

Glossary

- defaulted special member function** – a (user-declared) special member function specified (see Section 1.1. “Defaulted Functions” on page 33) to be implemented using its **default** (i.e., compiler-generated) **definition**. Note that, in some situations (e.g., see Section 3.1. “**union** ’11” on page 1174), the compiler may choose to **delete** an implicitly or explicitly declared and defaulted function.
- defect report (DR)** – an acknowledgment by the C++ Standards Committee of a defect in the current C++ Standard that is considered by ISO to apply to the currently active C++ Standard and is generally taken by implementers to apply to all previous versions of the C++ Standard where the change would be both applicable and practicable. [Braced Init \(218\)](#), [constexpr Functions \(280\)](#), [Generalized PODs ’11 \(432\)](#), [Inheriting Constructors \(551\)](#), [initializer_list \(561\)](#), [Lambdas \(594\)](#), [noexcept Operator \(615\)](#), [Range for \(681\)](#), [Rvalue References \(722\)](#), [noexcept Specifier \(1086\)](#)
- defensive check** – one typically performed at runtime (e.g., using a C-style `assert` macro) to verify some condition that is impossible to occur in a correct program. A common use case is to verify, for a given function, that there has not been a **contract violation** — i.e., a **precondition** or **postcondition violation** — yet is entirely superfluous in a correctly implemented program. [Generalized PODs ’11 \(468\)](#), [Rvalue References \(744\)](#)
- defensive programming** – a term, sometimes (mis)used, to suggest generally good programming practice implies the use of **defensive checks** to, for example, detect client misuse of a given function, by violating its **preconditions** when invoking it. [final \(1024\)](#)
- define** – to provide, for a given **entity**, any additional details, e.g., size, layout, address, etc., beyond just its **declaration**, needed to use that **entity** in a running process. [Deleted Functions \(58\)](#), [Forwarding References \(390\)](#), [Rvalue References \(762\)](#), [Variadic Templates \(880\)](#)
- defined behavior** – (1) behavior that is unambiguously codified in terms of C++’s **abstract machine** or (2) the full set of behaviors defined for a given **component** or **library**. Note that invoking a **component** or **library** out of contract is **library undefined behavior** (a.k.a. **soft UB**), which might lead to **language undefined behavior** (a.k.a. **hard UB**). [noexcept Specifier \(1112\)](#)
- defining declaration** – one — such as `class Foo { };` — that provides a complete **definition** of the **entity** being declared. Note that a **typedef** or **using declaration** (see Section 1.1. “**using Aliases**” on page 133) would not be considered *defining* because, according to the C++ Standard, neither is a **definition**. Also note that an **opaque enumeration declaration** does not provide the **enumerators** corresponding to the complete **definition** and, although sufficient to instantiate opaque objects of the enumerated type, does not allow for interpretation of their values; hence, it too would not be considered *defining*; see also **nondefining declaration**. [Rvalue References \(729\)](#)
- definition** – a **statement** that fully characterizes an **entity** (e.g., type, object, or function); note that all **definitions** are subject to the **one-definition rule**. [Function static ’11 \(68\)](#), [constexpr Variables \(315\)](#), [Variadic Templates \(879\)](#), [noexcept Specifier \(1105\)](#)
- delegating constructor** – one that, rather than fully initializing **data members** and **base-class objects** itself, invokes another constructor after which it might perform additional work in its own body (see Section 1.1. “**Delegating Constructors**” on page 46). [Delegating Constructors \(46\)](#)
- deleted** – implies (1) for a given function, that it has been rendered inaccessible from *any* **access level** — either explicitly, by being annotated using `= delete` (see Section 1.1. “**Deleted Functions**” on page 53) or implicitly (e.g., see Section 3.1. “**union** ’11” on page 1174); or (2) for a given pointer to a dynamically allocated object, that the (typically global) **delete operator**