Chapter 15

Writing Large Programs



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Chapter 15: Writing Large Programs

Source Files

- A C program may be divided among any number of source files
- By convention, source files have the extension .c
- Each source file contains part of the program, primarily definitions of functions and variables
- One source file must contain a function named main, which serves as the starting point for the program



Source Files

- Consider the problem of writing a simple calculator program
- The program will evaluate integer expressions entered in Reverse Polish notation (RPN), in which operators follow operands
 - RPN was introduced in 1954 to reduce computer memory access
 - RPN was widely used in the 1970s and 1980s in handheld calculators
- If the user enters an expression such as

30 5 - 7 *

the program should print its value (175, in this case)



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Source Files

- The program will read *operands* and *operators*, one by one, using a *stack* to keep track of intermediate results
 - If the program reads a number, it will *push* the number onto the stack
 - If the program reads a binary operator, it will pop two numbers from the stack, perform the operation, and then push the result back onto the stack
- When the program finishes evaluating the user's input, the value of the expression will be on the top of the stack



Source Files

- How the expression 30 5 7 *: will be evaluated:
 - 1. Push 30 onto the stack
 - 2. Push 5 onto the stack
 - 3. Pop the top two numbers from the stack, subtract 5 from 30, giving 25, and then push the result back onto the stack
 - 4. Push 7 onto the stack
 - 5. *Pop* the top two numbers from the stack, multiply them, and then *push* the result back onto the stack
- The stack will now contain 175, the value of the expression



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Source Files

- The program's main function will contain a loop that performs the following actions:
 - Read a token (a number or an operator)
 - If the token is a number
 - *push* it onto the stack
 - If the *token is an operator*
 - pop its operands from the stack,
 - perform the operation, and
 - *push* the result back onto the stack
- When dividing such a program into files, it makes sense to put related functions and variables into the same file



Source Files

- The function that reads tokens could go into one source file (token.c, say), together with any functions that have to do with tokens
- Stack-related functions such as push, pop, make_empty, is_empty, and is_full could go into a different file, stack.c
- The variables that represent the stack would also go into stack.c
- The main function would go into yet another file, calc.c



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Source Files

- Splitting a program into multiple source files has significant advantages:
 - Grouping related functions and variables into a single file helps clarify the structure of the program
 - Each source file can be compiled separately, which saves time
 - Functions are more easily reused in other programs when grouped in separate source files



Header Files

- Problems that arise when a program is divided into several source files:
 - How can a function in one file *call a function* that is *defined in another file*?
 - How can a function access an *external variable* in another file?
 - How can two files *share* the same *macro definition* or *type definition*?
- *The answer* lies with the #include directive, which makes it possible *to share information* among any number of source files



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Header Files

- The **#include** directive tells the preprocessor to insert the contents of a specified file
- Information to be shared among several source files can be put into such a file
- #include can then be used to bring the file's contents into each of the source files
- Files that are included in this fashion are called header files (or sometimes include files)
- By convention, header files have the extension .h



The #include Directive

- The #include directive has two primary forms
 - The first is used for header files that belong to C's own library: #include <filename>
 - The second is used for all other header files: #include "filename"
- The *difference* between the two has to do with *how* the compiler *locates* the header file



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The #include Directive

- Typical rules for locating header files:
 - #include <filename>:
 - Search the directory (or directories) in which system header files reside
 - #include "filename":
 - Search the *current directory*, *then*
 - Search the directory (or directories) in which system header files reside
- The *places* to be searched for header files
 can be altered by a command-line option such as Ipath



The #include Directive

• Do not use brackets when including header files that you have written:

```
#include <myheader.h> /*** WRONG ***/
```

• The preprocessor will look for myheader.h where the system header files are kept



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The #include Directive

• The file name in an **#include** directive may include information that helps locate the file, such as a directory path or drive specifier:

```
#include "c:\cprogs\utils.h"
   /* Windows path */
#include "/cprogs/utils.h"
   /* UNIX path */
```

 Although the quotations in the #include directive make file names look like string literals, the preprocessor does not treat them that way



