

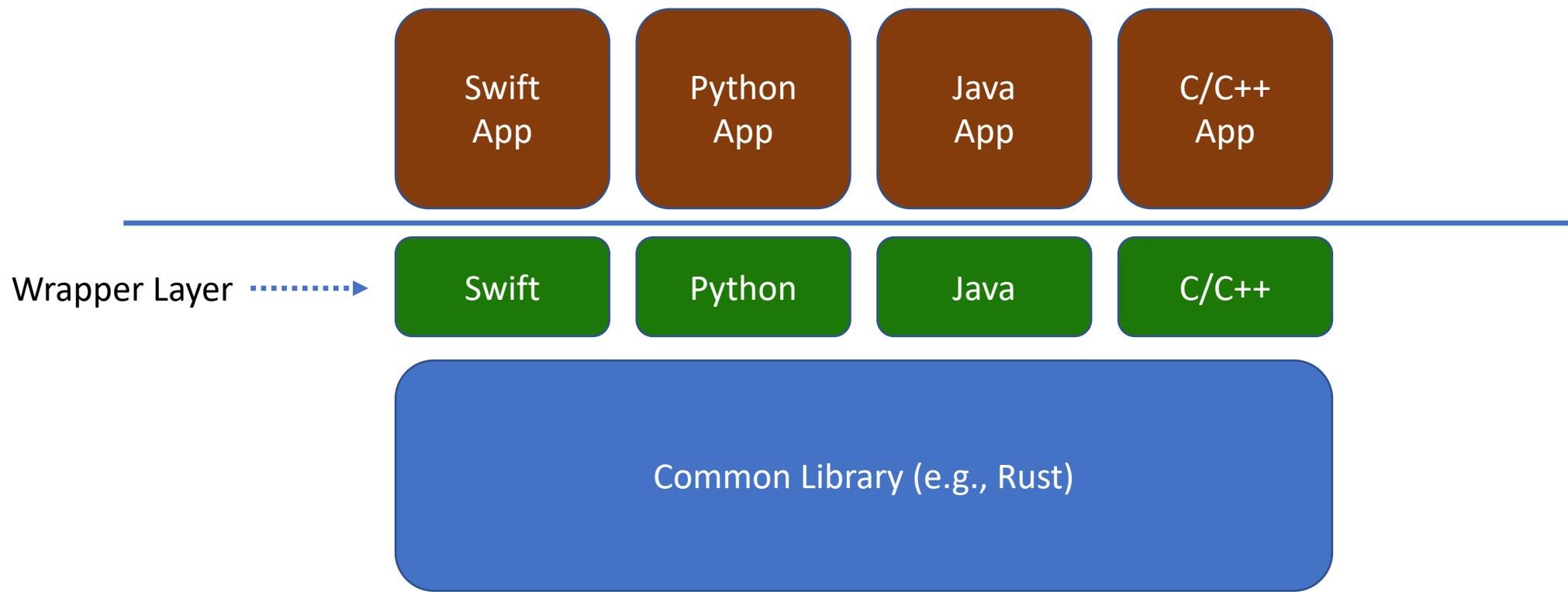
# Methods for Wrapping Rust Code

Steve McCown

[smccown@anonyme.com](mailto:smccown@anonyme.com)

25 March 2021

# Common Libraries with Language Wrappers



# Simple C-to-Rust Library Call

```
#include <stdint.h>
#include <stdio.h>

uint32_t countBytes(const char* str);

int main() {
    char *str = "Hello World!";
    uint32_t count = countBytes(str);
    printf("There are %d chars in %s\n", count, str);

    return 0;
}
```

```
gcc main.c -L ../charcount/target/debug -lcharcount -o main
```

# Create Cargo.toml for Building a Library

```
[package]
name = "charcount"
version = "0.1.0"
authors = ["Steven H. McCown <smccown@anonyme.com>"]
edition = "2018"

[lib]
name = "charcount"
crate-type = ["staticlib", "dylib"]

[dependencies]
```

Wrapper Lib ----->

# Create a Rust Library / Wrapper

```
#[no_mangle]
pub extern "C" fn countBytes(ptr: *const c_char) -> u32 {

    // Dereference and wrap the incoming raw pointer.
    let c_string = unsafe {
        assert!(!ptr.is_null());

        CStr::from_ptr(ptr)
    };

    // Convert into a rust string.
    let rust_string = c_string.to_str().unwrap();

    // Return the number of characters.
    rust_string.chars().count() as u32
}
```

