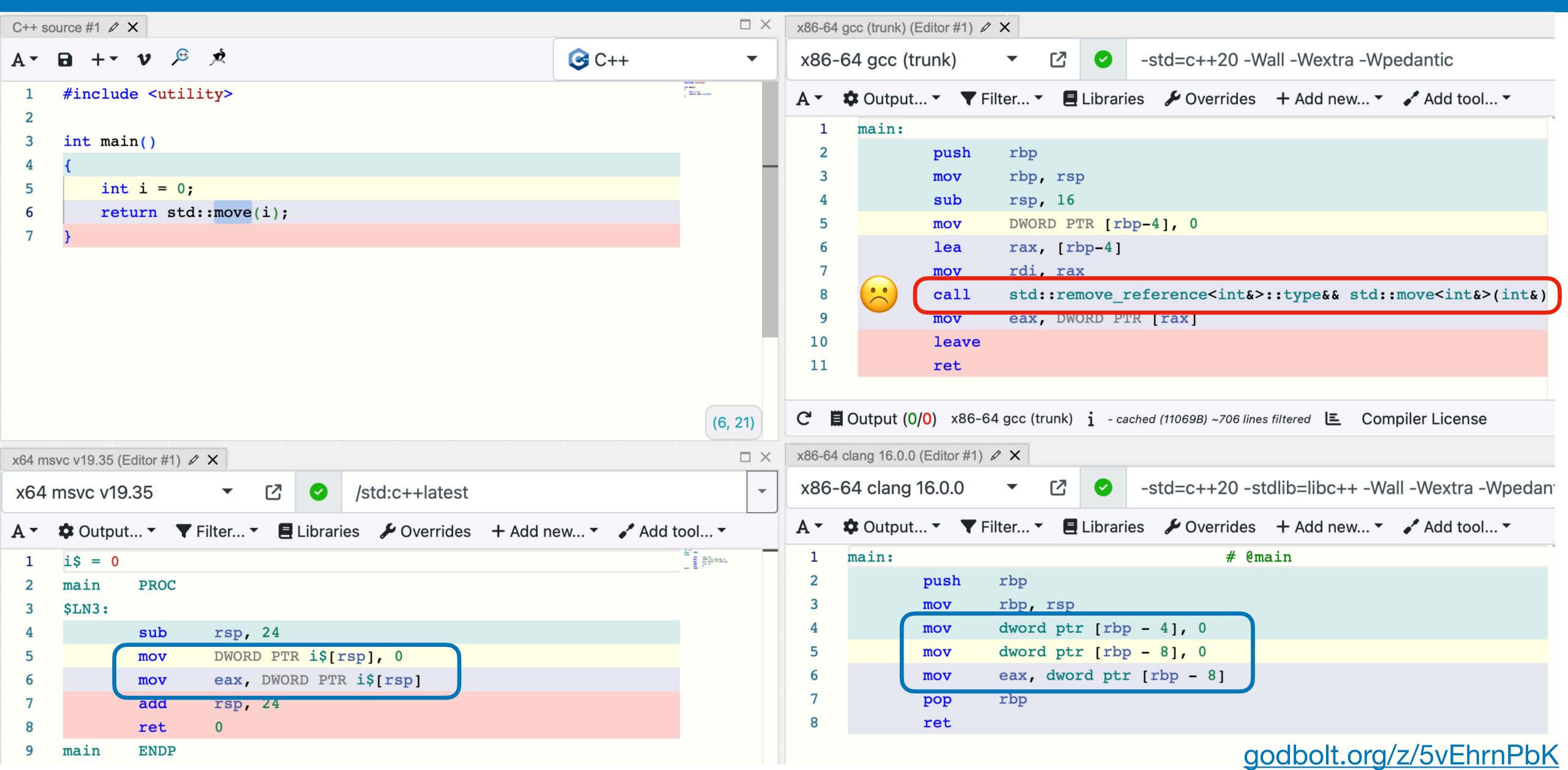
"zero cost abstraction" is a kind of a lie - for sure on Debug builds (no optimizations)

```
eg.
   int i = 0;
   std::move(i);
   std::forward<int&>(i);
```

```
static_cast<int&&>(i);
```

vittorioromeo.info/index/blog/debug performance cpp.html





Compilers can implement some mechanism to acknowledge meta functions like std::move and std::forward as compiler intrinsics - in the compiler front-end

MSVC took an alternative approach and implemented this new inlining ability using a C++ attribute: [[msvc::intrinsic]]

The new attribute will semantically replace a function call with a cast to that function's return type if the function definition is decorated with [[msvc::intrinsic]]

=> extensible to your own such utility functions

youtu.be/idwVQUG6Jqc

devblogs.microsoft.com/cppblog/improving-the-state-of-debug-performance-in-c/

The sad state of Debug performance in C++



C++ will never be a safe language

- type safety
- bounds safety
- lifetime safety
- initialization safety
- object access safety
- thread safety
- arithmetic safety

C++ is under attack... and the community is responding



**Software Memory Safety** 





#### What are we going to do?

- Acknowledge the problem
- Embrace our ethical responsibility
- Get qualified
- · Quantify the threat landscape
- Understand user impact
- Mitigate threats incrementally
- · Work with others beyond the language
- Explore other languages



ALISDAIR MEREDITH

REMOVING NEEDLESS

Tradeoffs need to be made...



"To UB, or not to UB"

-- Prince Hamlet

We have not addressed C++ safety until we have eliminated all UB.

We can't completely eliminate UB from C++ (for good reasons\*).



C++ will never be a safe language



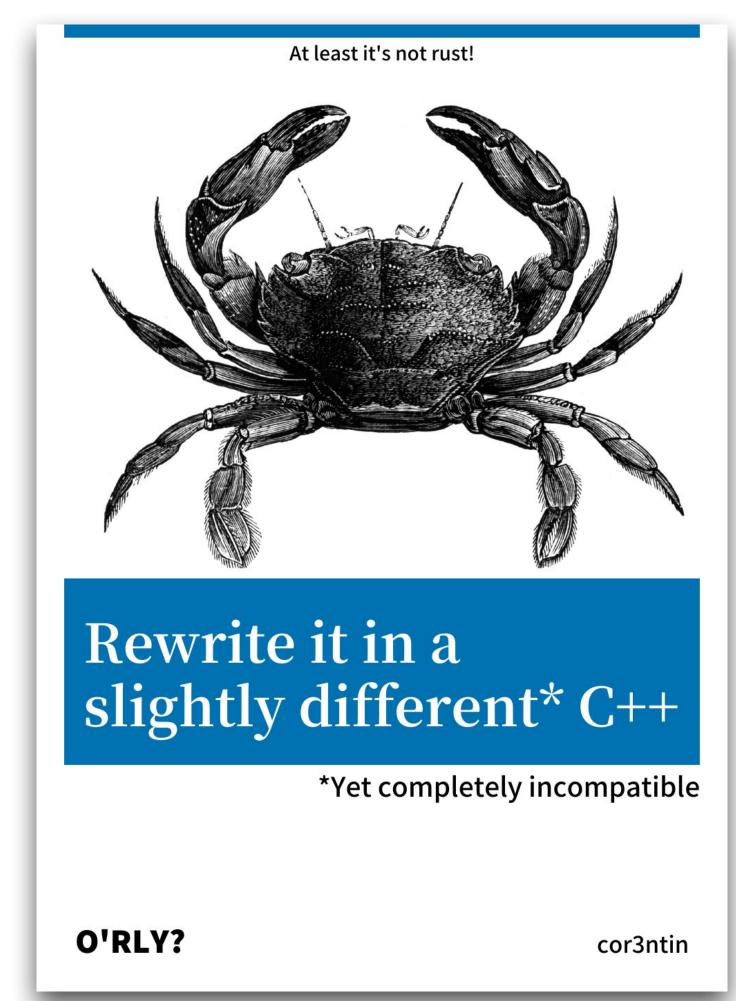


An excellent essay on the subject of safety: "If we must, let's talk about safety"

cor3ntin.github.io/posts/safety/

- A cakewalk and eating it too
- Borrowing the borrow checker
- But we care about safety, right?
- Dogma
- Down with Safety!
- UB
- Correct by confusion
- ++(C++) / Rust

