

# ReturnStdStringByValue

Don't do this:

```
std::string& f();  
const std::string& g(); // Not much better
```

Instead do this:

```
std::string f();  
std::string g();
```

`std::string` is designed expressly to allow you to treat strings as simple pass-by-value types, like `int`. It's efficient to return by value rather than reference and it avoids core dumps if the real string hidden away in `f` gets deleted before the reference. In particular it allows `f()` to compute once-off values and forget about them, e.g.:

```
std::string hello(const std::string& name) { return "hello " + name; }
```

With the "&" style return this would be an immediate disaster as the returned reference is invalid before the caller even gets it! NB. The last example contains another error! See [BewareOfStringPromotion](#).