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# THE EXPECTED OUTCOME



# INTRODUCTION

VALUE OR ERROR

BASIC IDIOMS

CONVERSIONS

BEYOND

# ABOUT ME

-  KDAB

I assure you we're open<sup>^</sup>Whiring!

- Author of “Functional Programming in C++”  
available in English, Chinese, Korean, Russian, Polish
- Trainer / Consultant
- KDE developer
- University professor

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# DISCLAIMER



Make your code readable. Pretend the next person who looks at your code is a psychopath and they know where you live. – Philip Wadler

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# DISCLAIMER

The code snippets are optimized for presentation,  
it is **not** production-ready code.

std namespace is omitted, value arguments used instead  
of references to const or forwarding references, etc.

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# WHY AGAIN?

- no obvious benefits
- 3rd party / in-house
- code not as readable

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# ERROR HANDLING

- exceptions
- errno
- out parameters
- special return values

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# EXCEPTIONS

```
email_t parse_email(string email) {  
    if (!email_regex.matches(email)) {  
        throw email_parsing_error  
            {"not a valid e-mail address"};  
    }  
  
    :::  
}
```

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# EXCEPTIONS

- Forbidden in many projects
- Slow sad path
- Increase the binary size
- Execution paths are not obvious
- Easy to ignore

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# EXCEPTIONS

- Not really a part of the API
- `noexcept` as the final nail

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# OUT PARAMETERS

```
bool parse_email(string email, email_t& result) {  
    if (!email_regex.matches(email)) {  
        return false;  
    }  
  
    ...  
}
```

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# OUT PARAMETERS

- Obvious, but awful API design
- Easy to ignore (`nodiscard` to the rescue)

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# SPECIAL RETURN VALUES

```
email_t parse_email(string email) {  
    if (!email_regex.matches(email)) {  
        return email_t  
            { "invalid char in username", "NODOMAIN" }  
    }  
}
```

:::

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# SPECIAL RETURN VALUES

- Which values are special?
- Easy to ignore, nodiscard doesn't help

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INTRODUCTION

# VALUE OR ERROR

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# VALUE OR ERROR TYPES

- return a valid value **or** throw an exception
- return a valid value **or** a special one denoting the error
- return a valid value via out parameter **or** a failure

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# VALUE OR ERROR TYPES

```
variant<  
    Value,  
    Error>
```

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# SIMPLE WRAPPERS

```
template<typename T, typename ValidationPolicy>
class Result {
private:
    T _value;

public:
    bool has_value() const;
    const T& value() const;
    auto error() const;
};
```

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# SIMPLE WRAPPERS

## Policies:

- $\text{value} \geq 0$ , errors negative
- $\text{value} = 0$ , errors positive
- $\text{value} \neq 0$ , error zero
- $\text{value} \rightarrow \text{true}$ , error otherwise

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# SIMPLE WRAPPERS

```
if (result.has_value()) {  
    process(result.value());  
}
```

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# SIMPLE WRAPPERS

```
if (result) {  
    process(*result);  
}
```

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# VALUE OR ERROR TYPES

```
variant<
    Value,
    Error> result = ::::;

if (result) {
    process(*result);
}
```

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# STD::EXPECTED

- P0323: Vicente Botet, JF Bastien, Jonathan Wakely
- P2505: Jeff Garland (extensions to expected)

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# STD::EXPECTED

```
expected<email_t, err_t> parse_email(string email) {  
    if (!email_regex.matches(email)) {  
        return unexpected  
            ("not a valid e-mail address");  
    }  
  
    :::  
}
```

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# STD::EXPECTED

```
// -> expected<string, err_t>

expected<string, err_t> input = get_input();
if (!input) return input;

auto email = parse_email(*input);
if (!email) return email;

auto html = format_link(email->user, *email);

return html;
```

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# STD::EXPECTED

```
// -> expected<string, err_t>

expected<string, err_t> input = get_input();
if (!input) return unexpected(input.error());

auto email = parse_email(*input);
if (!email) return unexpected(email.error());

auto html = format_link(email->user, *email);

return html;
```

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# STD::EXPECTED

- Predictable execution path
- Unlimited number of errors in the air
- No magic
- Storage – files, databases...
- Transfer over thread and process boundaries, network...

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# TWO NOTATIONS

As we don't have UCS:

```
voe.some_function();
```

```
some_function(voe);
```

```
some_other_function(  
    some_function(voe), arg1, arg2);
```

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# TWO NOTATIONS

As we don't have UCS:

```
voe | lf::some_function()  
    | lf::some_other_function(arg1,  
                              arg2);
```

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# TWO NOTATIONS

As we don't have UCS:

```
voe | some_function()  
    | some_other_function(arg1,  
                           arg2);
```

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# TWO NOTATIONS

```
struct some_function {};
```

```
auto operator| (auto object, some_function)
{
    return object.some_function();
    // or: some_function(object);
}
```

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```
// email: expected<email_t, err_t>

if (!email) return unexpected(email.error());
auto html = format_link(*email);

return html;
```

```
// email: expected<email_t, err_t>
```

```
auto html = email | transform(format_link);
```

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```
// email: expected<email_t, err_t>

auto html = email | transform(
    [] (email_t email) {
        return format_link(email.user,
                            email);
    });
```

```
// input: expected<string, err_t>

if (!input) return unexpected(input.error());
auto email = parse_email(*input);

:::
```

```
// -> expected<string, err_t>
```

```
auto email = input | and_then(parse_email);
```

```
:::
```