# Testing: Also More Complex

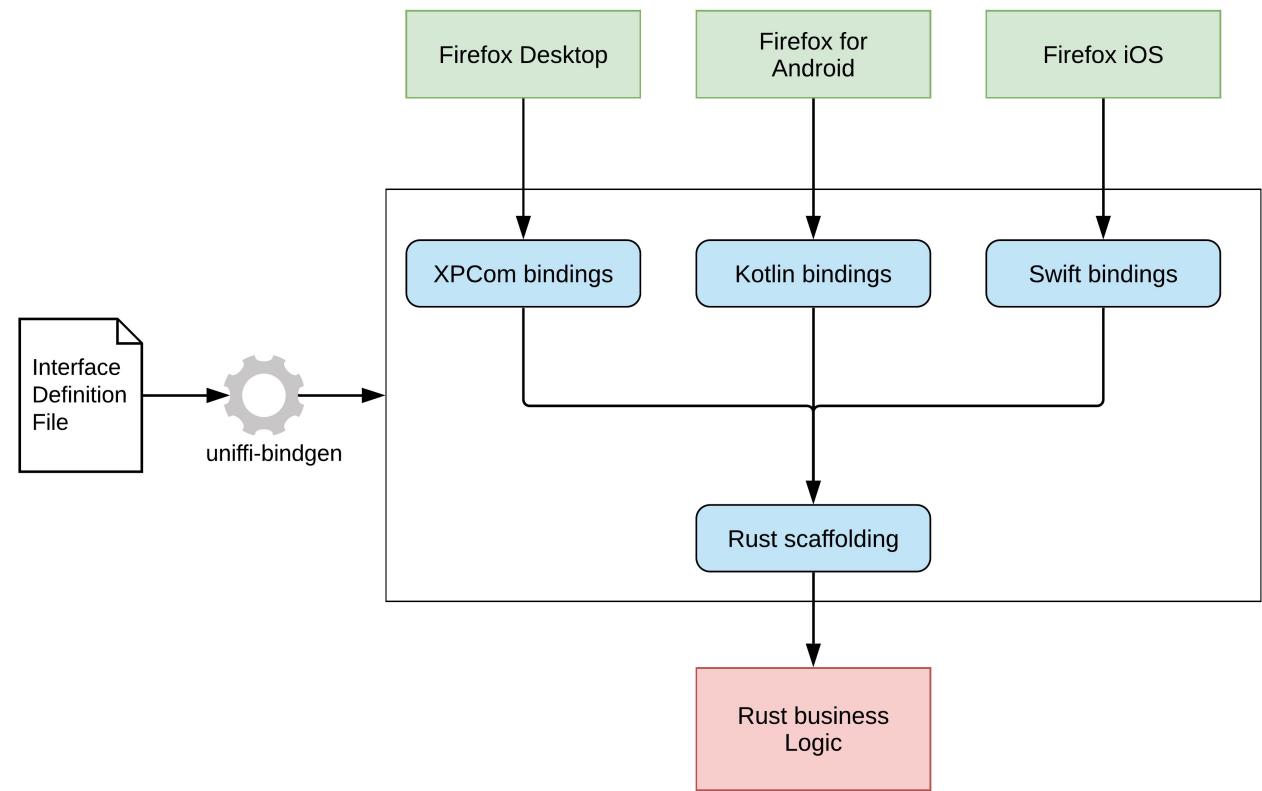
```
#[cfg(test)]
mod tests {
    use super::*;

#[test]
pub fn internal() {

    let c_string = CString::new("Hello World!")
        .expect("CString::new failed");
    let ptr = c_string.into_raw();
    let count = countBytes(ptr);
    println!("\nBytes = {}", count);
}
}
```

# Uniffi by Mozilla

- Automatically generates foreign-language bindings for Rust libs
- Consolidates business logic into a portable library
- Builds wrappers for
  - Kotlin
  - Swift
  - Python
  - C++
- <https://github.com/mozilla/uniffi-rs>



# Uniffi: How it works

1. Create custom Rust library
  - Expose API functions (top-level)
  - Build crate as dylib (in Cargo.toml)
2. Create a UDL representation of API functions
  - Similar to Interface Definition Language (IDL)
3. Create a “Scaffolding” layer
  - Helper code to make foreign-language bindings
4. Create language-specific implementation layer
  - Makes FFI calls look & feel like native code (e.g., Swift FFI feels like native Swift)
5. Import generated code & library into native application

# Create Rust Library

```
1 include!("library.uniffi.uniffi.rs");
2
3 fn bool_inc_test(value: bool) -> bool {
4     |
5     return !value
6 }
```