-- Corentin Jabot



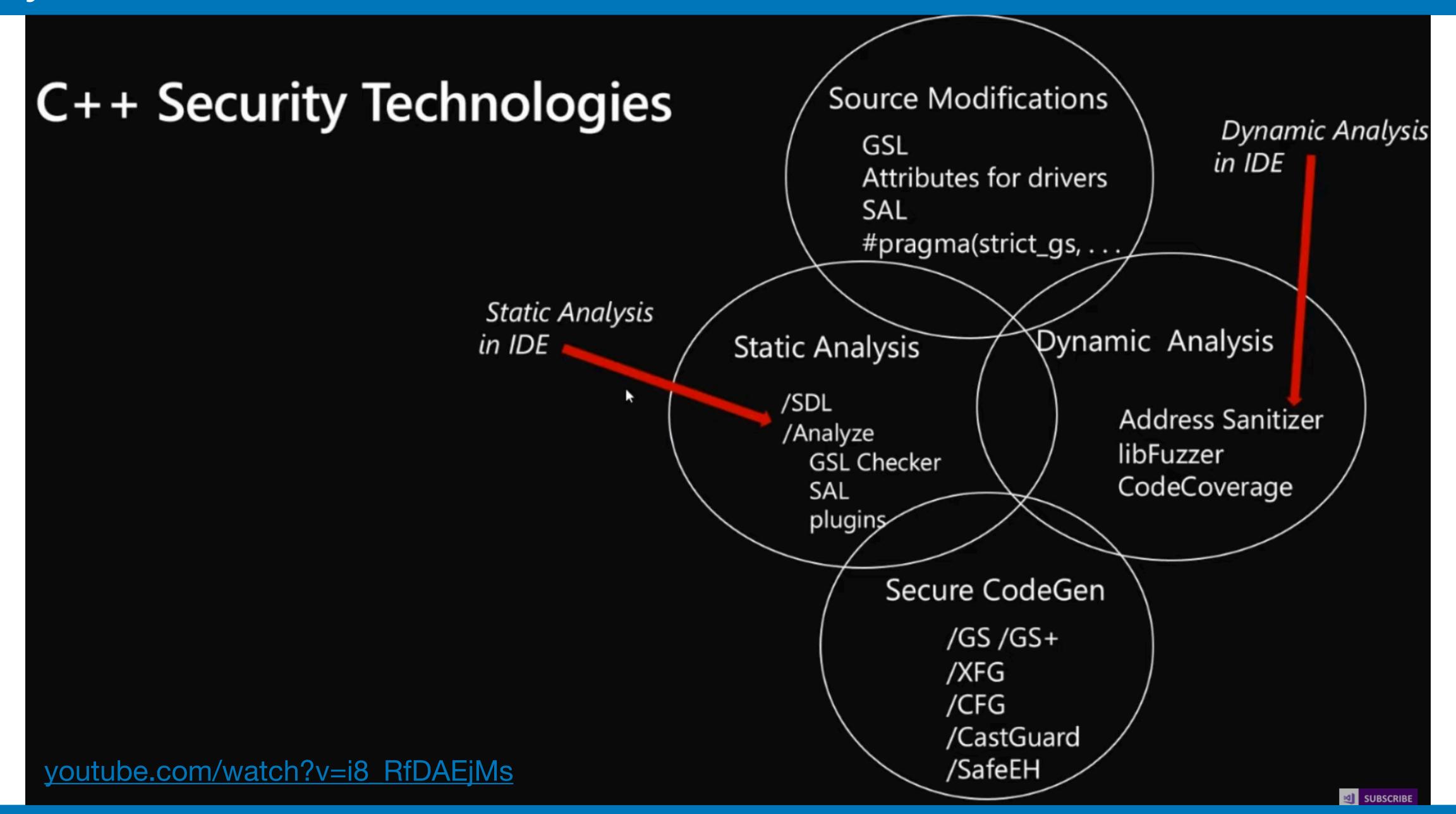
#### Guarantee lifetime safety:

- garbage collector 🚱
- dynamic memory analysis (ASan)
- statically enforce rules on references: multiple immutable refs | unique mutable ref
  - by compiler/language:
    - borrow checker (Rust)
    - mutable value semantics (<del>Val</del> Hylo)
    - no direct mutation (Haskell & other pure functional languages)
  - by tooling (static lifetime analysis):
    - clang-tidy
    - MSVC
    - other commercial analyzers (plenty of them)

The new C++ "AAA"

AAA (almost always auto)

AAA (almost always analyze)



#### ASan FTW !!!

-fsanitizer=address

{ Clang, gcc, MSVC }

youtube.com/watch?v=yJLyANPHNaA



#### ASan continue\_on\_error

devblogs.microsoft.com/cppblog/addresssanitizer-continue on error/

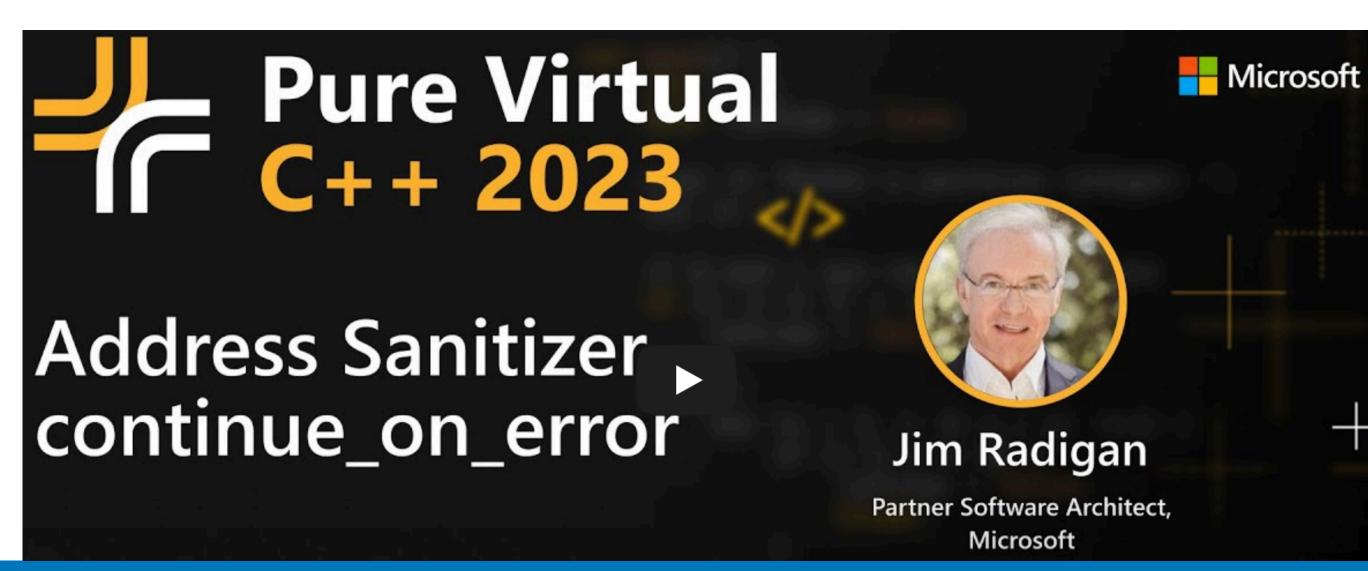
NEW: (Visual Studio 2022 v17.6)

Address Sanitizer runtime which provides a new "checked build".

This new runtime mode diagnoses and reports hidden memory safety errors,

with zero false positives, as your app runs.

youtube.com/watch?v=i8 RfDAEjMs



#### Static Analysis lifetime annotations for C++

```
NEW:
```

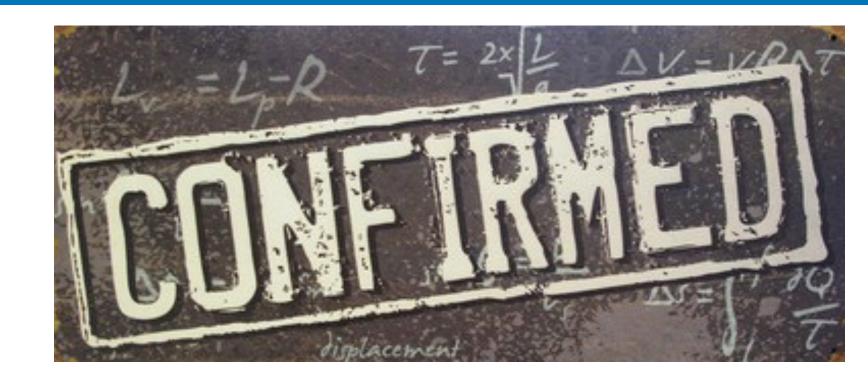
```
[[clang::lifetimebound]] and [[msvc::lifetimebound]]
```

discourse.llvm.org/t/rfc-lifetime-annotations-for-c/61377

youtube.com/watch?v=fe6yu9AQIE4



C++ will never be a safe language\*



\* but it can be much safe(r) with some effort and good tooling

Just rewrite it in Rust 🕮



**Mark Russinovich** 





Speaking of languages, it's time to halt starting any new projects in C/C++ and use Rust for those scenarios where a non-GC language is required. For the sake of security and reliability, the industry should declare those languages as deprecated.

