

Project: ISO JTC1/SC22/WG21: Programming Language C++
 Doc No: WG21 **P0599R1**
 Date: 2017-03-02
 Reply to: Nicolai Josuttis (nico@josuttis.de)
 Audience: LWG
 Prev. Version: P0599R0

noexcept for Hash Functions

For C++17; US 140 requests:

Specializations of `std::hash` for arithmetic, pointer, and standard library types should not be allowed to throw. The constructors, assignment operators, and function call operator should all be marked as `noexcept`. It might be reasonable to consider making this a binding requirement on user specializations of the hash template as well (in p1) but that may be big a change to make at this stage.

Discussing it informally in LWG in Kona 2017 seems to result in the following conclusion:

hash type	should be noexcept?	Remark
<code>hash<error_code></code>	yes	
<code>hash<optional<T>></code>	no	same hash as with underlying type (might throw!)
<code>hash<variant<Types...>></code>	no	no defined behavior of hash function with respect to current value
<code>hash<monostate></code>	yes	
<code>hash<bitset<N>></code>	yes	
<code>hash<unique_ptr<T, D>></code>	no	same hash as for underlying raw pointer, but might be fancy pointer
<code>hash<shared_ptr<T>></code>	yes	same hash as for underlying raw pointer (no fancy pointer)
<code>hash<NUMERIC></code>	yes	for all integral types (incl. bool and char) and floating-point types
<code>hash<T*></code>	yes	(uses the address (can't look at the value because it might change))
<code>hash<type_index></code>	yes	same as <code>hash_code()</code> of passed index
<code>hash<string></code>	yes	
<code>hash<u16string></code>	yes	
<code>hash<u32string></code>	yes	
<code>hash<wstring></code>	yes	
<code>hash<string_view></code>	yes	no guarantee to match string hash value
<code>hash<u16string_view></code>	yes	no guarantee to match u16string hash value
<code>hash<u32string_view></code>	yes	no guarantee to match u32string hash value
<code>hash<wstring_view></code>	yes	no guarantee to match wstring hash value
<code>hash<vector<bool, Allocator>></code>	yes	
<code>hash<thread::id></code>	yes	

Discussion result in Kona was to add a blanket statement and special remarks for the “no” cases, which are:

- optional and variant, because they use the hash function of the wrapped type(s), which might throw (and no conditional `noexcept` should be used)
- `unique_ptr`, because the hash value depends on the underlying raw pointer, which might be a fancy pointer
 - Note: `shared_ptr` may not have fancy pointers as raw pointer so we require `noexcept` here

Proposed Wording

(All against N4618)

20.6.10 Hash support [optional.hash]:

§1 (for optional<>):

The specialization `hash<optional<T>>` is enabled (20.14.14) if and only if `hash<remove_const_t<T>>` is enabled. When enabled, for an object `o` of type `optional<T>`, if `bool(o) == true`, then `hash<optional<T>>()(o)` shall evaluate to the same value as `hash<remove_const_t<T>>()(o)`; otherwise it evaluates to an unspecified value.

The member functions are not guaranteed to be noexcept.

20.7.11 Hash support [variant.hash]:

§1 (for variant<>):

The specialization `hash<variant<Types...>>` is enabled (20.14.14) if and only if every specialization in `hash<remove_const_t<Types>>...` is enabled. The member functions are not guaranteed to be noexcept.

20.11.2.7 Smart pointer hash support [util.smartptr.hash]:

§1 (for unique_ptr<>):

Letting `UP` be `unique_ptr<T,D>`, the specialization `hash<UP>` is enabled (20.14.14) if and only if `hash<typename UP::pointer>` is enabled. When enabled, for an object `p` of type `UP`, `hash<UP>()(p)` shall evaluate to the same value as `hash<typename UP::pointer>()(p.get())`.

The member functions are not guaranteed to be noexcept.

20.14.14 Class template hash [unord.hash]:

Split and modify §2 as follows:

Start a new paragraph with the current last sentence extended:

<new paragraph>

If the library provides an explicit or partial specialization of `hash<Key>`, that specialization is enabled except as noted otherwise, and its member functions are noexcept except as noted otherwise..