The #include Directive

- It is usually best *not* to include full path or drive information in #include directives
- Bad examples of Windows #include directives:

```
#include "d:utils.h"
#include "\cprogs\include\utils.h"
#include "d:\cprogs\include\utils.h"
```

• Better versions:

```
#include "utils.h"
#include "..\include\utils.h"
```



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The #include Directive

- The #include directive has a third form:
 #include tokens
 tokens is any sequence of preprocessing tokens
- The preprocessor will scan the tokens and replace any macros that it finds
- After macro replacement, the resulting directive must match one of the other forms of #include
- The advantage of the third kind of #include is that the file name can be *defined by a macro* rather than being *hard-coded* into the directive itself



The #include Directive

• Example:

```
#if defined(IA32) //Intel Architecture, 32 bit
  #define CPU_FILE "ia32.h"
#elif defined(IA64)//Intel Architecture, 64 bit
  #define CPU_FILE "ia64.h"
#elif defined(AMD64)
  #define CPU_FILE "amd64.h"
#endif
#include CPU_FILE
```



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Sharing Macro Definitions and Type Definitions

- Most large programs contain macro definitions and type definitions that need to be shared by several source files
- These definitions should go into header files



Sharing Macro Definitions and Type Definitions

- Suppose that a program uses macros named BOOL, TRUE, and FALSE
- Their definitions can be put in a header file with a name like boolean.h:

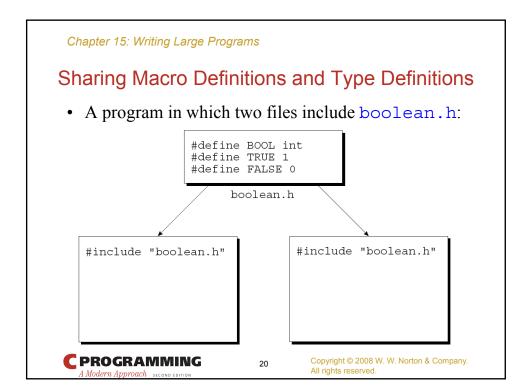
```
#define BOOL int
#define TRUE 1
#define FALSE 0
```

• Any source file that requires these macros will simply contain the line

```
#include "boolean.h"
```



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Sharing Macro Definitions and Type Definitions

- Type definitions are also common in header files
- For example, instead of defining a BOOL macro, we might use typedef to create a Bool type
- If we do, the boolean.h file will have the following appearance:

```
#define TRUE 1
#define FALSE 0
typedef int Bool;
```



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Sharing Macro Definitions and Type Definitions

- Advantages of putting definitions of macros and types in header files:
 - Saves time
 - We do not have to copy the definitions into the source files where they are needed
 - Makes the program easier to modify
 - Changing the definition of a macro or type requires editing a single header file
 - Avoids inconsistencies
 - Source files containing different definitions of the same macro or type may cause inconsistency



Sharing Function Prototypes

- Suppose that a source file contains a call of a function f that is defined in another file, foo.c
- Calling f without declaring it first is risky
 - The compiler assumes that f's return type is int
 - It also assumes that the number of parameters matches the number of arguments in the call of f
 - The arguments themselves are converted automatically by the default argument promotions



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Sharing Function Prototypes

- Declaring f in the file where it is called solves the problem but can create a maintenance nightmare
- A *better solution* is to put f's prototype in a header file (foo.h), then include the header file in all the places where f is called
- We will also need to include foo.h in foo.c, enabling the compiler to check that f's prototype in foo.h matches its definition in foo.c



Sharing Function Prototypes

- If foo.c contains other functions, most of them should be declared in foo.h
- Functions that are intended for use only within foo.c should not be declared in a header file, otherwise; it would be misleading



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Sharing Function Prototypes

- The *RPN* calculator example can be used to illustrate the use of function prototypes in header files
- The stack.c file will contain definitions of the make_empty, is_empty, is_full, push, and pop functions
- Prototypes for these functions should go in the stack.h header file:

```
void make_empty(void);
int is_empty(void);
int is_full(void);
void push(int i);
int pop(void);
```

