

inline namespace

Chapter 3 Unsafe Features

Note that, in the case of `g0` in this example, the “specialization” `void g0(int)` is a non-template *overload* of the function template `g0` rather than a *specialization* of it. We *cannot*, however, portably⁹ declare these templates within the outer namespace and then specialize them within the inner one, even though the inner namespace is `inline`:

```
namespace outer // enclosing namespace
{
    template<typename T> struct S1; // class template
    template<typename T> void f1(); // function template
    template<typename T> void g1(T v); // function template

    struct A1 { template <typename T> void h1(); }; // member function template

    inline namespace inner // nested namespace
    { // BAD IDEA
        template<> struct S1<int> { }; // Error, S1 not a template
        template<> void f1<int>() { }; // Error, f1 not a template
        void g1(int) { }; // OK, overloaded function
        template<> void A1::h1<int>() { }; // Error, h1 not a template
    }
}
```

Attempting to declare a template in the outer namespace and then `define`, effectively re-declaring, it in an `inline` inner one causes the name to be inaccessible within the outer namespace:

```
namespace outer // enclosing namespace
{ // BAD IDEA
    template<typename T> struct S2; // declarations of
    template<typename T> void f2(); // various class and
    template<typename T> void g2(T v); // function templates

    inline namespace inner // nested namespace
    {
        template<typename T> struct S2 { }; // definitions of
        template<typename T> void f2() { }; // unrelated class and
        template<typename T> void g2(T v) { }; // function templates
    }

    template<> struct S2<int> { }; // Error, S2 is ambiguous in outer.
    template<> void f2<int>() { }; // Error, f2 is ambiguous in outer.
    void g2(int) { }; // OK, g2 is an overload definition.
}
```

⁹GCC provides the `-fpermissive` flag, which allows the example containing specializations within the inner namespace to compile with warnings. Note again that `g1(int)`, being an *overload* and not a *specialization*, wasn’t an error and, therefore, isn’t a warning either.