Continuation optional, expected, and future

John Franklin Rickard | john@moduleworks.com

Overview

- `std::optional`
- `std::expected`
- Monadic continuation methods
- The `std::future`?

Header optional

Added in C++17

- `optional` class itself
- `bad_optional_access` exception for checked access
- `nullopt` object of type `nullopt_t`
- `make_optional` for consistent inplace_construction
- operators for std::optional

cppreference

Why std::optional

```
1  // Throws if string is not a valid number
2  int ParseInt(std::string_view str);
3
4  // get string as input
5  // parse input to number
6  try {
7      return ParseInt(str);
8  }
9  catch(const std::exception& e) {
10     // log, throw, whatever
11     // notify user/caller this did not work
12 }
```

Why std::optional

```
1  // Returns true if string contains int.
2  // Assigns parsed number to given reference.
3  bool TryParseInt(std::string_view, int&);
4
5  // Throws if string is not a valid number
6  int ParseInt(std::string_view str) {
7      int result = 0;
8      bool success = TryParseInt(str, result);
9      if (success)
10         return result
11     else
12         throw ...;
13 }
```

Why std::optional

```
1  // first is true on success
2  // second only valid on success
3  std::pair<bool, int> TryParseInt(std::string_view);
4
5  // Throws if string is not a valid number
6  int ParseInt(std::string_view str) {
7      auto parseResult = TryParseInt(str);
8      if (parseResult.first)
9          return parseResult.second;
10     else
11         throw ...;
12 }
```

Why std::optional

```
1   template <class T>
2   struct optional {
3       union {
4           char m_null_state;
5           T m_value;
6       };
7       bool m_engaged;
8
9       explicit operator bool() const {
10          return m_engaged;
11      }
12  }
```

Why std::optional

```
1 std::optional<int> TryParseInt(std::string_view);
2
3 // Throws if string is not a valid number
4 int ParseInt(std::string_view str) {
5     if (auto result = TryParseInt(str))
6         return *result;
7     else
8         throw ...;
9 }
```

std::optional

```
1  auto opt = std::optional<Foo>();
2  opt = {};
3  opt.reset();
4  assert(opt.has_value() == false);
5
6  opt = std::optional<Foo>(...);
7  opt = Foo{...};
8  // in place construction methods
9  opt = std::optional<Foo>(std::in_place_t, ...);
10 opt.emplace(...);
11 opt = std::make_optional<Foo>(...);
12 assert(opt.has_value() == true);
```

std::optional

```
1  opt->ToString();
2  (*opt).ToString();
3
4  // throws bad_optional_access if empty
5  opt.value();
6
7  // easy default values
8  return GetOptional().value_or(...);
9
10 assert(opt.has_value() == true);
11 SinkFoo(*std::move(opt));
12 assert(opt.has_value() == true);
```

```
constexpr optional() noexcept;
```

```
constexpr optional( std::nullopt_t ) noexcept;
```

```
constexpr optional( const optional& other );
```

```
constexpr optional( optional&& other ) noexcept(/* see below */);
```

```
template< class U >
optional( const optional<U>& other );
```

```
template< class U >
optional( optional<U>&& other );
```

```
template< class... Args >
constexpr explicit optional( std::in_place_t, Args&&... args );
```

```
template< class U, class... Args >
constexpr explicit optional( std::in_place_t,
                             std::initializer_list<U> ilist,
                             Args&&... args );
```

```
template< class U = std::remove_cv_t<T> >
constexpr optional( U&& value );
```

```
constexpr const T* operator->() const noexcept;          (1)
constexpr T* operator->() noexcept;                      (2)
constexpr const T& operator*() const& noexcept;          (3)
constexpr T& operator*() & noexcept;                     (4)
constexpr const T&& operator*() const&& noexcept;        (5)
constexpr T&& operator*() && noexcept;                   (6)
```

std::nullopt

```
1 // Same as default constructor
2 // Looks and feels similar as nullptr
3 std::optional a = std::nullopt;
4
5 void Dispatch(std::string); // 1
6 void Dispatch(std::optional<int>); // 2
7
8 Dispatch({}); // error, ambiguous
9 Dispatch(std::nullopt); // calls 2
```

std::optional comparisons

```
1  std::optional<int>(5) < std::optional<int>(); // false
2  std::nullopt <= GetOptional(); // always true
3  std::optional<int>() > 5; // false
4  std::optional<int>(5) == 5; // true
5
6  // taken from libc++
7  bool operator==(const optional<_Tp>& __x,
8                  const optional<_Up>& __y) {
9      if (static_cast<bool>(__x) != static_cast<bool>(__y))
10         return false;
11     if (!static_cast<bool>(__x))
12         return true;
13     return *__x == *__y;
14 }
```