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```
return get_input()
| and_then(parse_email)
| transform(
    [] (email_t email) {
        return format_link(email.user,
                           email);
    });
```

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```
return get_input()  
| and_then(parse_email)  
| transform(::  
| value_or(string{});
```

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```
return get_input()
| and_then(parse_email)
| transform(:::)
| or_else([] (err_t err) -> ::: {
|     if (err == err_t::empty)
|         return {};
|     else
|         return err;
| });
```

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# FROM SPECIAL VALUES

- Just use the simple wrappers
- Write conversion functions between wrappers and expected

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# FROM EXCEPTIONS

```
class err_t {  
    err_t(std::exception_ptr ep);  
};
```

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# FROM EXCEPTIONS

```
template <typename Err, typename Func,  
         typename Result = invoke_result_t<Func>>  
expected<Result, Err> ex_try(Func function)  
    try { return function(); }  
    catch (...) {  
        return unexpected(  
            Err(current_exception()));  
    }
```

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# TO EXCEPTIONS

```
result.value();
```

```
// unlike *value;
```

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# FROM OUT PARAMETERS

```
// int parse_email(string email, email_t& result)
template <typename Value, typename Err, typename Func>
expected<Value, Err> ex_from_out(Func function) {
    Value result;
    if (auto error = function(result)) {
        return unexpected(error);
    }
    return result;
}
```

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# FROM OTHER EXPECTEDS

```
// get_email_link() -> expected<string, err_t>
```

```
// to_error_code(err_t error) -> error_code
```

```
get_email_link() | transform_error(to_error_code);
```

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# FROM OTHER EXPECTEDS

```
struct my_error_t {  
    my_error_t(err_t e);  
};
```

```
// get_email_link() -> expected<string, err_t>  
expected<string, my_error_t> link =  
    get_email_link();
```


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# FROM OTHER EXPECTEDS

```
using my_error_t =  
    variant<err_t, some_other_err_t, ...>;  
  
// get_email_link() -> expected<string, err_t>  
expected<string, my_error_t> link =  
    get_email_link();
```

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# CALLING FUNCTIONS

What about functions with multiple arguments?

```
value -[transform]-> result
```

```
value -[and_then]-> result
```

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# CALLING FUNCTIONS

```
// email: expected<email_t, err_t>

auto html = email | transform(
    [] (email_t email) {
        return format_link(email.user,
                            email);
    });
```

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# CALLING FUNCTIONS

```
f: (arg_1, arg2, ..., arg_n) -> result
```

```
ex_invoke(f, ex_1, ex_2, ..., ex_n)  
-> expected<result, ???>;
```

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## How to deduce the error type

- Explicitly specify error type
- Use the first error type found
- Use variant of all found error types

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```
template <typename... Expecteds
>
using find_first_expected =
    typename tag_t::list<Expecteds...>
    ::template transform<std::remove_cvref_t>
    ::template filter<is_expected_instantiation>
    ::first;
```

```
template <typename... Expecteds
        >
using errors_variant =
    typename tag_t::list<Expecteds...>
    ::template transform<std::remove_cvref_t>
    ::template filter<is_expected_instantiation>
    ::uniq
    ::template pass_to<variant>;
```



```
template <template <typename...> Custom,  
        typename... Expecteds>  
using errors_as_custom_type =  
    typename tag_t::list<Expecteds...>  
    ::template transform<std::remove_cvref_t>  
    ::template filter<is_expected_instantiation>  
    ::uniq  
    ::template pass_to<Custom>;
```

# CALLING FUNCTIONS

```
template<typename Function, typename... Expecteds>
auto ex_invoke(Function function, Expecteds ...expecteds) -> ...
{
    auto error = find_error(std::as_const(expecteds)...);
    if (error) return unexpected(error.value());

    auto value_for = []<typename Value>(Value value) {
        return value.value();
    };
    return current_expected(
        function(value_for(expecteds)...));
}
```

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# CALLING FUNCTIONS

```
template<typename Function, typename... Expecteds>
auto ex_coalesce(Function function, Expecteds ...expecteds) -> ...
{
    auto value = find_valid(std::as_const(expecteds)...);
    if (!value) return unexpected(value.error());

    return current_expected(
        function(*value));
}
```

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# CALLING FUNCTIONS

- `ex_invoke` – calling n-ary functions
- `ex_coalesce` – calling unary function with first valid value

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# CALLING FUNCTIONS

- `ex_invoke` – calling n-ary functions
- `ex_coalesce` – calling unary functions with first valid value
- `ex_lazy_invoke` – calling n-ary functions with early exit
- `ex_lazy_coalesce` – calling unary functions with first valid result

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# COROUTINES

```
task<string> current_user_name() {  
    task<user_t> user_task = current_user();  
    user_t = co_await user_task;  
  
    task<string> name_task = user.name();  
    string name = co_await name_task;  
  
    co_return name;  
}
```

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# COROUTINES

```
task<string> current_user_name() {  
    return current_user()  
        | and_then([] (user_t user) {  
            return user.name();  
        })  
        | and_then([] (string name) {  
            return name;  
        });  
}
```

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# COROUTINES

```
task<string> current_user_name() {  
    return current_user()  
        | and_then(&user_t::name);  
}
```

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# COROUTINES

```
expected<string, err_t> get_email_link() {  
    string input = co_await get_input();  
    auto email = co_await parse_email(*input);  
    auto html = format_link(email->user, *email);  
  
    co_return html;  
}
```

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# SUMMARY

- Errors in values
- Outside of domain types
- Interoperability with other mechanisms
- Easy conversion
- Easy composition
- Can simulate exception-like syntax when needed

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