

## Section 3.1 C++11

## inline namespace

**inline namespace** `std {}` before including any standard headers. This practice is, however, explicitly called out as **ill-formed** within the C++11 Standard. Although not uniformly diagnosed as an error by all compilers, attempting this forbidden practice is apt to lead to surprising problems even if not diagnosed as an error immediately.

### Inconsistent use of **inline** keyword is ill formed, no diagnostic required

It is an ODR violation, IFNDR, for a nested namespace to be **inline** in one translation unit and **noninline** in another. And yet, the motivating use case of this feature relies on the linker to actively complain whenever different, incompatible versions — nested within different, possibly **inline**-inconsistent, namespaces of an ABI — are used within a single executable. Because declaring a nested namespace **inline** does not, by design, affect linker-level symbols, developers must take appropriate care, such as effective use of header files, to defend against such preventable inconsistencies.

## Annoyances

### Inability to redeclare across namespaces impedes code factoring

An essential feature of an **inline namespace** is the ability to declare a template within a nested **inline namespace** and then specialize it within its enclosing namespace. For example, we can declare

- a type template, `S0`
- a couple of function templates, `f0` and `g0`
- and a member function template `h0`, which is similar to `f0`

in an **inline namespace**, `inner`, and specialize each of them, such as for `int`, in the enclosing namespace, `outer`:

```
namespace outer // enclosing namespace
{
    inline namespace inner // nested namespace
    {
        template<typename T> struct S0; // declarations of
        template<typename T> void f0(); // various class
        template<typename T> void g0(T v); // and function
        struct A0 { template <typename T> void h0(); }; // templates
    }

    template<> struct S0<int> { }; // specializations
    template<> void f0<int>() { } // of the various
    void g0(int) { } /* overload not specialization */ // class and function
    template<> void A0::h0<int>() { } // declarations above
} // in outer namespace
```