11:50 PM · Sep 19, 2022









# Microsoft Azure security evolution: Embrace secure multitenancy, Confidential Compute, and Rust

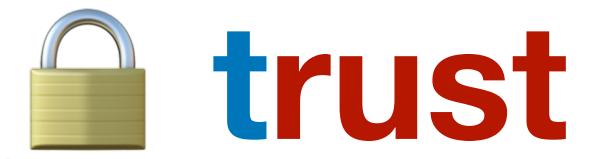
By Jeffrey Cooperstein Partner Software Architect, Azure Security

<u>azure.microsoft.com/blog/microsoft-azure-security-evolution-embrace-secure-multitenancy-confidential-compute-and-rust/</u>



# Microsoft Azure security evolution: Embrace secure multitenancy, Confidential Compute, and Rust

By Jeffrey Cooperstein Partner Software Architect, Azure Security



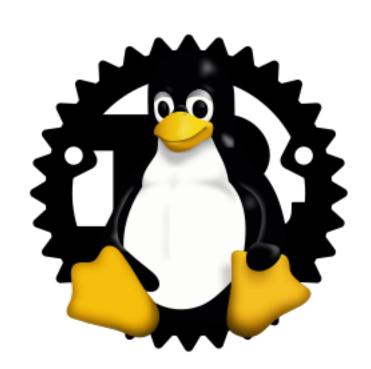
<u>azure.microsoft.com/blog/microsoft-azure-security-evolution-embrace-secure-multitenancy-confidential-compute-and-rust/</u>

Rust already in the Windows 11 kernel (May 2023)

```
C:\Windows\System32>dir win32k*
 Volume in drive C has no label.
                                    rs = Rust!
 Volume Serial Number is E60B-9A9E
 Directory of C:\Windows\System32
04/15/2023 09:50 PM
                              708,608 win32k.sys
04/15/2023 09:49 PM
                            3,424,256 win32khase sys
                              110,592 win32kbase_rs.sys
04/15/2023 09:49 PM
04/15/2023 09:50 PM
                            4,194,304 win32kfull.svs
                               40,960 win32kfull_rs.sys
04/15/2023 09:49 PM
04/15/2023 09:49 PM
                               69,632 WIIIJZKIIS.SYS
04/15/2023
                               98,304 win32ksgd.sys
          09:49 PM
              7 File(s)
                             8,646,656 bytes
              0 Dir(s) 116,366,049,280 bytes free
```

Rust in the Linux kernel (since 6.1)

-- with Linus Torvalds' blessing



The first Rust modules start to make their way into the Linux kernel (6.3+)

Ubuntu has done all the work to provide the right toolchain in the distro and custom kernel patches (SAUCE) that allow easier acquisition and build of Rust modules.

wikipedia.org/wiki/Rust for Linux

youtube.com/watch?v=8T6CIX-y2AE&t=2703s

So this happened 👀 (public announcement, April 2023)

Ported Windows 11 core components from C++ to Rust

- DirectWrite
- **GDI**





### Rust in Windows: Crawl

- Learn by doing: Exploration → Flighting → Production (crawl → walk → run)
- · Direct impact: Improve security
- Indirect impact: Gain experience with transitioning to Rust in production
  - Costs of learning Rust?
  - Costs of porting Rust?
  - Costs of writing new Rust?
  - · Is the full pipeline of Rust tooling ready? Debugging, perf, cross-platform, POGO, etc.
  - Costs of maintaining a hybrid C++/Rust codebase?

## What is DWrite? What is DWriteCore?

- · Full stack for text analysis, layout, and rendering
  - · Ships in Windows (dwrite.dll)
  - Handles all major languages and scripts
  - Huge amount of inherent complexity: complex scripts, complex glyph descriptions
- DWriteCore is DWrite "undocked" from Windows
  - Builds outside of Windows repo
  - · Cross-platform: Windows, Linux, Android, iOS, Mac OS
  - Office contains an old fork (dwrite10), is migrating to DWriteCore for some platforms
    - All new feature development in DWrite has shifted to DWriteCore
- Collaboration between Rust team and DWrite team begin in 2020
- DWriteCore is now ~152 KLOC of Rust, ~96 KLOC of C++

# 1st experiment

youtube.com/watch?v=8T6CIX-y2AE&t=2703s

## Myth #38 - Interop Rust and C++

- DWriteCore internally uses COM-like interfaces. These were a good integration point for C++/Rust, and provided natural boundaries for incremental porting.
- DWriteCore public APIs are all COM. In some cases, Rust code is <u>directly</u> callable from app code, through COM interfaces.

♦ In other places, we statically link Rust and C++ code.

```
extern "C" IDWriteInlineObject* Rust_Layout_CreateInlineObject(
    IDWriteTextLayout *layout,
    InlineLayoutBoundMode boundMode,
    bool adjustBaseline);
```

```
#[no_mangle]
pub extern "C" fn Rust_Layout_CreateInlineObject(
    layout: IDWriteTextLayout,
    bound_mode: InlineLayoutBoundMode,
    adjust_baseline: bool,
) -> IDWriteInlineObject {
    ...
}
```

youtube.com/watch?v=8T6CIX-y2AE&t=2703s

# Win32k GDI port to Rust

# 2nd experiment

- Ported the REGION data type and functions
  - · Models overlapping controls (e.g., windows) in GDI.
  - · "Leaf node" data type: few dependencies, many dependents.
  - · Old (late 80s, early 90s), and perf critical (designed for a 286/386).
  - · Maintenance nightmare: open-coded vector resizing and ref-counting.
- · Currently disabled via a feature-flag.
- · Windows boots with the Rust version, and all GDI tests pass.

## Win32k GDI port to Rust

- · Perf of the ported code has been excellent
  - · No perf difference in Office apps (as measured by PCMark 10).
  - · Micro-benchmarks show mostly no differences, with some wins for Rust.
- · Has driven changes upstream in Rust
  - More try\_ methods for Vec that don't panic on OOM:
- · Calls to extern functions means there's a lot of "unsafe" code
  - Currently 163 unsafe functions (~10%) and 271 unsafe blocks.
  - But as we port more code, these have been disappearing.
  - We've even been able to write a SysCall is completely safe code.

More on the way...



### Rust Fact vs. Fiction

## 5 Insights from Google's Rust journey in 2022

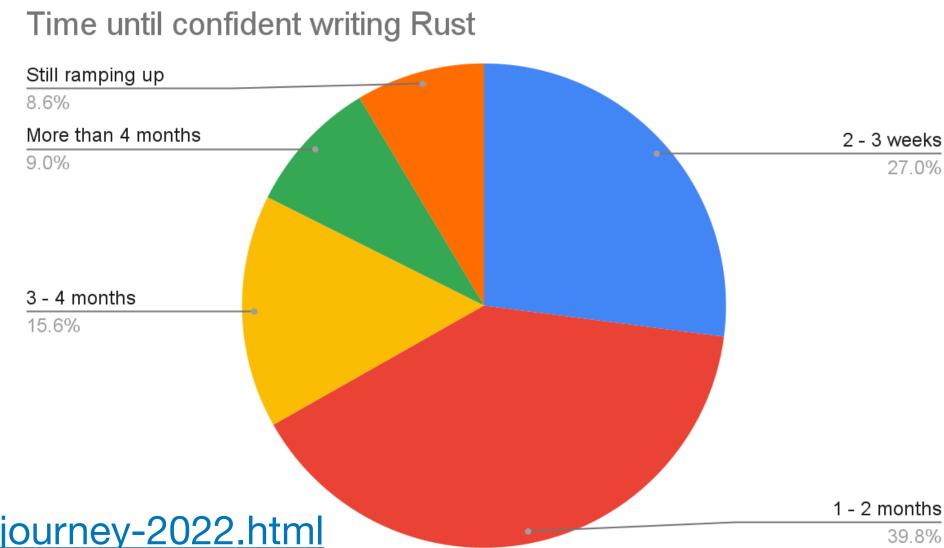
Rumor 1: Rust takes more than 6 months to learn – Debunked

Rumor 2: The Rust compiler is not as fast as people would like - Confirmed

Rumor 3: Unsafe code and interop are always the biggest challenges - Debunked

Rumor 4: Rust has amazing compiler error messages – Confirmed

Rumor 5: Rust code is high quality - Confirmed



opensource.googleblog.com/2023/06/rust-fact-vs-fiction-5-insights-from-googles-rust-journey-2022.html



It's important for Rust to be able to call C++ functions in a way that meets the following criteria:

- No need for unsafe keyword
- No overhead in the general case
- No boilerplate or re-declarations / No C++ annotations
- Broad type support with safety
- Ergonomics with safety