Cargo.toml

```
1 [package]
2 name = "library"
3 version = "0.1.0"
4 authors = ["Steve McCown <smccown@anonyme.com>"]
5 license = "Apache version 2.0"
6 edition = "2018"
7 build = "build.rs"
8
9 [dependencies]
10 uniffi = "0.8"
11 # includes the 'thiserror' crate.
12 thiserror = "1.0"
13
14 [lib]
15 name = "library"
16 crate-type = ["cdylib"]
17
18 [build-dependencies]
19 uniffi_build = "0.8"
```

# Create UDL for API Functions

```
1  namespace library {  
2  |  
3  |     boolean bool_inc_test(boolean value);  
4  |  
5  };
```

# Generate Scaffolding Layer

```
uniffi-bindgen scaffolding ./src/my_library.uniffi.udl
```

Note: for details, see the code generated in: library.uniffi.uniffi.rs

# Generate Language-Specific Interface

```
uniffi-bindgen generate ./src/library.uniffi.udl --language swift
```

```
uniffi-bindgen generate ./src/library.uniffi.udl --language python
```

library.swift .....►

```
500     public func boolIncTest(value: Bool) -> Bool {  
501         let _retval = try! rustCall(  
502             library_a699_bool_inc_test  
503         )  
504         if _retval == UniffiInternalError.unknown("rustCall") {  
505             throw _retval  
506         }  
507         return try! Bool.lift(_retval)  
508     }  
509 }
```

# Generate Language-Specific Interface

```
uniffi-bindgen generate ./src/library.uniffi.udl --language swift
```

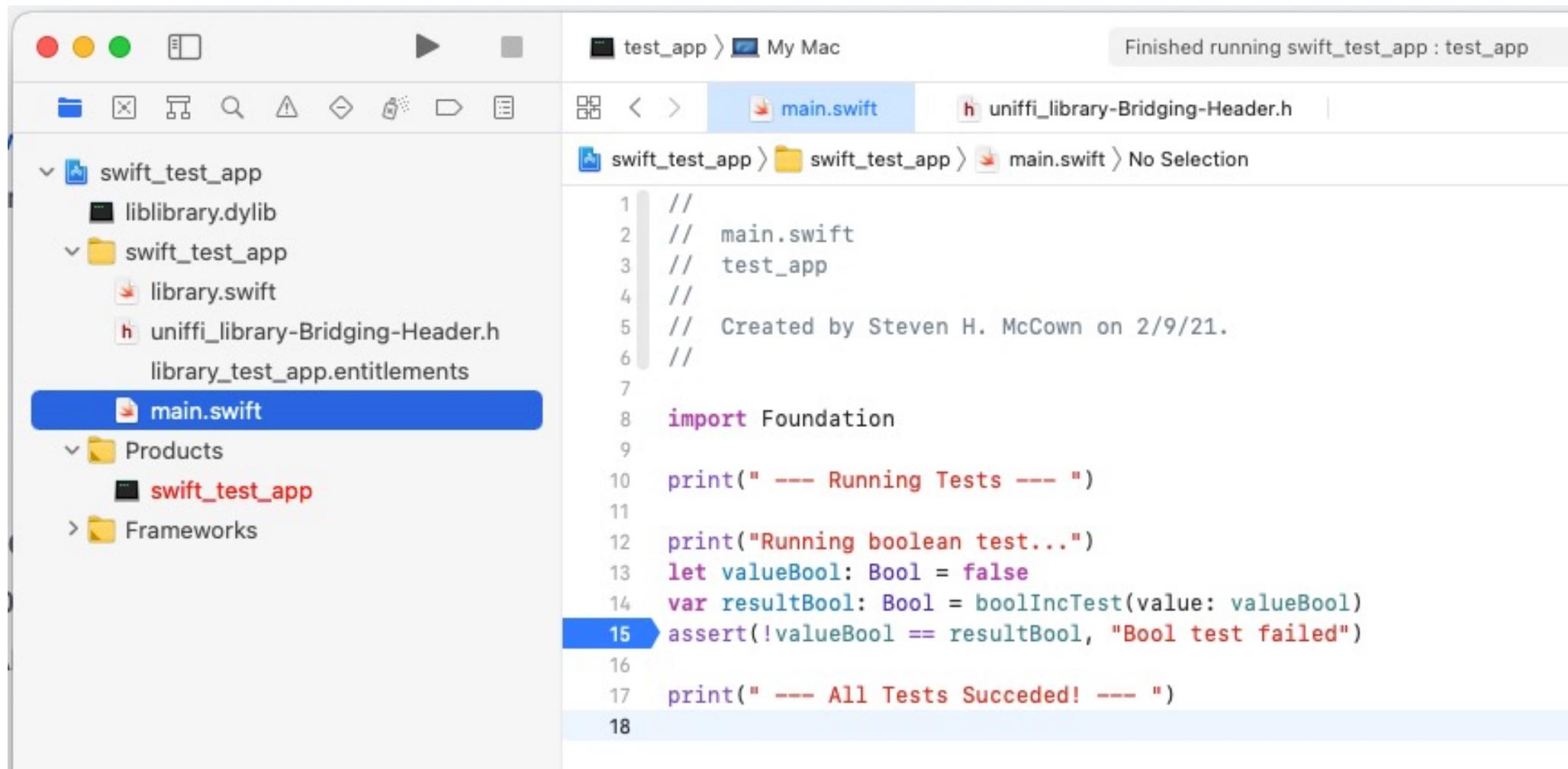
```
uniffi-bindgen generate ./src/library.uniffi.udl --language python
```

