

## Section 2.1 C++11

## Generalized PODs '11

```

        stream << "Triangle(" << shape.tr.d_side1 <<
            ", " << shape.tr.d_side2 <<
            ", " << shape.tr.d_side3 << ')';
    } break;
    default: {
        stream << "Error, unknown discriminator value: " << shape.tg.d_type;
    } break;
}
return stream;
}

```

An application using this framework would look quite similar to the program we saw previously for the `VShape` framework except that, instead of constructing a derived-class object, we construct one of the specific shapes and assign it to a `UShape` member before passing the `UShape` to a polymorphic subroutine:

```

void doSomethingU(const UShape& shape); // arbitrary subroutine on a UShape

void testU()
{
    UShape u; // Default-initialize union; tg is active.
    u.ci = UCircle{ k_CI, 3.0 }; // Assign a concrete shape to a union member.
    doSomethingU(u); // Invoke function on a circle via UShape.
    // ...
}

```

Importantly, all of the **structs** participating in our **vertically encoded union** are of **standard-layout** type. Moreover, it so happens that all of the **structs** are also of **trivial type**. Being both **standard-layout** and **trivial**, these **structs** meet the definition of POD. What’s more, because they comprise only **public, nonstatic, data members**, they are syntactically and structurally compatible with **structs** in the C language; with the addition of a few **typedefs** (e.g., **typedef struct UCircle UCircle**), the same **declarations** can be compiled by both C and C++ compilers to produce data structures whose source code is interoperable between the two languages. That said, the technique shown here can be modified slightly to work with **standard-layout** types that are *not* **trivial**, and, therefore, not POD types; see *Vertical encoding for non-trivial types (standard layout)* on page 448.

Note that the **union**-based `UShape` design has a somewhat different usage model than its **protocol**-based `VShape` counterpart. While the `VShape` base class does not depend on the set of concrete derived-class shapes, just the opposite is true for `UShape` and the set of concrete shape **structs**. Hence, unlike with `VShape`, the `UShape` model doesn’t offer reduced **physical dependencies** for clients that merely operate on shapes compared to those that create them.

Also note the different maintenance trade-offs: In the **object-oriented** design, adding a new function for all shapes affects every concrete shape derived from `VShape`, whereas in the **union**-based **vertical-encoding** design, adding a new shape affects every common operation on shapes and requires adding a new enumerator to the type tag. The primary advantages