

On writing loops in continuation-passing style, part 4

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So far, we've been look at [writing loops in PPL](#) and [continuation-passing style](#), and a lot of the complications came from creating [shared_ptrs](#) to manage shared state without copying, and trying to reduce the number of such pointers we had to make. The equivalent helper functions in C# and JavaScript are simpler because in those languages, references act like [shared_ptr](#) already; there's no need to convert them into shared pointers explicitly.

```
class TaskHelpers
{
    public static Task DoWhileTask(Func<Task<bool>> callable)
    {
        return callable().ContinueWith(t =>
            t.Result ? DoWhileTask(callable)
                : Task.CompletedTask).Unwrap();
    }
}
```

The C# Task Parallel Library's [ContinueWith](#) method is the equivalent to the PPL [then\(\)](#) method: You give it a [Func<Task<T>, Result>](#) which is called with the preceding task. In our case, we are given a [Task<bool>](#): We check the result, and if it is [true](#), then we recurse back and do the whole thing again.

The gotcha is that [ContinueWith](#) returns a task whose result type matches the return value of the [Func](#) you passed in. In our case, that [Func](#) returns a [Task](#), so the return value of [ContinueWith](#) is a rather confusing [Task<Task>](#). You need to follow up with the [Unwrap\(\)](#) method to unwrap one layer and get a [Task](#) back. (More generally, the [Unwrap](#) method converts a [Task<Task<T>>](#) to a [Task<T>](#).)

The JavaScript version is comparable.

```
function do_while_task(callable) {
    return callable().then(loop =>
        loop ? do_while_task(callable) : undefined);
}
```

We take advantage of the JavaScript convenience that the continuation function can return either a Promise or a value, so instead of returning a settled Promise, we just return `undefined` and let that be the result of the promise chain.

We can code golf it a little more by using the `&&` operator:

```
function do_while_task(callable) {
  return callable().then(loop =>
    loop && do_while_task(callable));
}
```

In time, C++, C#, and JavaScript all gained some variation of the `await` keyword, and it's probably easier to use that keyword if you can.

```
// C++/PPL
task<void> create_many_widgets(Widget* widgets, int count)
{
  for (int i = 0; i < count; i++) {
    widgets[0] = co_await create_widget();
  }
}
```

```
// C#
async Task CreateManyWidgets(Widget[] widgets)
{
  for (int i = 0; i < widgets.Count; i++) {
    widgets[i] = await CreateWidget();
  }
}
```

```
// JavaScript
async function createManyWidgets(widgets) {
  for (var i = 0; i < widgets.length; i++) {
    widgets[i] = await createWidget();
  }
}
```