library.py



```
287  def bool_inc_test(value):
288      value = bool(value)
289      _retval = rust_call_with_error(InternalError,_UnIFFILib.library_a699_bool_inc_test,(1 if value else 0))
290      return (True if _retval else False)
291
```

# MacOS Swift App



The screenshot shows the Xcode interface with a project named "swift\_test\_app". The left sidebar displays the project structure, including files like "liblibrary.dylib", "library.swift", and "main.swift". The "Products" section shows the build product "swift\_test\_app". The main editor area shows the "main.swift" file with the following code:

```
// main.swift
// test_app
//
// Created by Steven H. McCown on 2/9/21.

import Foundation

print(" --- Running Tests --- ")

print("Running boolean test...")
let valueBool: Bool = false
var resultBool: Bool = boolIncTest(value: valueBool)
assert(!valueBool == resultBool, "Bool test failed")

print(" --- All Tests Succeeded! --- ")


```

# Python Test App

```
1 import library
2
3 value = True
4 print('\n The opposite of ' + str(value) + ' is ' + str(library.bool_inc_test(value)) + '\n')
5
```

# Built-in types

The following built-in types can be passed as arguments/returned by Rust methods:

Rust type	UDL type	Notes
<code>bool</code>	<code>boolean</code>	
<code>u8/i8..u64/i64</code>	<code>u8/i8..u64/i64</code>	
<code>f32</code>	<code>float</code>	
<code>f64</code>	<code>double</code>	
<code>String</code>	<code>string</code>	
<code>&amp;T</code>	<code>[ByRef] T</code>	This works for <code>&amp;str</code> and <code>&amp;[T]</code>
<code>Option&lt;T&gt;</code>	<code>T?</code>	
<code>Vec&lt;T&gt;</code>	<code>sequence&lt;T&gt;</code>	
<code>HashMap&lt;String, T&gt;</code>	<code>record&lt;DOMString, T&gt;</code>	Only string keys are supported
<code>()</code>	<code>void</code>	Empty return
<code>Result&lt;T, E&gt;</code>	N/A	See <a href="#">Errors</a> section

And of course you can use your own types, which is covered in the following sections.

# Expanded UDL File

```
1 [Error]
2 enum ArithmeticError {
3     "IntegerOverflow",
4 };
5
6 dictionary Point {
7     double x;
8     double y;
9 };
10
11 namespace library {
12
13     boolean bool_inc_test(boolean value);
14
15     i8 i8_inc_test(i8 value);
16     i16 i16_inc_test(i16 value);
17     i32 i32_inc_test(i32 value);
18     i64 i64_inc_test(i64 value);
19
20     u8 u8_inc_test(u8 value);
21     u16 u16_inc_test(u16 value);
22     u32 u32_inc_test(u32 value);
23     u64 u64_inc_test(u64 value);
24
25     f32 float_inc_test(f32 value);
26     f64 double_inc_test(f64 value);
27
28     string string_inc_test(string value);
29
30     Point byref_inc_test([ByRef] Point value);
31
32     i32? optional_type_inc_test(i32? value);
33
34     sequence<string> vector_inc_test(sequence<string> value);
35
36     record<DOMString, i32> hash_map_inc_test(record<DOMString, i32> value);
37
38     void void_inc_test(i32 value);
39
40     [Throws=ArithmeticError]
41     u64 error_inc_test(u64 a, u64 b);
42 };
```

Questions?