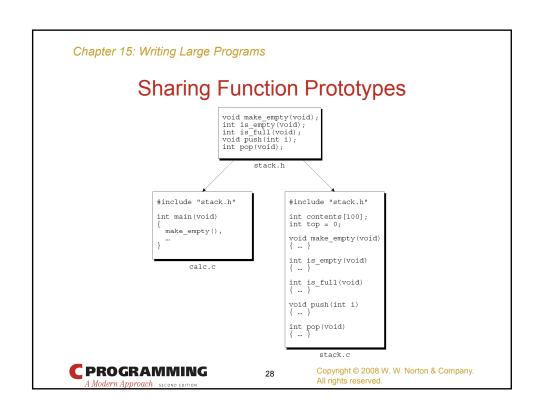
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Sharing Function Prototypes

- We will include stack.h in calc.c to allow the compiler to check any calls of stack functions that appear in the latter file
- We will also include stack.h in stack.c so the compiler can verify that the prototypes in stack.h match the definitions in stack.c



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Sharing Variable Declarations

- To share a function among files,
 - we put its *definition* in one source file, then
 - we put its *declaration* (i.e., its *prototype*) in other files that need to call the function
- *Sharing* an *external variable* is done in much the same way



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Sharing Variable Declarations

- An example that both declares and defines i
 (causing the compiler to set aside space):
 int i;
- The keyword extern is used to *declare* a variable *without defining* it:

```
extern int i;
```

• extern informs the compiler that i is *defined* elsewhere in the program, so there is no need to allocate space for it



Sharing Variable Declarations

• When we use extern in the declaration of an array, we can omit the length of the array:

```
extern int a[];
```

• Since the compiler does not allocate space for a at this time, there is no need for it to know a's length



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Sharing Variable Declarations

• To share a variable i among several source files, we first put a *definition* of i in *one* file:

```
int i;
```

- If i needs to be initialized, the initializer would go here
- The other files will contain *declarations* of i:

```
extern int i;
```

• By declaring i in each file, it becomes possible to access and/or modify i within those files



Sharing Variable Declarations

- When declarations of the same variable appear in different files, the compiler can not check that the declarations match the variable's definition
- For example, one file may contain the definition int i;
 while another file contains the declaration extern long i;
- An error of this kind *will be caught during the linking phase*



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Sharing Variable Declarations

- To avoid inconsistency, *declarations* of shared variables are usually put in *header files*
- A source file that *needs access* to a particular variable can then *include the appropriate header file*
- In addition, each *header file that contains a variable declaration* is included in the *source file that contains the variable's definition*, enabling the *compiler* to check that the two match



Nested Includes

- A header file itself may contain another **#include** directives
- For example, stack.h contains the following prototypes:

```
int is_empty(void);
int is full(void);
```

• Since these functions return only 0 or 1, it is a good idea to declare their return type to be Bool:

```
Bool is_empty(void);
Bool is full(void);
```

• We will need to include the boolean.h file in stack.h so that the definition of Bool is available when stack.h is compiled



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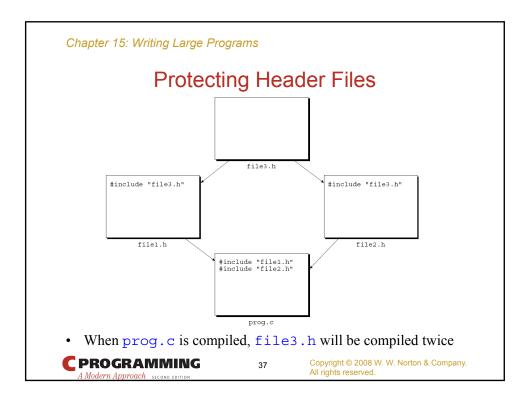
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Protecting Header Files

- If a source file includes the same header file twice, compilation errors *may* result
- This problem is common when header files include other header files
- Example, see next page





Protecting Header Files

- Including the same header file twice *does not* always cause a compilation error
- If the file contains only *macro definitions*, *function prototypes*, and/or *variable declarations*, there will not be any difficulty
- If the file contains a *type definition*, however, we will get a compilation error
- Just to be safe, it is probably a good idea to *protect* all header files against multiple inclusion