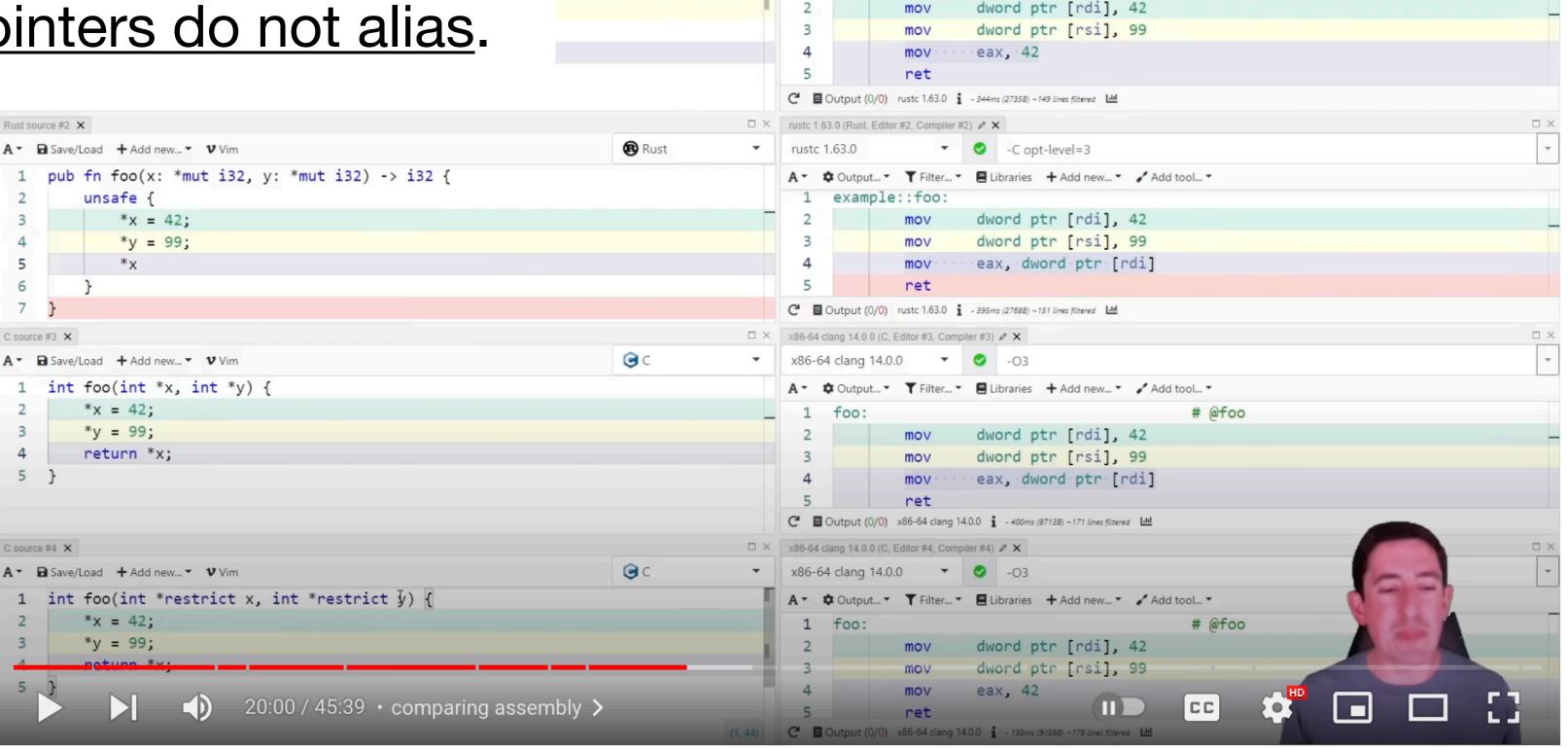
There's progress in Rust community in solving some of these problems:

see moveit, autocxx and mosaic

chromium.org/Home/chromium-security/memory-safety/rust-and-c-interoperability/

# 

unsafe{Rust} has more UB than C++ because it always assumes pointers do not alias.



Picture in Picture tor#1, Compiler #1) / ×

1 example::foo:

▼ Opt-level=3

A \* Output... \* Tilter... \* Elibraries + Add new... \* Add tool... \*

Unsafe Rust is not C

youtube.com/watch?v=DG-VLezRkYQ

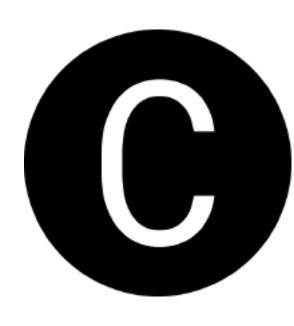
Just rewrite it in Rust 🕮



Successor languages are going to eat our lunch





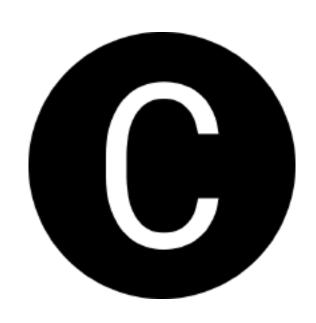




#### <del>Val</del> Hylo aims:

- fast by definition
- safe by default
- simple
- interoperable with C++
- whole/part relationships
- mutable value semantics
- Swift, as it should have been

hylo-lang.org



#### Carbon aims:

- interoperability with C++
- better defaults than C++
- no function overloading
- no exception handling
- no multiple inheritance
- doesn't handle raw pointers
- doesn't have constructors

github.com/carbon-language



The Year of C++ Successor Languages
-- Lucian Radu Teodorescu

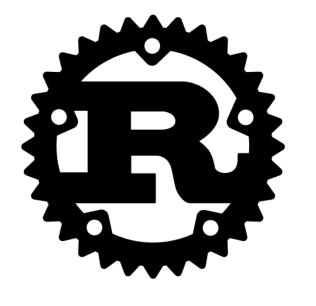
accu.org/journals/overload/30/172/teodorescu/



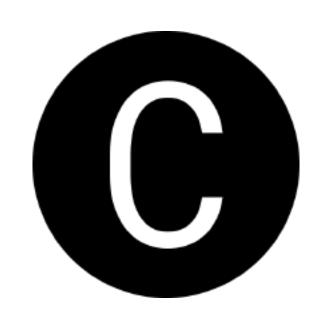
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hylo-lang.org



perfect by construction



#### Carbon aims:

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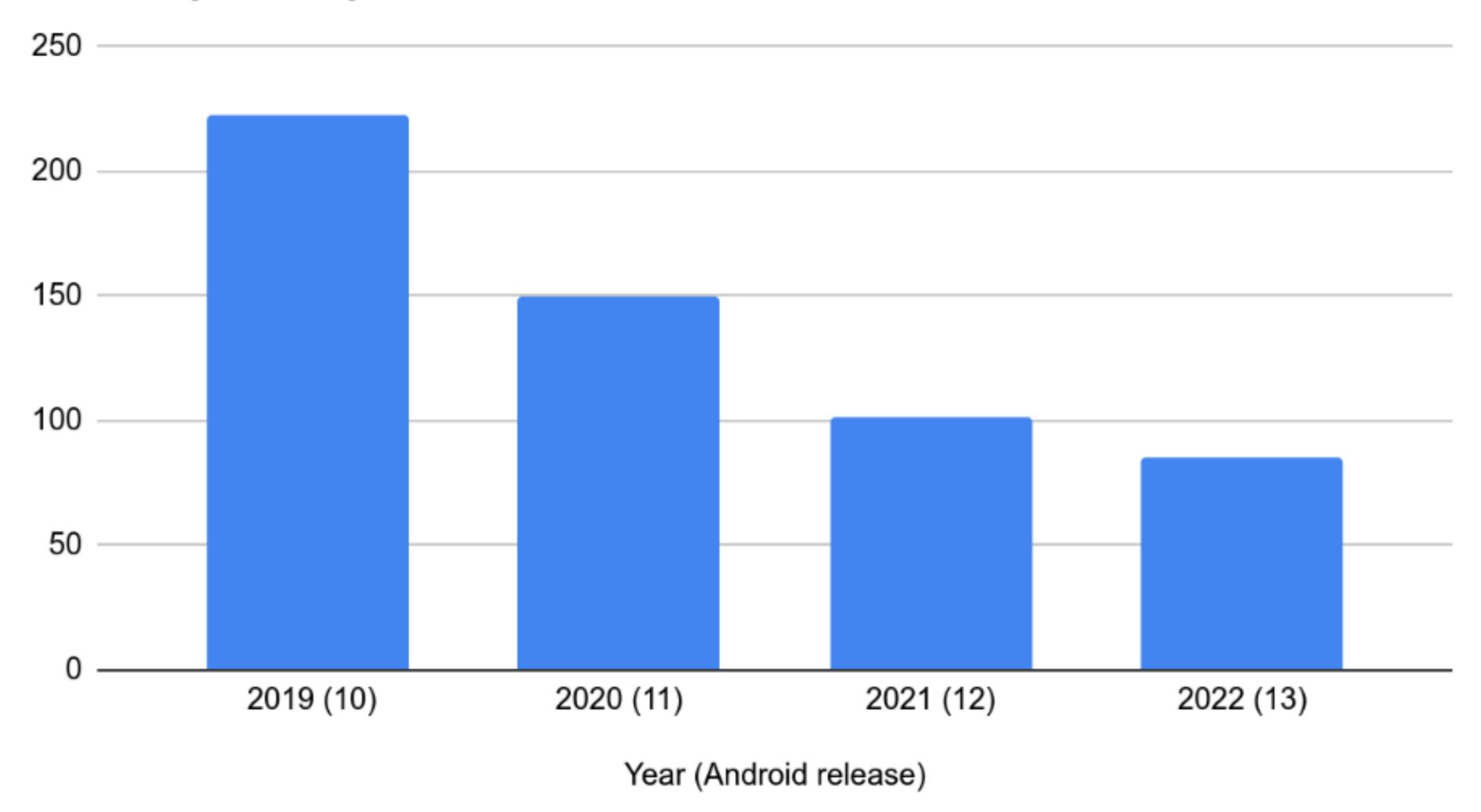
github.com/carbon-language



