

# C++/WinRT gotcha: Setting properties incorrectly

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Getting and setting a Windows Runtime property looks like this:

Language	Getter	Setter
C#	<code>v = o.Property;</code>	<code>o.Property = 42;</code>
C++/CX	<code>v = o-&gt;Property;</code>	<code>o-&gt;Property = 42;</code>
C++/WinRT	<code>v = o.Property();</code>	<code>o.Property(42);</code>
JavaScript	<code>v = o.property;</code>	<code>o.property = 42;</code>
Python	<code>v = o.property</code>	<code>o.property = 42</code>

Somebody is the odd man out.

All the projections use a simple member access to read a property and a simple assignment statement to set a property, with the exception of C++/WinRT, which uses a function call in both places.

That's because the standard C++ language doesn't have "properties", and C++/WinRT is a projection of the Windows Runtime into standard C++. (C++/CX gets away with it because it's not standard C++.)

If you're translating existing code from one of the other languages to C++/WinRT, you may realize that properties need to change to function calls, but in your haste (or tiredness), you mistakenly convert `o.Property = 42` to

```
o.Property() = 42;
```

Fortunately, this gives you a compiler error because you cannot assign to an integer value.

Unfortunately, if the property has a non-primitive type, you don't get an error.

```
o.Name() = L"Fred";  
// oops: Should be o.Name(L"Fred");  
  
lv.Background() = greenBrush;  
// oops: Should be lv.Background(greenBrush);
```

That's because you are assigning to the temporary object returned by the property getter method, and that temporary object has an assignment operator.

The above code breaks down like this:

```
auto name = o.Name();  
name = L"Fred";  
// destruct temporary "name"  
  
auto background = lv.Background();  
background = greenBrush;  
// destruct temporary "background"
```

Congratulations, you updated a temporary that was immediately destructed. Total waste of time.

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