Protecting Header Files

- To protect a header file, we will enclose the contents of the file in an #ifndef — #endif pair
- Example: To protect the boolean.h file: #ifndef BOOLEAN H

```
#define BOOLEAN_H
#define TRUE 1
#define FALSE 0
typedef int Bool;
#endif
```



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Protecting Header Files

- Making the name of the macro resemble the name of the header file is a good way to avoid conflicts with other macros
- Since we can not name the macro BOOLEAN.H (why?), a name such as BOOLEAN H is a good alternative



Dividing a Program into Files

- Designing a program involves
 - determining the functions needed and
 - arranging these functions into logically related groups
- Once a program has been designed, there is a simple technique for dividing it into files



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Dividing a Program into Files

- Each set of functions will go into a separate source file (foo.c)
- Each source file will have a matching header file (foo.h)
 - foo.h will contain prototypes for the functions defined in foo.c
 - Functions to be used only within foo.c should not be declared in foo.h
- foo.h will be included in each source file that needs to call a function defined in foo.c
- foo.h will also be included in foo.c so the compiler can check that the prototypes in foo.h match the definitions in foo.c



Dividing a Program into Files

- The main function will go in a file whose name matches the name of the program
- It is possible that there are other functions in the same file as main, as long as they are not called from other files in the program



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Program: Text Formatting

- Let us apply this technique to a small *text-formatting* program named justify
- Assume that a file named quote contains the following sample input:

```
C is quirky, flawed, and an enormous success. Although accidents of history surely helped, it evidently satisfied a need

for a system implementation language efficient enough to displace assembly language, yet sufficiently abstract and fluent to describe algorithms and interactions in a wide variety of environments.

-- Dennis M. Ritchie
```

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Program: Text Formatting

• To run the program from a Unix or Windows prompt, we would enter the command

```
justify < quote
```

- The < symbol informs the operating system that justify will read from the file quote instead of accepting input from the keyboard
- This feature, supported by Unix, Windows, and other operating systems, is called *input redirection*



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Program: Text Formatting

• Output of justify:

C is quirky, flawed, and an enormous success. Although accidents of history surely helped, it evidently satisfied a need for a system implementation language efficient enough to displace assembly language, yet sufficiently abstract and fluent to describe algorithms and interactions in a wide variety of environments. -- Dennis M. Ritchie

• The output of justify will normally appear on the screen, but we can save it in a file by using *output redirection*:

```
justify < quote > newquote
```



Program: Text Formatting

- justify will delete extra spaces and blank lines as well as *filling* and *justifying* lines
 - Filling a line means adding words until one more word would cause the line to overflow
 - Justifying a line means adding extra spaces between words so that each line has exactly the same length (60 characters)
- Justification must be done so that the *space between* words in a line is equal (or nearly equal)
- The last line of the output will not be justified



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Program: Text Formatting

- We assume that no word is longer than 20 characters, including any adjacent punctuation
- If the program encounters a longer word, it must ignore all characters after the first 20, replacing them with a single asterisk
- For example, the word
 antidisestablishmentarianism
 would be printed as
 antidisestablishment*



Program: Text Formatting

- The program can not write words one by one as they are read
- Instead, it will have to store them in a *line buffer* until there are enough to fill a line



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Program: Text Formatting

• The heart of the program will be a loop:

```
for (;;) {
    read word;
    if (can not read word) {
        write contents of line buffer without justification;
        terminate program;
    }
    if (word does not fit in line buffer) {
        write contents of line buffer with justification;
        clear line buffer;
    }
    add word to line buffer;
}
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```

Program: Text Formatting

- The program will be split into *three source files*:
 - word.c: functions related to words
 - line.c: functions related to the line buffer
 - justify.c: contains the main function
- We will also need two header files:
 - word.h: prototypes for the functions in word.c
 - line.h: prototypes for the functions in line.c



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Program: Text Formatting

• word.h will contain the prototype for a function that reads a word



Program: Text Formatting

- The outline of the main loop reveals the need for functions that perform the following operations:
 - Write contents of line buffer without justification
 - Determine how many characters are left in line buffer
 - Write contents of line buffer with justification
 - Clear line buffer
 - Add word to line buffer
- We will call these functions flush_line, space_remaining, write_line, clear_line, and add word



