

noexcept Specifier

Let’s now consider what happens if we flip the order of `g()` and `s`:

```

struct S { ~S(); };
void g() G_EXCEPTION_SPEC;
void f2() F_EXCEPTION_SPEC
{
    S s; // non-trivially destructible automatic variable
    g(); // throwing expression comes after variable
}
    
```

Lastly, we have a scenario in which declaring either `f2`, `g`, or both to be **noexcept** yields a potential net reduction in size for the resulting translation unit. Let’s look at each of the four possible combinations of **noexcept** assignment in turn. If neither `f2` nor `g` is declared **noexcept**, then the compiler is obliged to generate unwind code to clean up `s` and propagate a potential exception thrown from `g` back to the caller of `f2`, which in turn can significantly increase the size of the body of `f2`. If `g` is declared **noexcept**, then, regardless of whether or not `f2` is declared **noexcept**, no additional code needs to be laid down to guard against the impossible case of an exception being thrown from `g`. Finally, if `f` is declared **noexcept** but `g` is not, most, if not all, of the size benefit is likely to be realized, but now there is the possibility of a small increase in the size of `f` resulting from the obligatory call to `std::terminate`.

A measurement of relative compiled-code sizes in both build modes (unoptimized/optimized) for each of the two function definitions, `f1` and `f2`, and for each of the four combinations of exception specifications on `g` and `f`, respectively, confirms our hypothesis, as shown in Table 1.¹⁸

Table 1: Comparing code sizes without/with noexcept on f and/or g

Candidate Function				
	G_S = noexcept	F_S = noexcept	G_S = noexcept	F_S = noexcept
<code>void f1() F_S { g(); S s; }</code>	88/84 ^a	88/84	88/84	96/92
<code>void f2() F_S { S s; g(); }</code>	152/132	88/84	88/84	96/92

^a Where, e.g., 88/84 means 88 bytes unoptimized / 84 bytes optimized

Looking at the data above, we observe that there was no opportunity to reduce the size of `f1` from a throwing `g` because the invocation of `g` preceded construction of any non-trivially destructible non**static** local variables. But, unless `g` is itself declared **noexcept** (or

¹⁸For information on how to approach benchmarking the impact of **noexcept**, see [dekker19b](#).