

Dr Ivan Čukić ► KDAB, KDE

(DON'T) USE  
COROUTINES FOR THIS



# INTRO TO

RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# ABOUT ME

- ⚡ KDAB PM, TL, SSE  
Trusted Software Excellence
- Author of “Functional Programming in C++”  
available in English, Chinese, Korean, Russian, Polish
- Trainer / Consultant
- ISO WG21
- KDE developer
- Former university professor

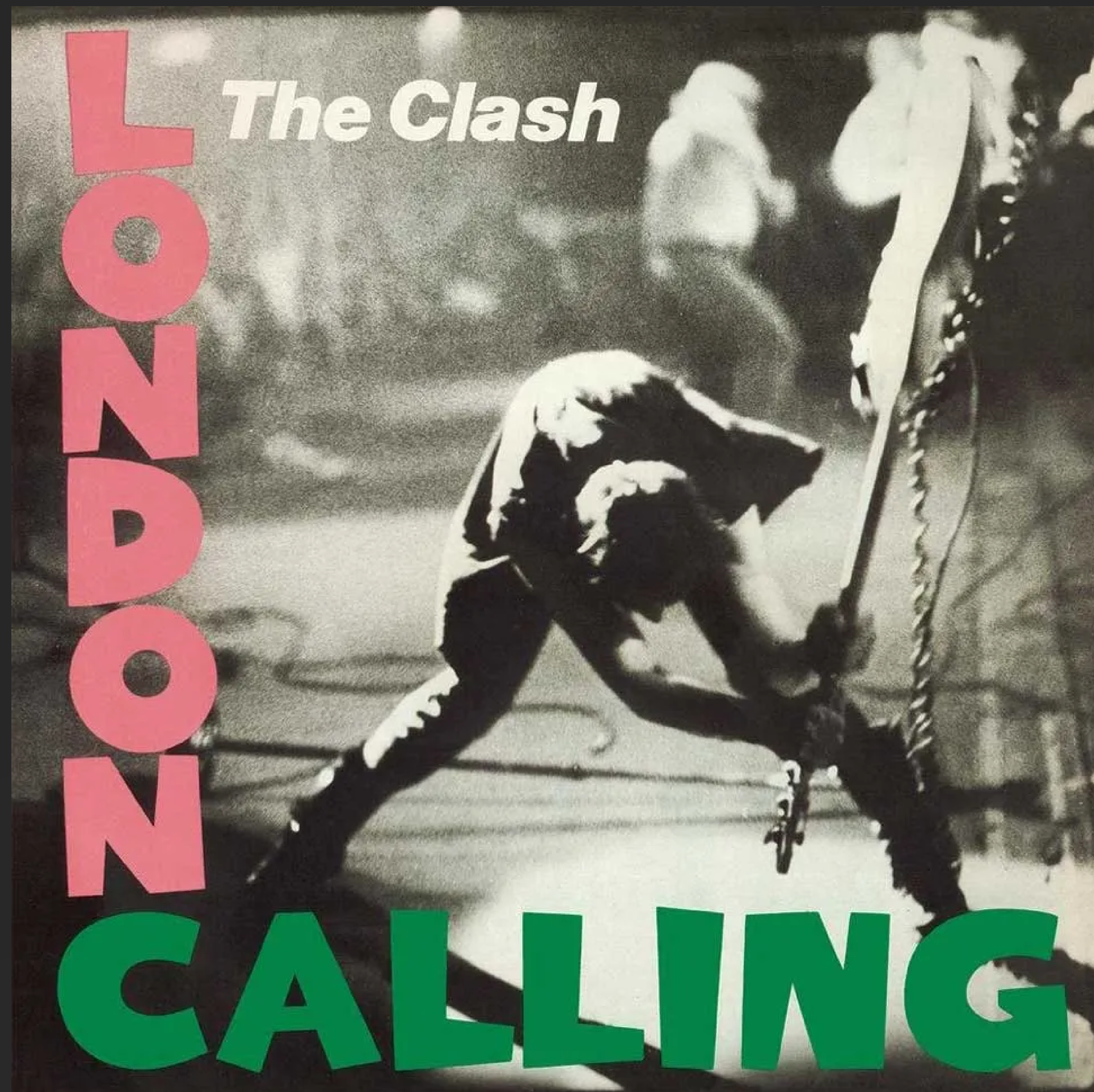
INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS



Too old to Rock 'n' Roll,  
to young to die

– Ian Anderson

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS



## Berlin Calling

– Meeting C++

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# DISCLAIMER

The code in this presentation is slideware,  
with chunks written by AI.  
Do not use in production.

