Section 2.1 C++11

```
auto Variables
```

Improving resilience to library code changes

auto might be used to indicate that code using the variable doesn't rely on a specific type but rather on certain requirements that the type must satisfy. Such an approach might give library implementers more freedom to change return types without affecting the semantics of their clients' code in projects where automated large-scale refactoring tools are not available, but see *Potential Pitfalls* — *Lack of interface restrictions* on page 208. As an example, consider the following library function:

```
std::vector<Node> getNetworkNodes();
// Return a sequence of nodes in the current network.
```

As long as the return value of the getNetworkNodes function is only used for iteration, it is not pertinent that an std::vector is returned. If clients use **auto** to initialize variables storing the return value of this function, the implementers of getNetworkNodes can migrate from std::vector to, for example, std::deque, requiring their clients to recompile only and make no changes to their code.

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