

## set< pair<string, string> > or multiset?

**Source:** <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/VC/microsoft.public.vc.stl/2004-09/0072.html>

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Greetings,

Buddy of mine's code has a set<> (this is with the dinkum library 2.32) and in it he places a pair<> of strings.

This is what it looks like: set< pair<string, string> >

Since the default comparison function for set is less, as seen here from <functional>

```
template<class _Ty>
struct less : binary_function<_Ty, _Ty, bool> {
bool operator()(const _Ty& _X, const _Ty& _Y) const
{return (_X < _Y); }
};
```

I was wondering just how will his set<> be ordered ? Will it be ordered on the string comparison for the pair.first or pair.second?

Wouldn't the use of a multiset be better suited? A multiset is for (possibly) non unique keys, and a set is for unique keys.

The way he has it written, items are inserted into the set like so

```
x = std::make_pair( strKey, strValue );
hisSet.insert( x );
```

but strKey is not unique at all, there are several instances of the same string.

thanx