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

INTRO TO  
**RECURSION**  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

Meeting C++ 2025

Ivan Čukić [✉ kdab.com](https://kdab.com), [cukic.co](https://cukic.co)

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

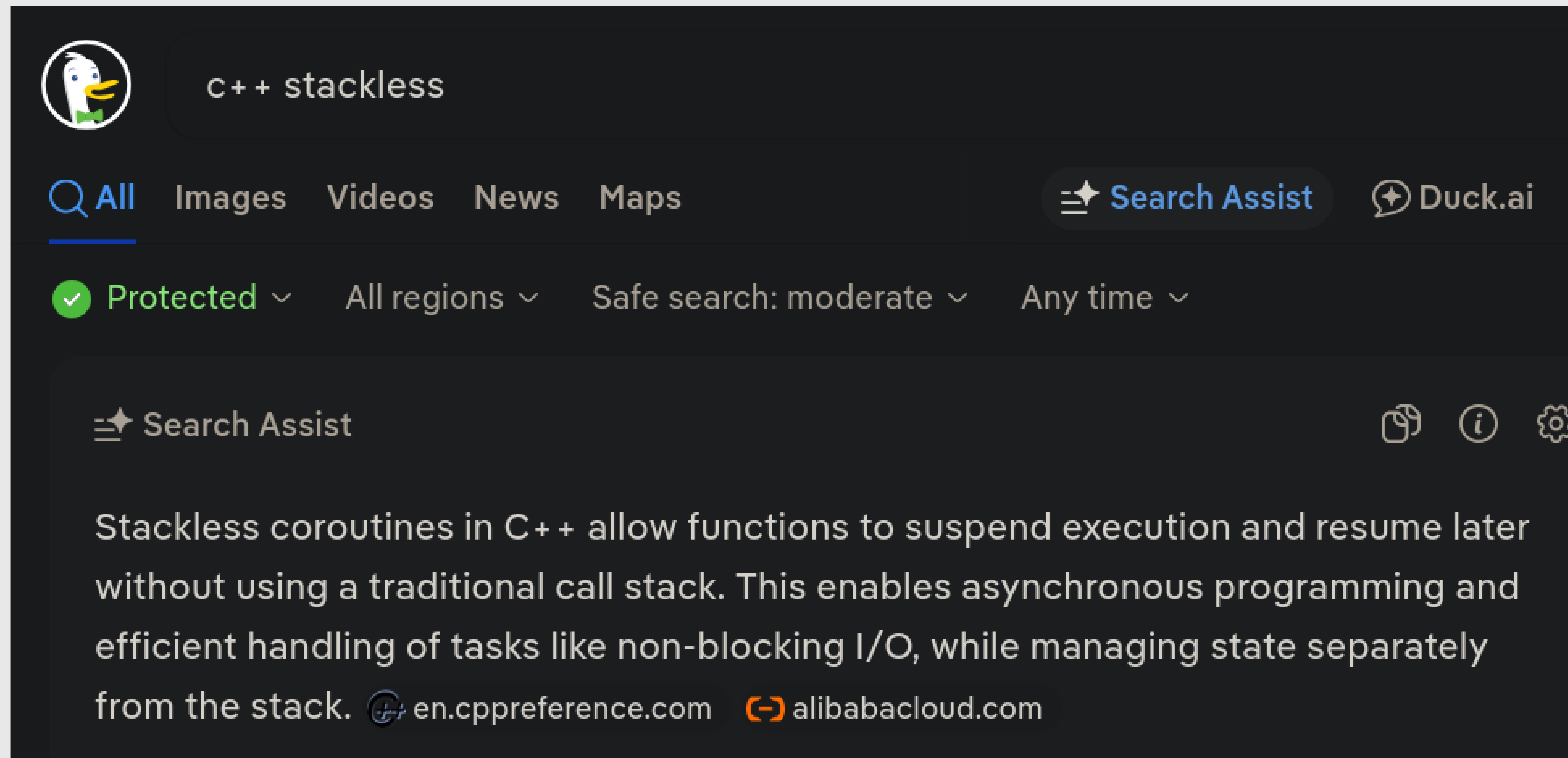
Functions shall not call themselves,  
either directly or indirectly.