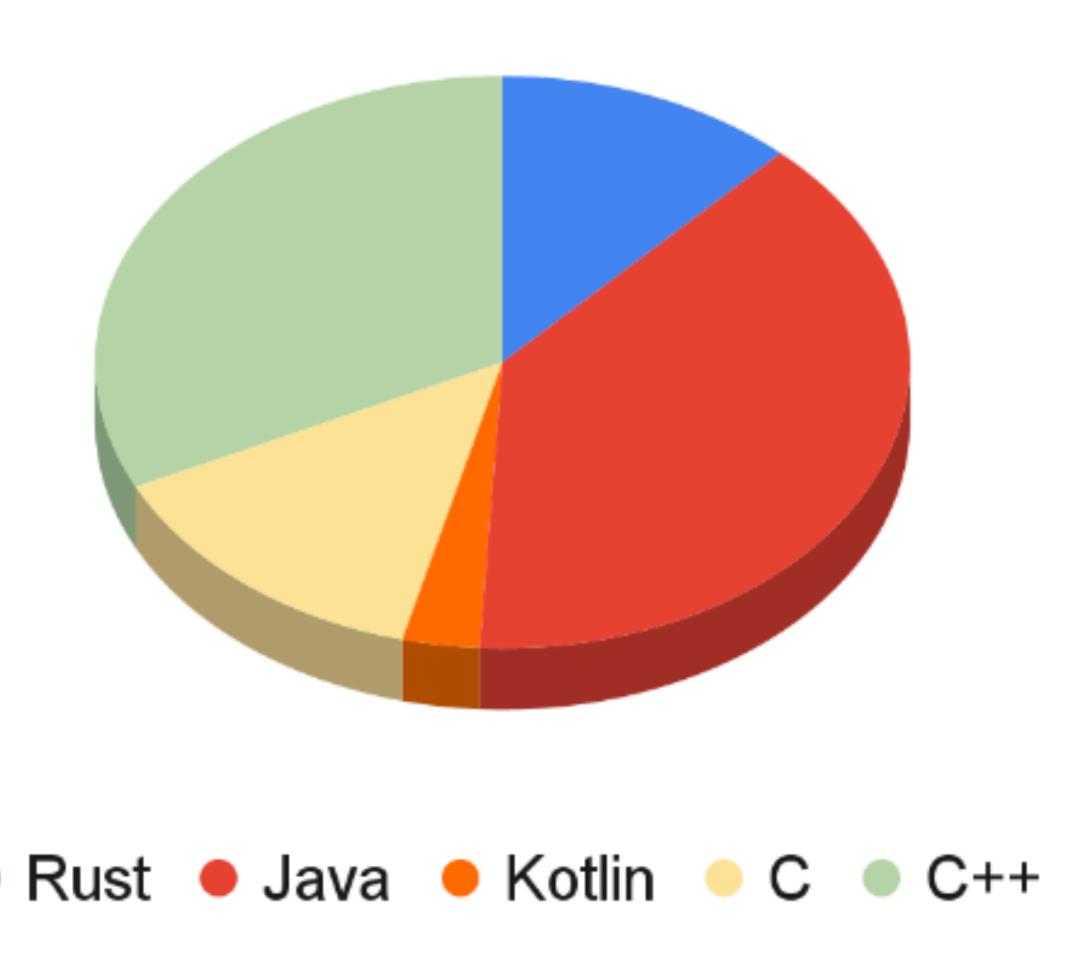
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accu.org/journals/overload/30/172/teodorescu/

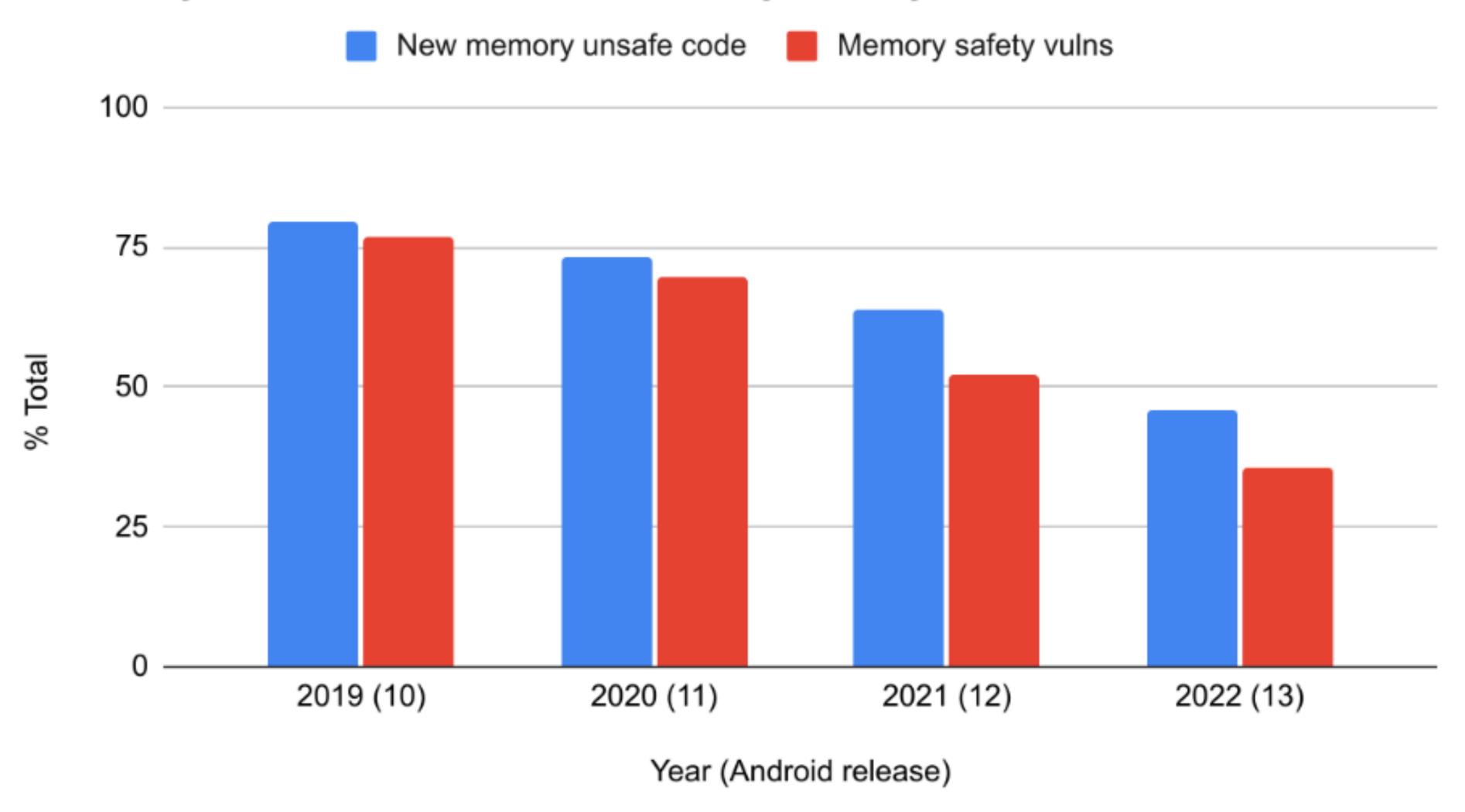
#### Memory Safety Vulnerabilities Per Year



