

## Section 3.1 C++11

**inline namespace**

```

    struct Z<double> { };           // Error, outer::Z or outer::inner::Z?
}

```

**Reopening namespaces can reopen nested inline ones**

Another subtlety specific to **inline namespaces** is related to reopening namespaces. Consider a namespace `outer` that declares a nested namespace `outer::m` and an **inline namespace** `inner` that, in turn, declares a nested namespace `outer::inner::m`. In this case, subsequent attempts to reopen namespace `m` cause an ambiguity error:

```

namespace outer
{
    namespace m { }           // opens and closes ::outer::m

    inline namespace inner
    {
        namespace n { }     // opens and closes ::outer::inner::n
        namespace m { }     // opens and closes ::outer::inner::m
    }

    namespace n             // OK, reopens ::outer::inner::n
    {
        struct S { };      // defines ::outer::inner::n::S
    }

    namespace m             // Error, namespace m is ambiguous.
    {
        struct T { };      // with clang defines ::outer::m::T
    }
}

static_assert(std::is_same<outer::n::S, outer::inner::n::S>::value, "");

```

In the code snippet above, no issue occurs with reopening `outer::inner::n` and no issue would have occurred with reopening `outer::m` but for the `inner` namespaces having been declared **inline**. When a new namespace declaration is encountered, a lookup determines if a matching namespace having that name appears anywhere in the **inline namespace set** of the current namespace. If the namespace is ambiguous, as is the case with `m` in the example above, one can get the surprising error shown.<sup>3</sup> If a matching namespace is found

<sup>3</sup>Note that reopening already declared namespaces, such as `m` and `n` in the `inner` and `outer` example, is handled incorrectly on several popular platforms. Clang, for example, performs a name lookup when encountering a new namespace declaration and give preference to the outermost namespace found, causing the last declaration of `m` to reopen `::outer::m` instead of being ambiguous. GCC, prior to 8.1 (c. 2018), does not perform name lookup and will place *any* nested namespace declarations directly within their enclosing namespace. This defect causes the last declaration of `m` to reopen `::outer::m` instead of `::outer::inner::m` and the last declaration of `n` to open a new namespace, `::outer::n`, instead of reopening `::outer::inner::n`.