

## Section 3.1 C++11

## Ref-Qualifiers

```

class RedString
{
    std::string d_value;

public:
    RedString(const char* s = "") : d_value("Red: ") { d_value += s; }

    std::string& value() &      { return d_value; }
    const std::string& value() const & { return d_value; }
    std::string&& value() &&    { return std::move(d_value); }
    // Note that this third overload returns std::string by rvalue reference.

    // ...
};

void f1()
{
    RedString urs("hello");
    const RedString crs("world");

    std::string h1 = urs.value();           // "Red: hello"
    std::string h2 = crs.value();           // "Red: world"
    std::string h3 = RedString("goodbye").value(); // "Red: goodbye"

    std::string h4 = std::move(urs).value(); // "Red: hello"
    std::string h5 = urs.value();           // Bug, unspecified value

    std::string h6 = std::move(crs).value(); // "Red: world"
    std::string h7 = crs.value();           // OK, "Red: world"
}

```

The `RedString` class provides three **ref-qualified** overloads of `value`. When `value` is called on `urs` and `crs`, the non-`const` and `const lvalue-ref-qualified` overloads, respectively, are selected. Both overloads return an **lvalue reference** to `std::string`, so `h1` and `h2` are constructed using the **copy constructor**, as usual. In the case of the **temporary variable** created by `RedString("goodbye")`, however, the *rvalue-ref-qualified* overload of `value` is selected. This overload returns an **rvalue reference**, so `h3` is constructed using the **move constructor**, which might be more efficient.

As in the case of most such code, it is assumed that an **rvalue reference** refers to an object whose state no longer matters after evaluation of the **expression**. When that assumption doesn't hold, unexpected results may occur, as in the case of `h5`, which is initialized from a moved-from string, yielding a **valid but unspecified** string **value**.

The `value` member function is not overloaded for a `const rvalue-ref-qualified` object. Invoking it for such a (rarely encountered) type selects the `const lvalue-ref-qualified` overload, as *rvalues* can always be bound to `const lvalue references`. As a result, `h6` is initialized from a `const std::string&`, invoking the **copy constructor** and leaving `crs` unmodified.