Optional references

```
1 // Returns null if not cached
2 CacheData* GetCachedResult(int id);
3
4
5 auto cache = GetCachedResult(SearchID);
6 if (cache != nullptr)
7     return *cache;
```

Optional references

```
1 std::optional<CacheData*> GetCachedResult(int id);
2
3 auto cache = GetCachedResult(SearchID);
4 if (cache) {
5     if (*cache != nullptr)
6         return *cache.value();
7 }
```

Optional references

- `There are no optional references, functions, arrays, or (possibly cv-qualified) void;`
- std::optional<T&> Paper
- Missed C++26 sadly

Header expected

Added in C++23

- `expected` class itself
- `unexpected` represents an unexpected value
- `bad_expected_access` exception for checked access
- `unexpect_t` in_place_t for unexpected values

cppreference

Why expected

```
1 enum class parse_status {
2     success,
3     unknown_delimiter
4 };
5 struct parse_result {
6     std::optional<int> number;
7     parse_status status;
8 };
9 parse_result TryParseInt(std::string_view);
```

Why expected

```
1 template <class T, class Err>
2 struct expected {
3     union {
4         T m_value;
5         Err m_error;
6     };
7     bool m_has_value;
8 }
```

Why expected

```
1 template <class T, class Err>
2     requires is_void_v<Ty>
3 struct expected<T, Err> {
4     union {
5         Err m_error;
6     };
7     bool m_has_value;
8 }
```

std::expected

```
1 std::expected<int, parse_status> TryParseInt(std::string_vi
2
3 // Throws if string is not a valid number
4 int ParseInt(std::string_view str) {
5     if (auto result = TryParseInt(str))
6         return *result;
7     else
8         throw result.error();
9 }
```

std::expected

```
1 auto exp = std::expected<int, parse_status>();
2 assert(*exp == 0);
3
4 exp = parse_status::unknown_delimiter;
5 assert(exp.has_value() == false);
6
7 auto exp2 = std::expected<Foo, int>();
8 exp2->Calculate();
```

std::expected

```
1  auto exp = std::expected<int, parse_status>();
2
3  // throws bad_expected_access on error
4  exp.value();
5  // !! UB if it contains value !!
6  exp.error();
7
8  // easy default value
9  exp.value_or(5)
10
11 // default value for errors (?)
12 exp.error_or(parse_status::bla);
```

std::unexpected

```
1  auto unexp = std::unexpected<int>(5);
2  assert(unexp.error() == 5);
3
4  auto exp = std::expected<int, int>(unexp);
5  assert(exp.has_value() == false);
6
7  // Does not compile
8  // unexp == 5;
9
10 // works as expected :)
11 exp.error() == unexp;
```

Expected references

From cppreference:

```
A program is ill-formed if it
instantiates an expected with a reference
type, a function type, or a
specialization of std::unexpected. In
addition, T must not be std::in_place_t
or std::unexpect_t.
```

Monadic operations

Monadic operations

What is a Monad?