```
Chapter 15: Writing Large Programs
                   line.h
#ifndef LINE H
#define LINE_H
/********************
* clear_line: Clears the current line.
************************
void clear line(void);
/********************
* add_word: Adds word to the end of the current line. *
       If this is not the first word on the line,
        puts one space before word.
void add_word(const char *word);
 CPROGRAMMING
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```

Program: Text Formatting

- Before we write the word.c and line.c files, we can use the functions declared in word.h and line.h to write justify.c, the main program
- Writing this file is mostly a matter of translating the original loop design into **C**



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```
justify.c
```

```
/* Formats a file of text */
#include <string.h>
#include "line.h"
#include "word.h"

#define MAX_WORD_LEN 20
int main(void)
{
   char word[MAX_WORD_LEN+2];
   int word len;
```



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Chapter 15: Writing Large Programs clear line(); for (;;) { read_word(word, MAX_WORD LEN+1); word_len = strlen(word); if (word len == 0) { flush_line(); return 0; if (word len > MAX WORD LEN) word[MAX WORD LEN] = "*";if (1 + word len > space remaining()) { write line(); clear_line(); add word(word); **C**PROGRAMMING Copyright © 2008 W. W. Norton & Company. All rights reserved.

Chapter 15: Writing Large Programs

Program: Text Formatting

- main uses a *trick* to handle words that exceed 20 characters
- When it calls read_word, main tells it to truncate any word that *exceeds 21* characters
- After read_word returns, main checks whether word contains a string that is longer than 20 characters
- If so, the word must have been at least 21 characters long (before truncation), so main replaces its 21st character by an asterisk



Program: Text Formatting

- The word. h header file has a prototype for only one function, read word
- read_word is easier to write if we add a small helper function, read char
- read_char's job is to read a single character and, if it is a new-line character or tab, convert it to a space
- Having read_word call read_char instead of getchar solves the problem of treating new-line characters and tabs as spaces



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word.c

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include "word.h"

int read_char(void)
{
  int ch = getchar();

  if (ch == '\n' || ch == '\t')
    return ' ';
  return ch;
}
```



Chapter 15: Writing Large Programs void read_word(char *word, int len) { int ch, pos = 0; while ((ch = read_char()) == ' ') ; while (ch != ' ' && ch != EOF) { if (pos < len) word[pos++] = ch; ch = read_char(); } word[pos] = '\0'; }</pre> CPROGRAMMING 63 Copyright© 2008 W. W. Norton & Company. All rights reserved.

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Program: Text Formatting

- line.c supplies definitions of the functions declared in line.h
- line.c will also need variables to keep track of the state of the line buffer:
 - line[]: to store the characters in the current line
 - line_len: to track the number of characters in the current line
 - num_words: to track the number of words in the current line



