

Document number: **N2988=09-0178**
Date: 2009-10-20
Project: Programming Language C++
Reference: N2960=09-0150
Reply to: **Alan Talbot**
cpp@alantalbot.com

LWG Issue 897 and other small changes to `forward_list`

This is a set of small bug fixes and minor improvements to `forward_list`. It addresses all the issues in raised in LWG Issue 897, and several other matters.

Thanks to Howard Hinnant for material contributions. Thanks to Matt Austern for reviewing this and making suggestions, and of course for `forward_list` itself!

General Comments

`erase_after`

I believe that `erase_after` should return `void`. Returning its argument does nothing (potentially for a price), and confuses the programmer. I think it's better that the programmer notice that `forward_list` is different from other containers (and better not to pass a value through a function unnecessarily). The typical code to erase a selection of elements might be something like this:

```
for (auto i = fl.before_begin();;)
{
    auto next(i); ++next;
    if (next == fl.end()) break;
    if (want_to_erase(*next))
        fl.erase_after(i);
    else ++i;
}
```

`before_begin`

In a number of sections, occurrences of "~~`before_begin()`~~" should be "`before_begin()`". This seems like it was a paste error and is probably editorial.

23.3.3 Class template `forward_list` [`forwardlist`]

New ¶ after 2

[*Note*: Modifying any list requires access to the element *preceding* the first element of interest, but in a `forward_list` there is no (constant time) way to access a preceding element. For this reason ranges that are modified, such as those supplied to `erase` and `splice`, must be open at the beginning. - *end note*]

Change in class definition:

```
iteratorvoid erase_after(const_iterator position);
```

```
iteratorvoid erase_after(const_iterator position, iterator last);
```

23.3.3.4 forward_list modifiers [forwardlist.modifiers]

¶ 1

- 1 None of the overloads of `insert_after` shall affect the validity of iterators and references, and `erase_after` shall invalidate only ~~the~~ iterators and references to the erased elements. If an exception is thrown during `insert_after` there shall be no effect. ~~Insertion of~~Inserting `n` elements into a `forward_list` is linear in `n`, and the number of calls to the copy or move constructor of `T` is exactly equal to `n`. Erasing `n` elements from a `forward_list` is linear ~~time~~ in `n` and the number of calls to the destructor of type `T` is exactly equal to `n`.

¶ 12

12 *Effects:* `insert_after(p, sil.begin(), sil.end())`.

After ¶ 14

```
iteratorvoid erase_after(const_iterator position);
```

¶ 17

Remove.

After ¶ 17 - ¶ 20

Note the change to the ranges from half to full open.

```
iteratorvoid erase_after(const_iterator position, const_iterator last);
```

18 *Requires:* All iterators in the range `[(position,last)` are dereferenceable.

19 *Effects:* Erases the elements in the range `[(position,last)`.

~~20 Returns:~~ `last`

23.3.3.5 forward_list operations [forwardlist.ops]

¶ 2

- 2 *Effects:* Inserts the contents of `x` ~~before~~after `position`, and `x` becomes empty. ...

¶ 4

- 4 *Complexity:* ~~$O(1)$~~ $O(\text{distance}(x.begin(), x.end()))$

¶ 6

- 6 *Effects:* Inserts the element following `i` into `*this`, following `position`, and removes it from `x`. ~~Pointers and references to the moved elements of `x` now refer to those same elements but as members of `*this`. Iterators referring to the moved elements will continue to refer to their elements, but they now behave as iterators into `*this`, not into `x`. The result is unchanged if `position == i` or `position == ++i`. Pointers and references to `*i` continue to refer to this same element but as a member of `*this`. Iterators to `*i` (including `i` itself) continue to refer to the same element, but now behave as iterators into `*this`, not into `x`.~~

New ¶ after 10

Complexity: $O(\text{distance}(\text{first}, \text{last}))$