

## Rvalue References

## Chapter 2 Conditionally Safe Features

But consider that having such an overload set is typically contraindicated. Without the *rvalue reference* overload, invoking `h` on a *temporary* would simply fail to compile, thereby avoiding a runtime defect. With the *rvalue-reference* overload present, the code will in fact compile, but now any output written to that *temporary* will silently disappear along with that *temporary*.

Although seldom needed, Table 2<sup>9</sup> provides the relative priority in which all four potential pass-by-reference members of an overload set would be selected.

**Table 2: Overload resolution priorities**

Value Category		<code>g(C&amp;)</code>	<code>g(const C&amp;)</code>	<code>g(C&amp;&amp;)</code>	<code>g(const C&amp;&amp;)</code>
<code>nonconst lvalue</code>	<code>c</code>	1	2	N/A	N/A
<code>const lvalue</code>	<code>cc</code>	N/A	1	N/A	N/A
<code>nonconst rvalue</code>	<code>c()</code>	N/A	3	1	2
<code>const rvalue</code>	<code>fc()</code>	N/A	2	N/A	1

Note that the equivalent function to `fc` for a built-in type, `const int fi()`, would return a *nonconst rvalue*, as fundamental types returned by `const` value are treated as if they had been returned by *nonconst* value. The only way to have a function that returns a *const rvalue* of primitive type `T` is to have it return `const T&&`, such as `const int&& fi2()`.

**Rvalue references in expressions** Recall from *Lvalues in C++11/14* on page 717 that any named variable, including an *rvalue reference*, is an *lvalue*:

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

struct S { /*...*/ };

void test1()
{
    S s1; // local variable of type S
    S&& s2 = s1; // Error, s1 is an lvalue.
    S&& s3 = std::move(s1); // OK, std::move(s1) is an xvalue.
    S&& s4 = s3; // Error, s3 is an lvalue.
    S&& s5 = std::move(s3); // OK, std::move(s3) is an xvalue.
}
```

That a named *rvalue reference* itself was deliberately categorized as an *lvalue* helps to ensure that such a reference is not accidentally consumed as an *xvalue* until its current value is no longer needed elsewhere:

<sup>9</sup>Though Table 2 was derived and verified independently, a strikingly similar table can be found in *josuttis20b*, section 8.3.1, “Overload Resolution with Rvalue References,” pp. 133–134, Table 8.1, p. 134.