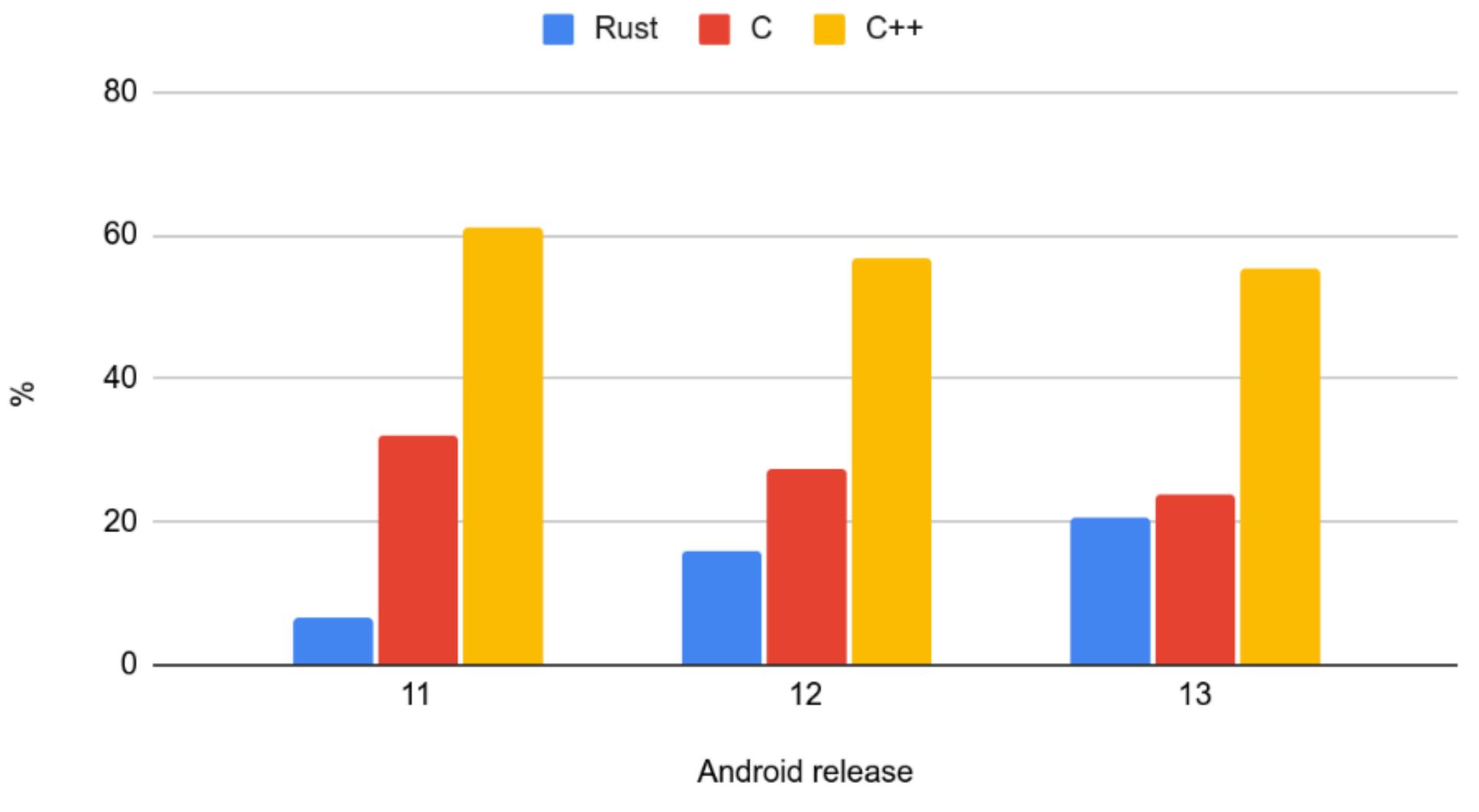
New Code By Language in Android 13



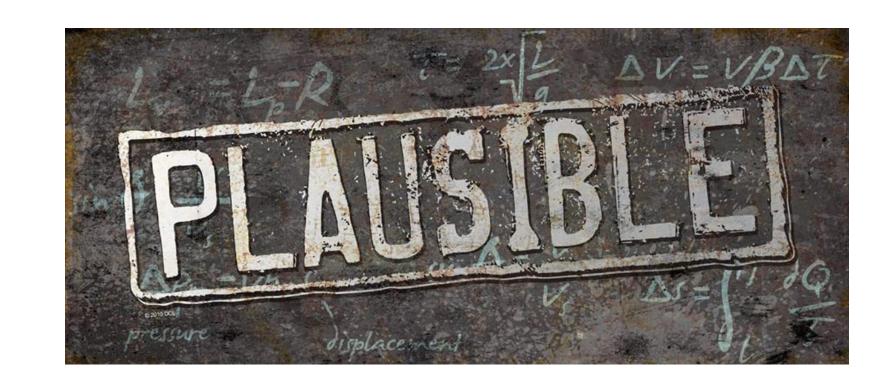
#### Memory unsafe code and Memory safety vulnerabilities



#### New Native Code



Successor languages are going to eat our lunch



\* it's not a zero-sum game - there will be enough food for everyone

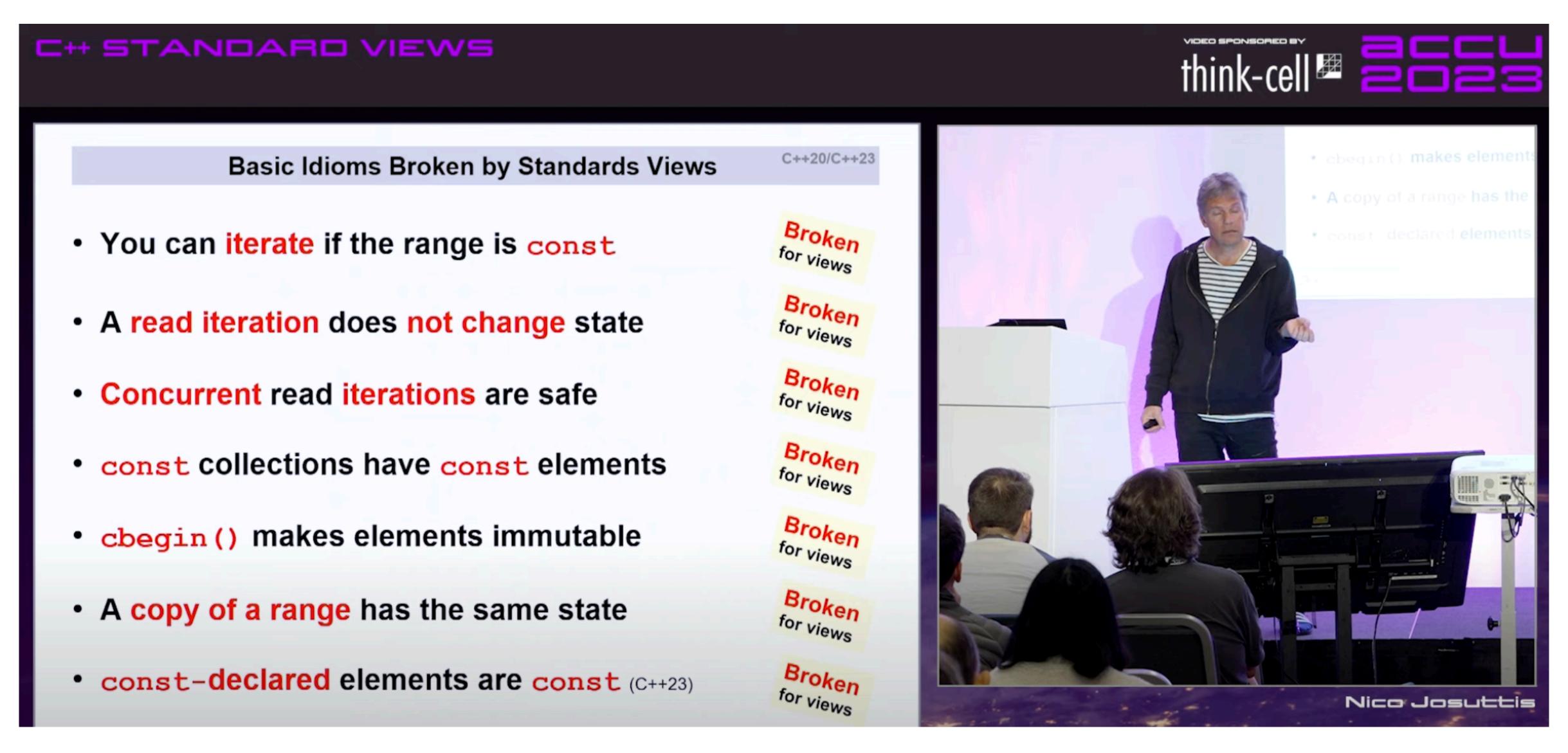
std::ranges are safer than iterators

All our experience with iterators since the 90s, tells us they should be early

C++20 ranges library is fantastic tool, but watch out for gotchas 🔔

- views have reference semantics => all the reference gotchas apply
- as always with C++, const is shallow and doesn't propagate (as you might expect)
- some functions do caching, eg. begin(), empty(), | filter | drop
- don't hold on to views or try to reuse them
  - safest to use them ad-hoc, as temporaries
  - if needed, better "copy" them (cheap) for reuse

\* the Nico slide:)



youtube.com/watch?v=qv29fo9sUjY

## Ranges & filter predicate invariant

- Main use case of a filter:
  - Fix an attribute that some elements might have

#### has undefined behavior:

#### [range.filter.iterator]:

Modification of the element a filter\_view::iterator denotes is permitted, but results in undefined behavior if the resulting value does not satisfy the filter predicate.