Monadic operations

Monadic operations

Monadic operations added in C++23 for optional and expected:

- `and_then`
- `transform`
- `or_else`
- `transform_error`

std::optional<T>::and_then

```
template< class F >
constexpr auto and_then( F&& f ) &;                (1)  (since C++23)

template< class F >
constexpr auto and_then( F&& f ) const&;           (2)  (since C++23)

template< class F >
constexpr auto and_then( F&& f ) &&;               (3)  (since C++23)

template< class F >
constexpr auto and_then( F&& f ) const&&;          (4)  (since C++23)
```

std::optional::and_then

```
1  auto opt = std::optional<int>(5);
2
3  auto add2 =
4      [](int i) -> std::optional<int> { return i + 2; };
5
6  assert(opt.and_then(add2) == 7);
7  assert(opt == 5);
8  assert(opt.and_then(add2).and_then(add2) == 9);
9
10 // add2 never called below
11 assert(std::optional<int>().and_then(add2) == std::nullopt
```

std::optional::and_then

```
1  auto times2 =
2      [](int i) -> std::optional<double> {
3          return i * 2.0;
4      };
5  auto toString =
6      [](double d) -> std::optional<std::string> {
7          return std::to_string(d);
8      };
9
10 auto str = std::optional<int>(2)
11     .and_then(times2)
12     .and_then(toString)
13     .value_or("6");
14
15 assert(str == "4");
```

std::expected::and_then

```
1  auto times2 =
2      [](int i) -> std::expected<double, int> {
3          return i * 2.0;
4      };
5  auto toString =
6      [](double d) -> std::expected<std::string, int> {
7          return std::to_string(d);
8      };
9
10 auto str = std::expected<int, int>(std::unexpected(5))
11     .and_then(times2)
12     .and_then(toString)
13     .value_or("6");
14
15 assert(str == "6");
```

std::expected::and_then

```
1 auto turnToInt = [] -> std::expected<int, int> { return {7}
2
3 auto exp = std::expected<void, int>()
4     .and_then(turnToInt);
5
6 assert(exp == 7);
```

std::optional::or_else

```
1  auto opt = std::optional<int>(5);
2
3  auto answer = [] { return std::optional(42); };
4
5  assert(opt.or_else(answer) == 5);
6  assert(opt == 5);
7
8  auto neverWorks = [] { return std::nullopt; };
9  opt = std::nullopt;
10
11 assert(opt.or_else(neverWorks).or_else(answer) == 42);
```

std::expected::or_else

```
1 auto exp = std::expected<double, int>(std::unexpected(10));
2
3 auto shrinkError =
4     [] (int i) -> std::expected<double, short> {
5         return std::unexpected(5);
6     };
7
8 assert(exp.or_else(shrinkError) == std::unexpected(5));
9 assert(exp == std::unexpected(10));
```

std::expected::or_else

```
1 auto exp = std::expected<void, int>(std::unexpected(5));
2
3 auto into_the_void =
4     [] (int i) -> std::expected<void, short> {
5         return {};
6     };
7
8 assert(exp.or_else(into_the_void).has_value());
```

std::optional<T>::transform

```
template< class F >
constexpr auto transform( F&& f ) &;                (1)  (since C++23)

template< class F >
constexpr auto transform( F&& f ) const&;           (2)  (since C++23)

template< class F >
constexpr auto transform( F&& f ) &&;               (3)  (since C++23)

template< class F >
constexpr auto transform( F&& f ) const&&;          (4)  (since C++23)
```

std::optional::transform

```
1 auto times2 = [] (int i) { return i * 2.0; };
2 auto to_str = [] (double d) {return std::to_string(d); };
3
4 auto str = std::optional<int>(4)
5     .transform(times2)
6     .transform(to_str);
7
8 assert(str == "8");
```

`transform`: F maps `T1` to `T2` and boxes it in `std::optional<T2>`

`and_then`: F maps directly from `T1` to `std::optional<T2>`

std::expected::transform

```
1 auto times2 = [] (int i) { return i * 2.0; };
2 auto to_str = [] (double d) {return std::to_string(d); };
3
4 auto str = std::expected<int, int>(4)
5     .transform(times2)
6     .transform(to_str);
7
8 assert(str == "8");
```

`transform`: F maps `T1` to `T2` and boxes it in `std::expected<T2, E>`

`and_then`: F maps directly from `T1` to `std::expected<T2, E>`

std::expected::transform

```
1 auto return2 = [] { return 2.0; };
2 auto to_str = [] (double d) {return std::to_string(d); };
3
4 auto str = std::expected<void, int>()
5     .transform(return2)
6     .transform(to_str);
7
8 assert(str == "2");
```

