

Braced Init

Chapter 2 Conditionally Safe Features

```
#include <utility> // std::forward

template <typename T, typename... ARGS>
T factory1(ARGS&&... args)
{
    return T(std::forward<ARGS>(args)...); // direct initialization
}

template <typename T, typename... ARGS>
T factory2(ARGS&&... args)
{
    return T{std::forward<ARGS>(args)...}; // direct list initialization
}

template <typename T, typename... ARGS>
T factory3(ARGS&&... args)
{
    return {std::forward<ARGS>(args)...}; // copy list initialization
}
```

All three factory functions are defined using **perfect forwarding** (see Section 2.1. “Forwarding References” on page 377) but support different subsets of C++ types and might interpret their **arguments** differently.

factory1 returns a value created by **direct initialization** but, because it uses parentheses, cannot return an **aggregate** unless, as a special case, the **args** list is empty or contains exactly one **argument** of the same type **T** or one convertible to **T**; otherwise, the attempt to construct the return value will result in a compilation error.⁶

factory2 returns an object created by **direct list initialization**. Hence, **factory2** supports the same types as **factory1**, plus **aggregates**. However, due to the use of **braced initialization**, **factory2** will reject any types in **ARGS** that require **narrowing conversion** when passed to the constructor (or to initialize the **aggregate** member) of the return value. Also, if the supplied **arguments** can be converted into a homogeneous **std::initializer_list** that matches a constructor for **T**, then that constructor will be selected, rather than the constructor best matching that list of **arguments**.

factory3 behaves the same as **factory2** except that it uses **copy list initialization** and will thus also produce a compile error if the selected constructor or **conversion operator** for the return value is **declared** as **explicit**.

There is no one true form of initialization that works best in all circumstances for such a **factory function**, and library developers must choose and document in their **contract** the form that best suits their needs. Note that the Standard Library runs into this same problem when implementing **factory functions** like **std::make_shared** or the **emplace** function of any container. The Standard Library consistently chooses parentheses initialization like

⁶Note that C++20 will allow **aggregates** to be initialized with parentheses as well as with braces, which will result in this form being accepted for **aggregates** as well.