Access of Redeclared Member

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Problem

If a class member is declared more than once within a class definition — a situation that can arise with nested class and typedef declarations — the declarations are currently permitted to have different access controls. But which access applies? Here's an example:

Proposal

Add to clause 11 [class.access] or 11.1 [class.access.spec] the following:

When a member is redeclared within its class definition, the access specified at its redeclaration shall be the same as at its initial declaration. [*Example:*

```
struct S {
    class A;
    private:
        class A { }; // error: cannot change access
    };
--end example]
```

Discussion

This was discussed a bit on the reflector, and there was strong support for a solution along these lines. Other options included giving priority to the defining declaration (if any) and/or to the initial declaration — but without an error when there is an inconsistency.