`transform`: F maps `T1` to `T2` and boxes it in `std::expected<T2, E>`

`and_then`: F maps directly from `T1` to `std::expected<T2, E>`

std::expected::transform_error

```cpp
auto times2 = [] (int i) { return i * 2.0; };
auto to_str = [] (double d) {return std::to_string(d); };

auto exp = std::expected<int, int>(4)
    .transform_error(times2)
    .transform_error(to_str);

assert(exp == 4);
```

`transform_error`: F maps `E1` to `E2` and boxes it in `std::expected<T, E2>`

std::expected::transform_error

```cpp
auto times2 = [] (int i) { return i * 2.0; };
auto to_str = [] (double d) {return std::to_string(d); };

auto exp = std::expected<int, int>(std::unexpected(4))
    .transform_error(times2)
    .transform_error(to_str);

assert(exp.error() == "8");
```

`transform_error`: F maps `E1` to `E2` and boxes it in `std::expected<T, E2>`

Monadic operations

Monadic operations added in C++23 for optional and expected:

- `and_then`, chain successful operations
- `transform`, change value inside
- `or_else`, react to failure with alternative
- `transform_error`, change error inside

Header future

- `promise`
- `packaged_task`
- `future`
- `shared_future`
- `async`

Why future

```
1  int ExpensiveOperation();
2
3  // object represents a value from the future :)
4  std::future<int> future =
5      std::async(std::launch::async, ExpensiveOperation);
6
7  // ... do something else
8
9  // blocks until ExpensiveOperation finishes
10 return future.get();
```

Why future

```
1 auto future1 = std::future<int>(); // empty future
2 assert(future1.valid() == false);
3
4 future1 = std::async(std::launch::async, [] { return 8; });
5 assert(future1.valid() == true);
6
7 auto future2 = std::move(future1);
8 assert(future1.valid() == false);
9 assert(future2.valid() == true);
```

Why future

```
1  auto future = std::async(std::launch::async, [] { return 8
2  using namespace std::chrono_literals;
3
4  // blocks until value available
5  future.wait();
6
7  // blocks at maximum the given duration
8  auto status = future.wait_for(1s);
9  // blocks at maximum until given timepoint
10 status = future.wait_until(
11     std::chrono::system_clock::now() + 1s);
12
13 // check return status if value is avaliable or not
14 assert(status == std::future_status::ready);
```

Monadic operations future

Monadic operations

C++ | Experimental | Extensions for concurrency | std::experimental::future

std::experimental::future<T>::then

```
template< class F >
future</* see below */> then( F&& func ) ;
```

Monadic operations

Extensions for concurrency

The C++ Extensions for Concurrency, ISO/IEC TS 19571:2016, defines the following standard library:

Continuations and other extensions for std::future

Defined in header <experimental/future>

future (concurrency TS)	a version of std::future enhanced w (class template)
shared_future (concurrency TS)	a version of std::shared_future enh features (class template)
promise (concurrency TS)	a modified version of std::promise th std::experimental::future (class template)
packaged_task (concurrency TS)	a modified version of std::packaged_ std::experimental::future

Monadic operations

Merged into C++20

The following components of the Concurrency TS have been adopted into the

Latches and barriers

Defined in header <experimental/latch>

latch (concurrency TS)	single-use thread barrier (class)

Defined in header <experimental/barrier>

barrier (concurrency TS)	reusable thread barrier (class)
flex_barrier (concurrency TS)	reusable thread barrier with customizable beh (class)

Atomic smart pointers

These class templates replace the shared_ptr atomic function overloads

Defined in header <experimental/atomic>

atomic_shared_ptr (concurrency TS)	atomic version of std::shared_ptr (class template)
atomic_weak_ptr (concurrency TS)	atomic version of std::weak_ptr (class template)

Bonus slide

std::optional is a view from C++26 onwards!

```
1 auto opt = std::optional<int>();
2
3 for (const auto& i : opt)
4 {
5     std::print("never runs, but isn't this cool?!");
6 }
7
8 auto vec = opt | std::ranges::to<std::vector>();
9 assert(vec.size() == 0);
```

Sadly not yet implemented by anywhere

Thank you for your attention!