Variables local to a function are stored in the call stack.

If a function calls itself directly or indirectly several times,  
the available stack space can be exceeded,  
causing serious failure.

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# STACKLESS



INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# RECURSION

```
co_recursion<int> fib(int n) {  
    if (...) //  
    auto last = co_await fib(n);  
    auto penultimate = co_await fib(n - 1);  
    co_return last + penultimate;  
}
```

Done in collab with S. Malkov and P. Djordjević.

# NO SAINTS HERE

## HALO – Heap Allocation eLision Optimization (P0981)

```
.  
std::generator<int> range(int from, int to) {  
    for (int i = from; i < to; ++i)  
        co_yield i;  
}  
  
auto s = range(1, 10);  
return std::accumulate(s.begin(), s.end(), 0);
```

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# RECURSION

```
template<typename TResult>
struct co_recursion {
    struct promise_type {
        static void* operator new(std::size_t count) { ... }
        static void* operator new[](std::size_t count) { ... }
        static void operator delete(void* ptr, std::size_t sz) { ... }
        static void operator delete[](void* ptr, std::size_t sz) {
            ...
        };
    };
};
```

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# RECURSION

```
template<typename TResult>
struct co_recursion {
    struct promise_type {
        std::suspend_always initial_suspend()
            noexcept { return {}; }
        std::suspend_always final_suspend()
            noexcept { return {}; }
        ...
    };
};
```

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# RECURSION

```
template<typename TResult>
struct co_recursion {
    bool await_ready() const {
        return false;
    }

    TResult await_resume() const;
    void await_suspend(coro_handle cont);
};
```

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# RECURSION

```
template<typename TResult, typename THandle>
struct recursion_context {
    TResult result;
    std::stack<THandle> handles_to_resume;
};
```

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# RECURSION

```
TResult await_resume() const {  
    // result is set in promise_type::return_value  
    return recursion_context->result;  
}  
  
void await_suspend(coro_handle cont) {  
    recursion_context = cont.promise()  
        .promise_recursion_context;  
    recursion_context->handles_to_resume.push(cont);  
}
```

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# RECURSION

```
template<typename T>
T get(const co_recursion<T> &rec_def) {
    typename co_recursion<T>::context context;
    rec_def.context = std::addressof(context);
    context.handles_to_resume.push(rec_def.handle);

    while (!context.handles_to_resume.empty()) {
        ...
    }

    return context.result;
}
```

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# RECURSION

```
while (!context.handles_to_resume.empty()) {  
    auto &current_handle = context.handles_to_resume.top();  
    if (current_handle.done()) {  
        current_handle.destroy();  
        context.handles_to_resume.pop();  
  
    } else {  
        current_handle.promise().promise_recursion_context =  
            std::addressof(context);  
        current_handle.resume();  
    }  
}
```

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# DEFINITION

Definition (not) – Coroutines are a mechanism to redefine how (parts of) the C++-abstract machine works.

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# HOOKS

```
.  
struct logger {  
    void increase_indent() { indent++; }  
    void decrease_indent() { indent--; }  
    void print(auto&& ... args) {  
        log << std::string(indent * 4, ' ');  
        // log the args  
    }  
};
```

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# HOOKS

Custom contextual data for function execution.

Shared context for all, but also per-call context.

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# DEFINITION

Definition (not) – Coroutines are a mechanism to hook into function call events and provide shadow contextual data.

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
**OF HAPPINESS**  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

Meeting C++ 2025

Ivan Čukić [✉ kdab.com](https://kdab.com), [cukic.co](https://cukic.co)

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
**OF HAPPINESS**  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# HAPPY PATH



C++ error handling, let's abuse the `co_await` operator

Antoine Morrier

<https://cpp-rendering.io/>

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# HAPPY PATH

```
co::expected<std::string, err_t> get_input();  
co::expected<email_t, err_t> parse_email(const std::string&);  
  
co::expected<std::string, err_t> generate_email_link() {  
    std::string input = co_await get_input();  
    auto email = co_await parse_email(input);  
    auto html = format_link(email->user, email);  
    co_return html;  
}
```

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# HAPPY PATH

```
template<typename T, typename E>
struct promise_expected {
    co::expected<T, E>* result_ptr = nullptr;
    co::expected<T, E> get_return_object();

    std::suspend_never initial_suspend() ...
    std::suspend_never final_suspend() ...

    void return_value(T value);
    void unhandled_exception() { ... }
};
```

