



# C++26: An Overview

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# C++26

## Core Language



- Reflection
- Contracts
- Placeholder
- `static_assert` extension
- Template improvements
- `delete` with reason

## Library



- `string` and `string_view`
- Format extensions
- `std::inplace_vector`
- Range improvements
- `constexpr` extensions
- Linear algebra support
- `std::submdspan`
- Debugging support

## Concurrency



- `std::execution`

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# Reflection

**Reflection** is the ability of a program to examine, introspect, and modify its structure and behavior.

```
int main() {
    constexpr auto r = ^^int;
    typename[:r:] x = 42;           // Same as: int x = 42;
    typename[:^^char:] c = '*';   // Same as: char c = '*';

    static_assert(std::same_as<decltype(x), int>);
    static_assert(std::same_as<decltype(c), char>);
    assert(x == 42);
    assert(c == '*');
}
```

- **^^: Reflection Operator** creates a reflection value from its operand (^^int and ^^char)
- **[:ref1:]**: **Splicer** creates a grammatical element from a reflection value ([:r:] and [:^^char:])
- **Reflection Value** is a representation of program elements as a constant expression

# Reflection

- Reflection
  - Proposal [P2996R5](#)
  - is a minimal viable product
  - supports many metafunctions
- Metafunctions
  - are declared `constexpr`
  - accept the reflection type `std::meta::info`
- Reflection Operator (`^^`)
  - creates `std::meta::info`

[daved.cpp](#)  
[getSize.cpp](#)

# Contracts

A **contract** specifies interfaces for software components in a precise and checkable way.

- The software component are functions and methods that must fulfill preconditions, postconditions, and invariants.
  - A **precondition**: a predicate that is supposed to hold upon entry in a function.
  - A **postcondition**: a predicate that is supposed to hold upon exit from the function.
  - An **assertion**: a predicate that is supposed to hold at its point in the computation.
- Contracts are based on the proposal [P2961R2](#).

# Contracts

```
int f(int i)
  pre (i >= 0)
  post (r: r > 0) {
    contract_assert (i >= 0);
    return i+1;
  }
```

pre and post

- adds a precondition (postcondition). A function can have an arbitrary number of preconditions (postconditions). They can be intermingled arbitrarily.
- are contextual keywords
- are positioned at the end of the function declaration

post

- can have a return value. An identifier must be placed before the predicate, followed by a colon.

contract\_assert

- is a keyword. Otherwise, it could not be distinguished from a function call.

# Placeholders

Placeholders are a nice way to highlight variables that are no longer needed.

## Placeholder

- is the underscore(`_`)
- can be used as often as you like
- does not emit a warning when not used
- is frequently used in Python



# static\_assert extension

## Syntax of static\_assert

- C++11: `static_assert(compile time predicate, unevaluated string)`
- C++17: `static_assert(compile time predicate)`
- C++26: `static_assert(compile time predicate, user-defined type)`
  - the user-defined type must have the following properties:
    - has a `size()` method that produces an integer
    - has a `data()` method that produces a pointer of character type such that
    - the elements in the range `[data(), data()+size())` are valid. ([p2741r3](#))

[static\\_assert26.cpp](#)

# Template Improvements

**Pack Indexing** enables the index access on parameter packs.

## Pack indexing

- May be your favorite template improvement if you are template metaprogramming friend
- is based on the proposal [P2662R3](#)

# delete with Reason

With C++26, you can specify a reason for your `delete`.

- `delete with reason`
  - will become best practice
  - is based on the Proposal [p2573r2](#)

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# string **and** string\_view

- Testing for success or failure of `<charconv>` functions
  - `to_chars` and `from_chars` was inconvenient to test: `if(res.ec == std::errc{})`
  - `res` can be directly compared with `bool`: `if(res)`
- Interfacing stringstream with `std::string_view`

```
// implicitly convertible to string_view  
const mystring str;  
  
stringstream s1("sv");  
stringstream s1(str);  
s2.str("sv");
```

- Concatenation of strings and string views

```
std::string calculate(std::string_view prefix)  
{  
    return prefix + get_string(); // NO ERROR  
}
```

# string and string\_view

- Arithmetic overloads of `std::to_string` and use `std::format`

```
auto loc = std::locale("uk_UA.UTF-8");
std::locale::global(loc);
std::cout.imbue(loc);
setlocale(LC_ALL, "C");

std::cout << "iostreams:\n";
std::cout << 1234 << "\n";
std::cout << 1234.5 << "\n";

std::cout << "\nto_string:\n";
std::cout << std::to_string(1234) << "\n";
std::cout << std::to_string(1234.5) << "\n";

setlocale(LC_ALL, "uk_UA.UTF-8");

std::cout << "\nto_string (uk_UA.UTF-8 C locale):\n";
std::cout << std::to_string(1234) << "\n";
std::cout << std::to_string(1234.5) << "\n";
```

iostreams:

1 234

1 234,5

to\_string:

1234

1234.500000

to\_string (uk\_UA.UTF-8 C locale):

1234

1234,500000

```
std::cout << std::format(std::locale{"uk_UA.UTF-8"}, "{:L}", 1234.5) << '\n';
```

# `std::inplace_vector`

`std::inplace_vector`

- dynamically-resizable vector with compile-time fixed capacity
- contiguous embedded storage in which the elements are stored within the vector object itself
- drop-in replacement for `std::vector`
- When `std::inplace_vector`? ([P0843R8](#))
  - memory allocation is not possible
  - memory allocation imposes an unacceptable performance penalty
  - allocation of objects with complex lifetimes in the static-memory segment is required
  - `std::array` is not an option, e.g., if non-default constructible objects must be stored
  - a dynamically-resizable array is required within `constexpr` functions
  - the storage location of the `inplace_vector` elements is required to be within the `inplace_vector` object itself (e.g. to support `memcpy` for serialization purposes)

# std::format

- **Pointers**

- Before C++26, only `void`, `const void`, and `std::nullptr_t` pointer types are valid.
- If you want to display the address of an arbitrary pointer, you must cast it to `(const) void*`.

- **Newline**

- `println()`



# Ranges Improvements

The ranges library will get new functions:

- `std::ranges::generate_random`
- `std::ranges::concat_view`
  
- `std::ranges::generate_random(fltArray, g, d)`
  - uses the generator `g` and the distribution `d` to create the random numbers
  - is equivalent to the following loop

```
for(auto& e1 : fltArray)
    e1 = d(e);
```

# constexpr Extensions

More algorithm become `constexpr`

- `std::stable_sort`
- `std::stable_partition`
- `std::inplace_merge`
- This is also true for their counterparts in the ranges library.

# Linear Algebra Support

`<linalg>` is a free function linear algebra interface based on the BLAS.

- **BLAS: Basic Linear Algebra Subprograms** is a specification that prescribes a set of low-level routines for performing common linear algebra operations
  - vector addition
  - scalar multiplication
  - linear combinations
  - matrix multiplication
- These operations are the de facto standard low-level routines for linear algebra libraries.

# std::submdspan

std::submdspan

```
template<class T, class E, class L, class A,  
         class ... SliceArgs>  
auto submdspan(mdspan<T,E,L,A> x, SliceArgs ... args);
```

```
int* ptr = ...;  
int N = ...;  
mdspan a(ptr, N);  
  
// subspan of a single element  
auto a_sub1 = submdspan(a, 1);  
static_assert(decltype(a_sub1)::rank() == 0);  
assert(&a_sub1() == &a(1));  
  
// subrange  
auto a_sub2 = submdspan(a, tuple{1, 4});  
static_assert(decltype(a_sub2)::rank() == 1);  
assert(&a_sub2(0) == &a(1));  
assert(a_sub2.extent(0) == 3);
```

```
// subrange with stride  
auto a_sub3 = submdspan(a, strided_slice{1, 7, 2});  
static_assert(decltype(a_sub3)::rank() == 1);  
assert(&a_sub3(0) == &a(1));  
assert(&a_sub3(3) == &a(7));  
assert(a_sub3.extent(0) == 4);  
  
// full range  
auto a_sub4 = submdspan(a, full_extent);  
static_assert(decltype(a_sub4)::rank() == 1);  
assert(a_sub4(0) == a(0));  
assert(a_sub4.extent(0) == a.extent(0));
```

# Debugging Support

C++26 has three functions to deal with debugging.

- `std::breakpoint`: pauses the running program when called and passes the control to the debugger
- `std::breakpoint_if_debugging`: **calls** `std::breakpoint` **if** `std::is_debugger_present` **returns** `true`
- `std::is_debugger_present`: **checks** whether a program is running under the control of a debugger

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# std::execution

`std::execution` provides “a *Standard C++ framework for managing asynchronous execution on generic execution resources*”. ([P2300R10](#))

- `std::execution`
  - previously known as executors or senders/receivers
  - [stdexec](#) is the reference implementation of this proposal. It is a complete implementation, written from the specification in this paper, and is current with \R8.
  - Has three key abstractions: schedulers, senders, and receivers, and a set of customizable asynchronous algorithms.

# std::execution

The “Hello world” program of the proposal [P2300R10](#).

```
using namespace std::execution;

scheduler auto sch = thread_pool.scheduler(); // 1

sender auto begin = schedule(sch); // 2
sender auto hi = then(begin, []{ // 3
    std::cout << "Hello world! Have an int."; // 3
    return 13; // 3
}); // 3
sender auto add_42 = then(hi, [](int arg) { return arg + 42; }); // 4

auto [i] = this_thread::sync_wait(add_42).value();
```



# std::execution

- Execution resources
  - represent the place of execution
  - don't need a representation in code
- Scheduler
  - represent the execution resource
  - The scheduler concept is defined by a single sender algorithm: `schedule`.
  - The algorithm `schedule` returns a sender that will complete on an execution resource determined by the scheduler.

```
execution::scheduler auto sch = thread_pool.scheduler();  
execution::sender auto snd = execution::schedule(sch);  
// snd is a sender (see below) describing the creation of a new execution resource  
// on the execution resource associated with sch
```

# std::execution

## ▪ Sender factories

- `execution::schedule`
- `execution::just`
- `execution::just_error`
- `execution::just_stopped`
- `execution::read_env`

## ▪ Sender consumer

- `this_thread::sync_wait`

## ▪ Sender adaptors

- `execution::continues_on`
- `execution::then`
- `execution::upon_*`
- `execution::let_*`
- `execution::starts_on`
- `execution::into_variant`
- `execution::stopped_as_optional`
- `execution::stopped_as_error`
- `execution::bulk`
- `execution::split`
- `execution::when_all`

# std::execution

- Sender describe work
  - send some values if a receiver connected to that sender will eventually receive said values
- Receivers stops the workflow
  - it supports three channels: value, error, stopped

```
execution::scheduler auto sch = thread_pool.scheduler();  
execution::sender auto snd = execution::schedule(sch);  
execution::sender auto cont = execution::then(snd, []{  
    std::fstream file{ "result.txt" };  
    file << compute_result;  
});  
  
this_thread::sync_wait(cont);  
// at this point, cont has completed execution
```

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