

Opaque enums

Chapter 2 Conditionally Safe Features

```

// ...create and register other clients for interest...

engine.run(); // Cede control to e's event loop until complete.

return 0;
}

```

The implementation of `myCallback`, in the example below, is then free to reregister interest in the same event, save the cookie elsewhere to reregister at a later time, or complete its task and let the `CallbackEngine` take care of properly cleaning up all now unnecessary resources:

```

void myCallback(const EventData&    event,
                CallbackEngine*    engine,
                const CallbackData& cookie)
{
    int status = EventProcessor::processEvent(event);

    if (status > 0) // Status is nonzero; continue interest in event now.
    {
        engine->reregisterInterest(cookie);
    }
    else if (status < 0) // Negative status indicates EventProcessor wants
                        // to reregister later.
    {
        EventProcessor::storeCallback(engine, cookie);
        // Call reregisterInterest later.
    }

    // Return flow of control to the CallbackEngine that invoked this
    // callback. If status was zero, then this callback should be cleaned
    // up properly with minimal fuss and no leaks.
}

```

What makes use of the `opaque enumeration` here especially apt is that the internal data structures maintained by the `CallbackEngine` might be subtly interrelated, and any knowledge of a client’s relationship to those data structures that can be maintained through callbacks is going to reduce the amount of lookups and synchronization that would be needed to correctly reregister a client without that information. The otherwise wide contract on `reregisterInterest` means that clients have no need themselves to directly know anything about the actual values of the `State` they might be in. More notably, a component like this is likely to be heavily reused across a large codebase, and being able to maintain it while minimizing the need for clients to recompile can be a huge boon to deployment times.

To see what is involved, we can consider the business end of the `CallbackEngine` implementation and an outline of what a single-threaded implementation might involve: