

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| Document | P1732R1   |
| Date     | 2019-07-26  |
| Author   | CJ Johnson < <a href="mailto:johnsoncj@google.com">johnsoncj@google.com</a> > |
| Audience | Library Evolution Working Group (LEWG), Library Working Group (LWG)           |

# Do not promise support for function syntax of operators

From Hyrum's Law [\[1\]](#):

With a sufficient number of users of an API,  
it does not matter what you promise in the contract:  
all observable behaviors of your system  
will be depended on by somebody.

## Updates over revision 0

- Removed extra wording options, settling on the only remaining proposed option, thanks to input from Walter Brown.

## Proposal

In the Library Evolution Working Group (LEWG) room of the Kona 2019 ISO C++ meeting, it was mentioned that the only supported way to invoke operators on types in the standard library is operator syntax. Function syntax is not supported. This paper proposes updating SD-8 to convey this information to users of the standard library.

For clarity...

Unsupported: `x.operator+(y)`, `operator+(x, y)`

Supported: `x + y`

## Wording

Primarily, the standard reserves the right to:

[...]

```
+ * Assume operators are applied to their operands via pre-, post-, or infix
+   expressions only, as appropriate to the operator (i.e., operators are never
+   applied via any function call).
```

[...]

## References

[\[1\] Hyrum's Law](#)