Subject: Re: string[] causes many overload complaints
Posted by mr_ped on Mon, 02 Mar 2009 09:15:43 GMT

Uhm, I was sort of joking in a cryptic way, so to make myself clear.
If you need a range from 0 to MaxN, and you have index I, with "signed" type you need to validate I by:
is_valid = (0 <= I && I <= MaxN);

With "unsigned" type for I the very same condition turns into:
is_valid = (I <= MaxN);

This is why I like to use 0..N ranges indexed by unsigned variables, the safety checks then cost me just single compare, not two of them.

Addendum:
And AFAIK there's no special use for negative index values in NTL containers, ranges are always from 0, so if I would design the NTL containers, the basic [] operator would work with unsigned type, not signed. Probably breaking the convention of many programmers writing "for (int i=0; i<max; i++)" ... I never care too much about conventions anyway, unless they make sense, and this one does not.