

Section 3.1 C++11

inline namespace

In the example above, a `client` invoking `f` with an object of type `outer::U` fails to compile because `f(outer::U)` is declared in the nested `inner` namespace, which is not the same as declaring it in `outer`. Because ADL does not look into namespaces added with the `using` directive, ADL does not find the needed `outer::inner::f` function. Similarly, the type `V`, defined in namespace `outer::inner`, is not declared in the same namespace as the function `g` that operates on it. Hence, when `g` is invoked from within `client` on an object of type `outer::inner::V`, ADL again does not find the needed function `outer::g(outer::V)`.

Simply making the `inner` namespace `inline` solves both of these ADL-related problems. All transitively nested `inline` namespaces — up to and including the most proximate `non-inline` enclosing namespace — are treated as one with respect to ADL.

The ability to specialize templates declared in a nested inline namespace

The third property that distinguishes `inline` namespaces from conventional ones, even when followed by a `using` directive, is the ability to specialize a `class template` defined within an `inline namespace` from within an enclosing one; this ability holds transitively up to and including the most proximate `noninline` namespace:

```
namespace out // proximate noninline outer namespace
{
    inline namespace in1 // first-level nested inline namespace
    {
        inline namespace in2 // second-level nested inline namespace
        {
            template <typename T> // primary class template general definition
            struct S { };

            template <> // class template full specialization
            struct S<char> { };
        }

        template <> // class template full specialization
        struct S<short> { };
    }

    template <> // class template full specialization
    struct S<int> { };
}

using namespace out; // conventional using directive

template <>
struct S<int> { }; // Error, cannot specialize from this scope
```

Note that the conventional nested namespace `out` followed by a `using` directive in the enclosing namespace does not admit specialization from that outermost namespace, whereas