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# HAPPY PATH

```
template<typename T, typename E>
co::expected<T, E>
promise_expected<T, E>::get_return_object() {
    co::expected<T, E> result;
    result_ptr = &result; // !!!
    return result;
}
```

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# HAPPY PATH

```
template<typename T, typename E>
void promise_expected<T, E>::return_value(T value) {
    if (result_ptr) {
        result_ptr->value_ = std::move(value);
    }
}
```

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# HAPPY PATH

```
struct expected {  
    struct waiter {  
        co::expected<T, E>& exp;  
  
        bool await_ready() const noexcept {  
            return exp.has_value();  
        }  
  
        T await_resume() {  
            return *std::move(exp);  
        }  
    };  
};
```

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# HAPPY PATH

```
struct expected {  
    struct awaiter {  
        void await_suspend(auto h) {  
            if (h.promise().result_ptr) {  
                h.promise().result_ptr->value_ =  
                    std::unexpected(exp.error());  
            }  
            h.destroy();  
        }  
    };  
};
```

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# HAPPY PATH

```
co::expected<int, err_t> f() {  
    auto* _obj =  
        co_await co_dynamic_cast<SubClass*>(obj);  
    ...  
    return _obj->size();  
}
```

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS

# IN THE ZEN GARDEN OF CHAINS

Meeting C++ 2025

Ivan Čukić [✉ kdab.com](https://kdab.com), [cukic.co](https://cukic.co)

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# MANY PATHS

```
struct inhale_t { int depth; quality_t quality; };  
struct peak_t { seconds stillness; };  
struct exhale_t { seconds release; };  
struct rest_t { seconds stillness; string thought; };  
  
using state = co::variant<  
    inhale_t, peak_t, exhale_t, rest_t>;
```

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# MANY PATHS

```
state_t inhale_update(state_t state)
{
    auto inhaling = co_await co_get<inhale_t>(state);

    inhaling.depth++;

    co_return inhaling;
}
```

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# MANY PATHS

```
state_t inhale_to_peak(state_t state)
{
    auto _ = co_await co_get<inhale_t>(state);

    co_return peak_t{12};
}
```

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# MANY PATHS

```
state_t peak_update(state_t state)
{
    auto inhaling = co_await co_get<peak_t>(state);

    inhaling.stillness++;

    co_return inhaling;
}
```

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# MANY PATHS

```
auto breathing_cycle =  
    fn::compose(  
        peak_update,  
        inhale_to_peak,  
        inhale_update,  
        ...)
```

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# DEFINITION

Definition (not) – Coroutines are the most complex control flow structure in C++ that somehow turned out to be useful for asynchrony and lazy evaluation.

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# INTRO TO RECURSION OF HAPPINESS IN THE ZEN GARDEN OF CHAINS

Meeting C++ 2025

Ivan Čukić [✉ kdab.com](https://kdab.com), [cukic.co](https://cukic.co)

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# PARSER COMBINATORS

<https://github.com/no-more-secrets/parsco>

.

```
parsco::parser<char> parse_two_same() {  
    char c1 = co_await parsco::any_chr();  
    char c2 = co_await parsco::any_chr();  
    if (c1 != c2) {  
        co_await parsco::fail( "expected two equal chars" );  
    }  
    co_return c1;  
}
```

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# QT TASKS

<https://qcoro.dev> by Daniel Vratil

.

```
QCoro::Task<> MyClass::fetchData() {  
    QNetworkReply nam;  
    auto *reply = co_await nam.get(...);  
    const auto data = co_await reply->readAll();  
    reply->deleteLater();  
    doSomethingWithData(data);  
}
```

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# DEFINITION

Definition (not) – Coroutines are a way to chain weird kinds of functions in C++.

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# COMPLEXITY

- Functions that can be suspended
- Functions on a custom abstract machine
- Way to register hooks for function invocation
- Complex control flow structure
- State machines
- Parser combinators
- Monads?

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS

# BOOKS

Save Half on your entire purchase when you buy any 2 or more of these books!

<https://www.manning.com/bundles/Meeting-C-2025>

(Fran's, Anthony's, mine, ...)

Meeting C++ 2025

Ivan Čukić [✉ kdab.com](http://kdab.com), [cukic.co](http://cukic.co)

INTRO TO  
RECURSION  
OF HAPPINESS  
IN THE ZEN GARDEN  
OF CHAINS