

constexpr Functions

Chapter 2 Conditionally Safe Features

`IndexSequence<I...>`. With this parameter pack in hand, we can then use a simple **pack expansion** expression and braced initialization to populate our `std::array` return value:

```
template <typename T, std::size_t... I, typename F>
constexpr std::array<T, sizeof...(I)> generateArrayImpl(const F& func,
                                                         IndexSequence<I...>)
    // Return the results of calling F(i) for each i in the pack deduced as
    // the template parameter pack I.
{
    return { func(I)... };
}
```

The **return statement** in `generateArrayImpl` calls `func(I)` for each `I` in the range from 0 to the length of the returned `std::array`. The resulting pack of values is used to **list-initialize** the return value of the function; see Section 2.1. “Braced Init” on page 215.

Finally, our implementation of `generateArray` forwards `func` to `generateArrayImpl`, using `MakeIndexSequence` to generate an object of type `IndexSequence<0, ..., N-1>`:

```
template <typename T, std::size_t N, typename F>
constexpr std::array<T, N> generateArray(const F& func)
{
    return generateArrayImpl<T>(func, MakeIndexSequence<N>());
}
```

With these tools in hand and a support function to offset the array index with the year, it is now simple to **define** an array that is initialized at compile time with an appropriate range of results from calls to `startOfYear`:

```
constexpr std::time_t startOfYear(int epochYear)
{
    return startOfYear(k_EPOCH_YEAR + epochYear);
}

constexpr std::array<std::time_t, k_MAX_YEAR - k_EPOCH_YEAR> k_YEAR_STARTS =
    generateArray<std::time_t, k_MAX_YEAR - k_EPOCH_YEAR>(startOfYear);

static_assert(k_YEAR_STARTS[0] == startOfYear(1970), "");
static_assert(k_YEAR_STARTS[50] == startOfYear(2020), "");
```

With this table available for our use, the implementation of `yearOfTimestamp` becomes a simple application of `std::upper_bound` to perform a **binary search** on the sorted array of start-of-year timestamps¹⁹:

¹⁹Among other improvements to language and library support for **constexpr** programming, C++20 added **constexpr** to many of the standard algorithms in `<algorithm>`, including `std::upper_bound`, which would make switching this implementation to be **constexpr** also trivial. Implementing a **constexpr** version of most algorithms in C++14 is, however, relatively simple (and in C++11 is still possible), so, given a need, providing **constexpr** versions of functions like this with less support from the Standard Library is straightforward.