youtube.com/watch?v=qv29fo9sUjY

std::ranges are safer than iterators



CMake is the gold standard of C++ project systems

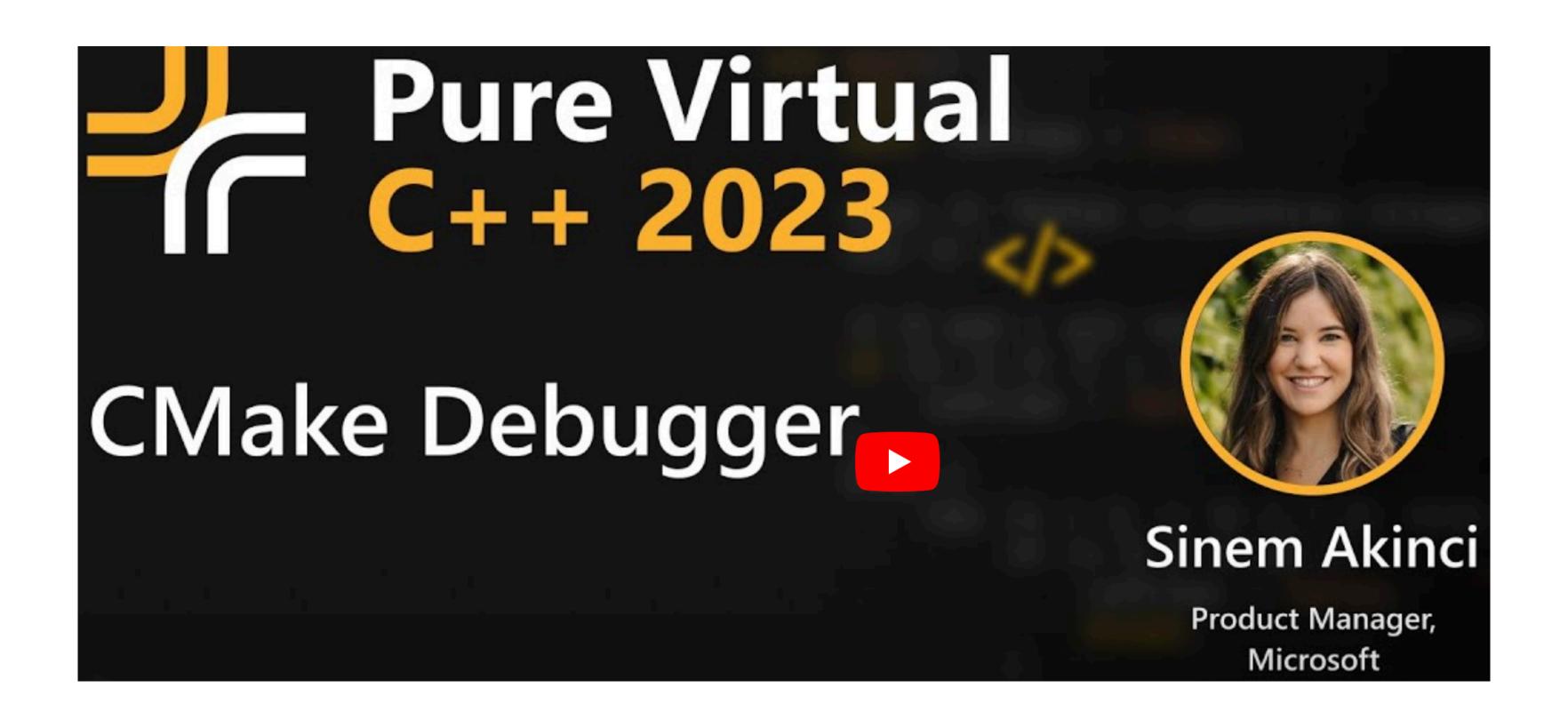


When it works, it's great;

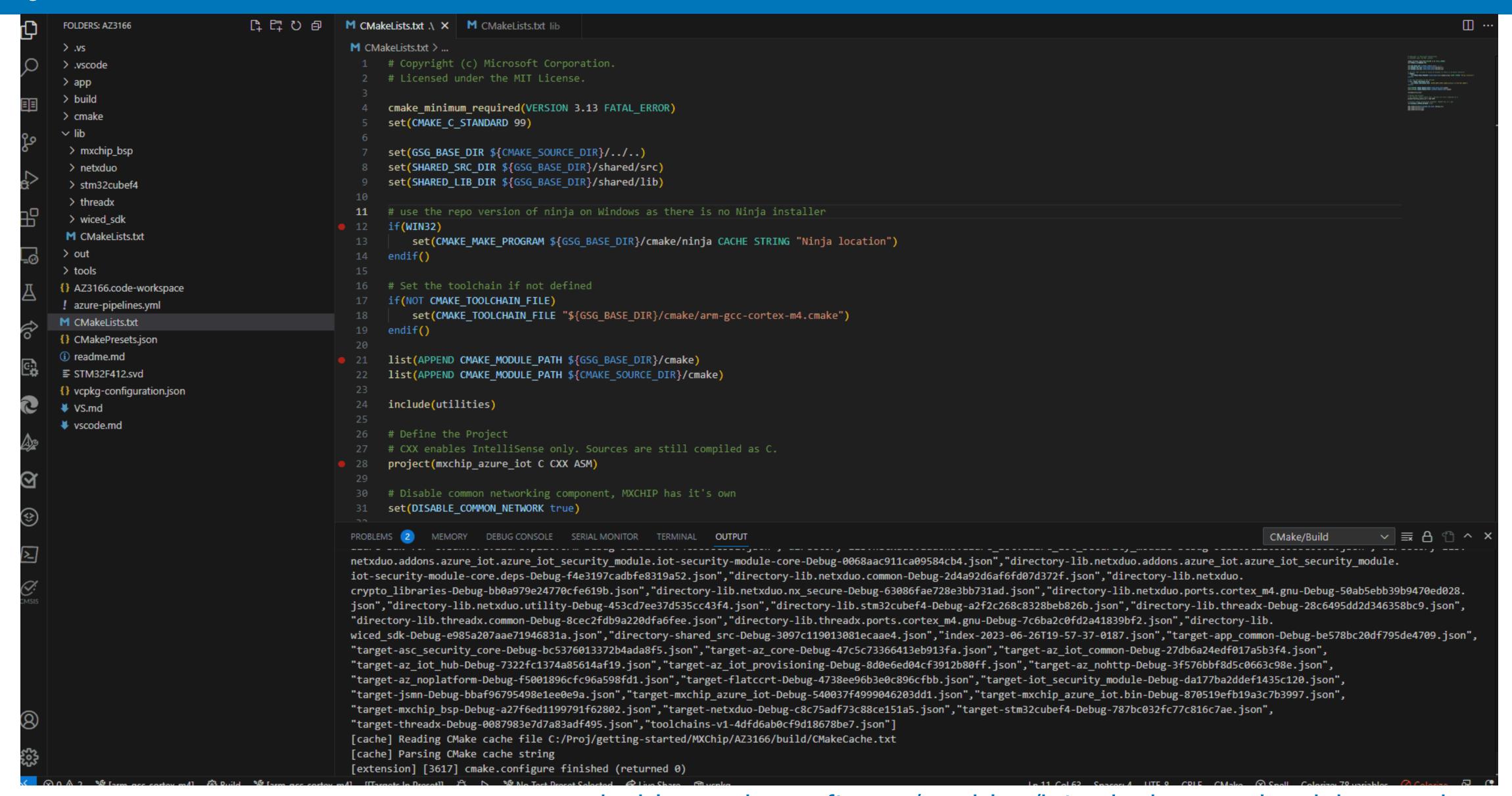
when it doesn't, you're regretting your life decisions established by

twitter.com/pati\_gallardo/status/1672137915575545856?s=46&t=dcjdCXT0jeVLLjXhQ3J85A

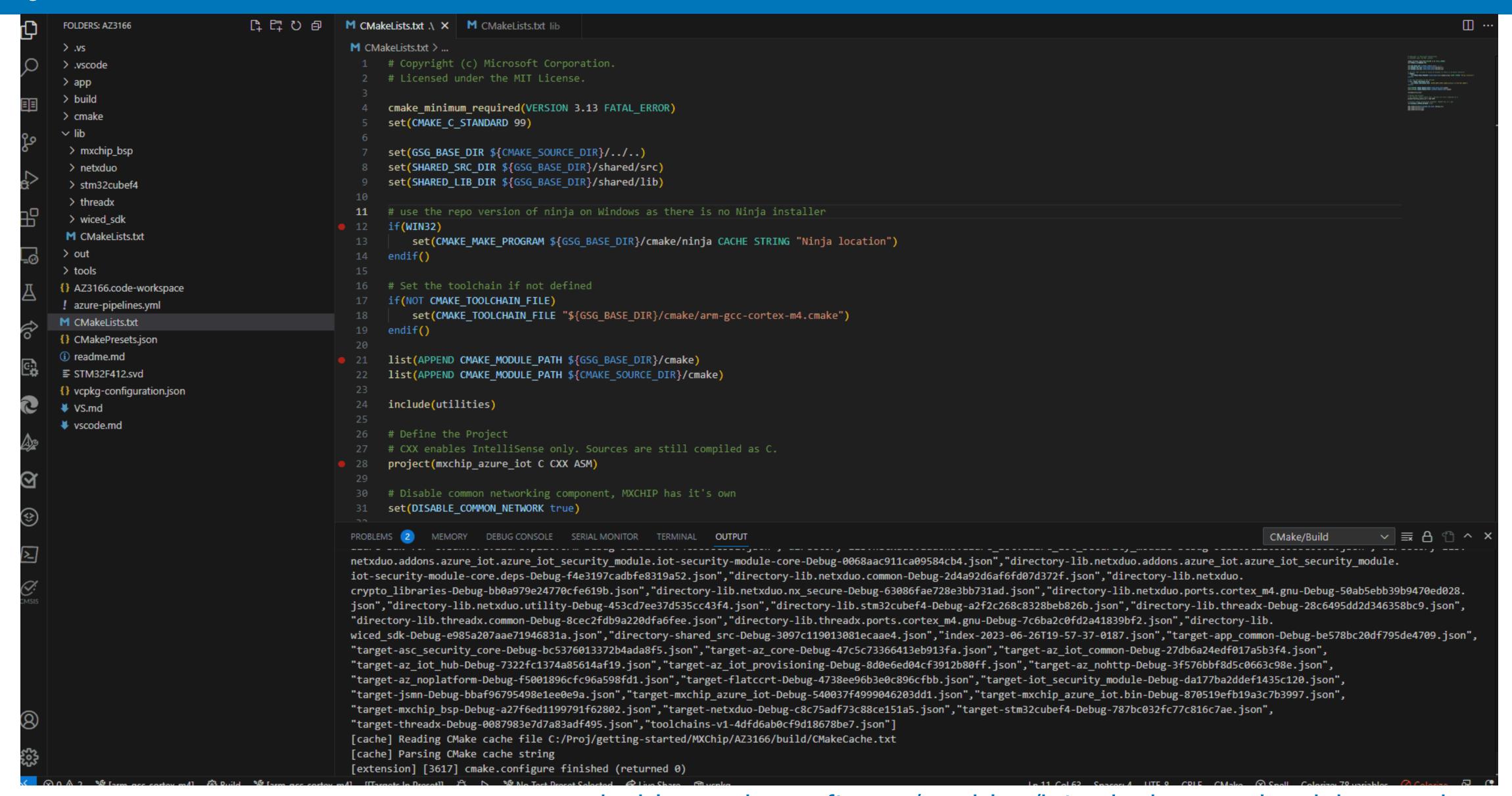
# CMake Debugger in Visual Studio and VSCode



youtube.com/watch?v=1eVJBEV9NTk



devblogs.microsoft.com/cppblog/introducing-cmake-debugger-in-vs-code

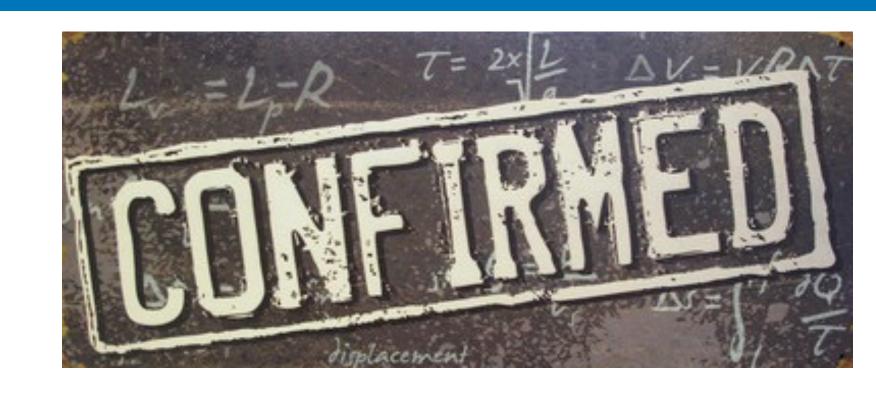


devblogs.microsoft.com/cppblog/introducing-cmake-debugger-in-vs-code

The CMake debugger has now been implemented in VS & VSCode and merged upstream to Kitware.

CMake Debugger: VS + VSCode + Rider + CLion

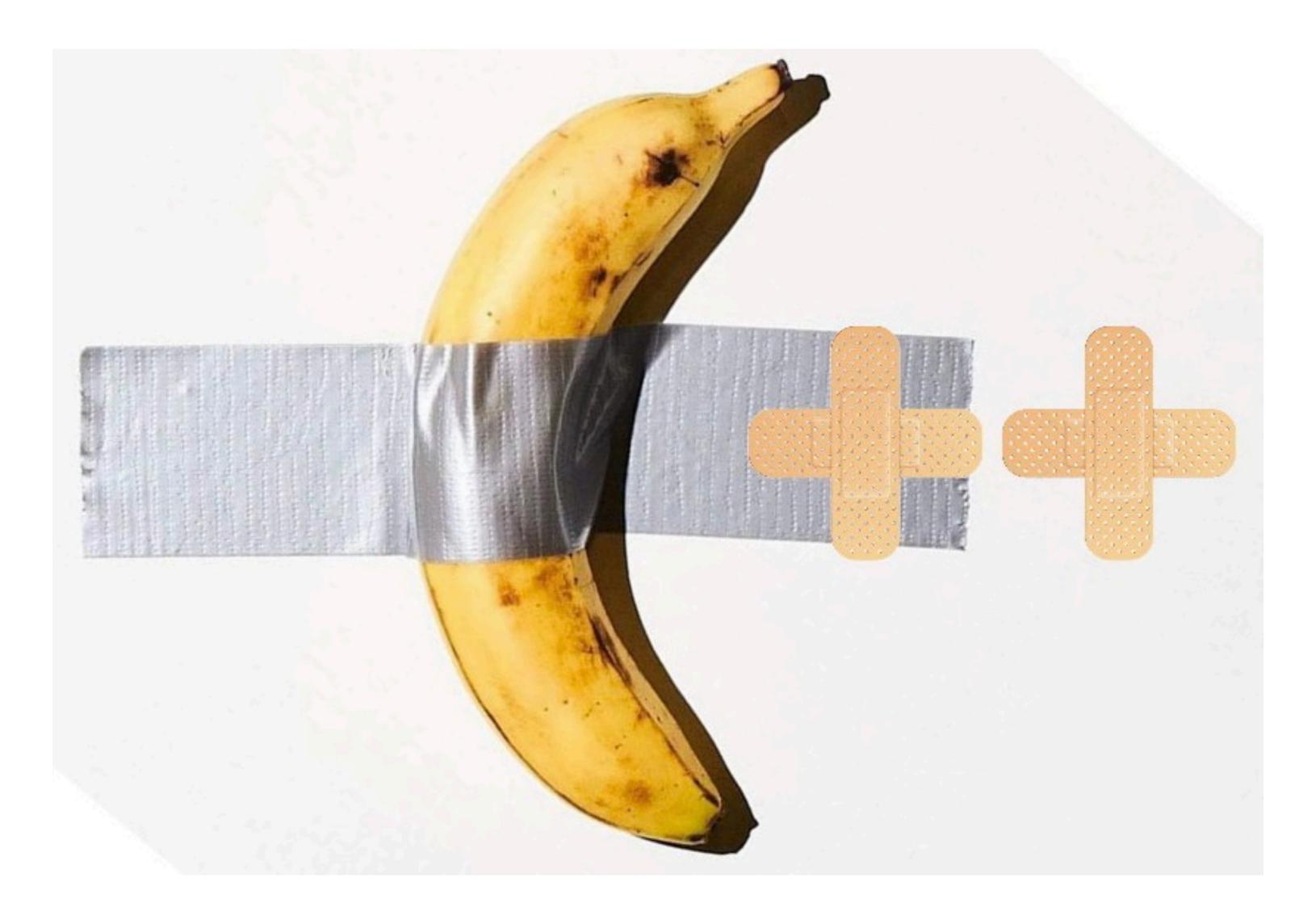
CMake is the gold standard of C++ project systems



New (C++) is the enemy of the old

- "Before we had [feature], we were nonetheless able to program in C++"
- Pablo Halpern, ACCU Conf 2022 (via Kate Gregory)

# New (C++) is the enemy of the old



twitter.com/tvaneerd/status/1387

## Mythbusting Series

Other C++ Mythbusters

## Other C++ Mythbusters



O AURORA

Some Programming Myths Revisited - Patrice Roy - CppCon 2019

youtube.com/watch?v=KNqRjzSIUVo

## Other C++ Mythbusters



Andrey Karpov May 30 2023

#### 60 terrible tips for a C++ developer

- Terrible tip N1. Only C++
- Terrible tip N2. Tab character in string literals
- Terrible tip N3. Nested macros
- Terrible tip N4. Disable warnings
- Terrible tip N5. The shorter the variable name is, the better
- Terrible tip N6. Invisible characters
- Terrible tip N7. Magic numbers
- Terrible tip N8. int, int everywhere
- Terrible tip N9. Global variables
- Terrible tip N10. The abort function in libraries
- Terrible tip N11. The compiler is to blame for everything
- Terrible tip N12. Feel free to use argv
- Terrible tip N13. Undefined behavior is just a scary story
- Terrible tip N14. double == double
- Terrible tip N15. memmove is a superfluous function
- Terrible tip N16. sizeof(int) == sizeof(void \*)
- Terrible tip N17. Don't check what the malloc function returned
- Terrible tip N18. Extend the std namespace

- Terrible tip N35. Declaring variables at the beginning of a function
- Terrible tip N36. Add everything, it might come in handy
- Terrible tip N37. Create your own h-quest
- Terrible tip N38. C-style cast
- Terrible tip N39. Versatility is cool
- Terrible tip N40. You are the lord of pointers do what you want
- Terrible tip N41. const is a redundant entity
- Terrible tip N42. Vintage is cool
- Terrible tip N43. Don't initialize
- Terrible tip N44. Trust everyone
- Terrible tip N45. Don't worry about naming variables
- Terrible tip N46. Write your code as if you are training for the IOCCC
- Terrible tip N47. Have fun when writing code
- Terrible tip N48. Everyone has their own style
- Terrible tip N49. Overload everything
- Terrible tip N50. Don't believe in the efficiency of std::string
- Terrible tip N51. For as long as possible, resist using the new C++ standard
- Terrible tip N52. Variables Reuse
- Terrible tip N53. Answer the question "what?" in code comments
- Terrible tip N54. More multithreading
- Terrible tip N55. The fewer .cpp files, the better
- Terrible tip N56. More classes!
- Terrible tip N57. Reading books is no longer relevant
- Terrible tip N58. printf(str);
- Terrible tip N59. Virtual functions in constructors and destructors
- Terrible tip N60. No time to think, copy the code!
- Terrible tip N61. You can look beyond the array

pvs-studio.com/en/blog/posts/cpp/1053/



#### C++ Prague Meetup

September 2023

@ciura\_victor
@ciura\_victor@hachyderm.io

Victor Ciura
Principal Engineer
Visual C++