#include <stdio.h> #include <string.h> #include "line.h" #define MAX_LINE_LEN 60 char line[MAX_LINE_LEN+1]; int line_len = 0; int num_words = 0; void clear_line(void) { line[0] = '\0'; line_len = 0; num_words = 0; } CPROGRAMMING 65 Copyright© 2008 W. W. Norton & Company. All rights reserved.

```
Chapter 15: Writing Large Programs
void flush line(void)
  if (line_len > 0)
    puts(line);
void write line(void)
  int extra_spaces, spaces_to_insert, i, j;
  extra_spaces = space_remaining();
  for (i = 0; i < line_len; i++) {
  if (line[i] != ' ')</pre>
      putchar(line[i]);
    else {
       spaces_to_insert = extra_spaces / (num_words - 1);
       for (j = 1; j <= spaces_to_insert + 1; j++)
  putchar(' ');</pre>
       extra spaces -= spaces to insert;
       num words--;
  putchar('\n');
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```

Building a Multiple-File Program

- Building a large program requires the same basic steps as building a small one:
 - Compiling
 - Linking



Building a Multiple-File Program

- Each source file in the program must be compiled separately
- Header files do not need to be compiled
- The contents of a header file are automatically compiled whenever a source file that includes it is compiled
- For each source file, the compiler generates a file containing object code
- These files—known as *object files*—have the extension . o in Unix and . obj in Windows



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Building a Multiple-File Program

- The linker combines the object files created in the previous step—along with code for library functions—to produce an executable file
- Among other duties, the linker is responsible for
 - resolving external references left behind by the compiler

(An external reference occurs when a function in one file calls a function defined in another file or accesses a variable defined in another file)



Building a Multiple-File Program

- Most compilers allow us to build a program in a single step
- A gcc command that builds justify:
 gcc -o justify justify.c line.c word.c
- The three source files are first compiled into object code
- The object files are then automatically passed to the linker, which combines them into a single file
- The -o option specifies that we want the executable file to be named justify



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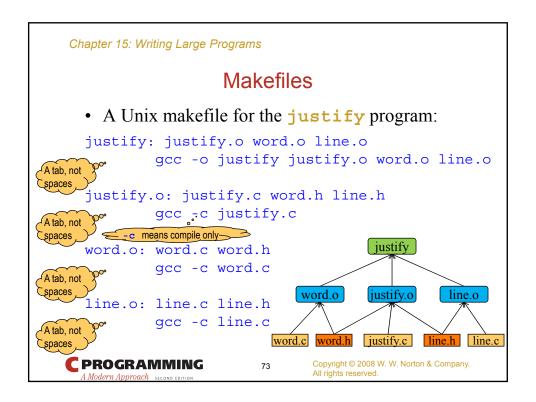
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Makefiles

- To make it easier to build large programs, Unix originated the concept of the *makefile*
 - Alternatives to makefiles include the *project files* supported by some integrated development environments
- A makefile not only lists the files that are part of the program, but also describes *dependencies* among the files
- Suppose that the file foo.c includes the file bar.h
 - We say that foo.c depends on bar.h, because a change to bar.h will require us to recompile foo.c





Makefiles

- There are four groups of lines
 - each group is known as a *rule*
- In each rule,
 - The first line gives a target file, followed by the files on which it depends
 - The *second line* is a *command* to be executed if the target should need to be rebuilt because of a change to one of its dependent files



Makefiles

• In the first rule, **justify** (the executable file) is the target:

- The first line states that **justify** depends on the files justify.o, word.o, and line.o
- If any of these files have changed since the program was last built, justify needs to be rebuilt
- The command on the following line shows how the rebuilding is to be done



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Makefiles

• In the second rule, justify.o is the target:

```
justify.o: justify.c word.h line.h
    gcc -c justify.c
```

- The first line indicates that justify.o needs to be rebuilt if there is been a change to justify.c, word.h, or line.h
- The next line shows how to update justify.o (by recompiling justify.c)
- The -c option tells the compiler to compile justify.c but not to attempt to link it



Makefiles

- Once we have created a makefile for a program, we can use the make utility to build (or rebuild) the program
- By *checking the time and date* associated with each file in the program, make can determine which files are out of date
- It then invokes the commands necessary to rebuild the program



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Makefiles

- Each command in a makefile (the second line of a rule) must be preceded by a tab character, not a series of spaces
- A makefile is normally stored in a file named Makefile (or makefile)
- When the make utility is used, it automatically checks the current directory for a file with one of these names



Makefiles

- To invoke make, use the command make target
 - where *target* is one of the targets listed in the makefile
- If no target is specified when make is invoked, it will build the target of the first rule
- Except for this special property of the first rule, the order of rules in a makefile is arbitrary



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Errors During Linking

- Some errors that can not be detected during compilation will be found during linking
- If the definition of a function or variable is missing from a program, the linker will be unable to resolve external references to it
- The result is a message such as *undefined symbol* or *undefined reference*



Errors During Linking

- Common causes of errors during linking:
 - Misspellings

If the name of a variable or function is misspelled, the linker will report it as missing

- Missing files

If the linker can not find the file foo. c, it may not know about the functions that are in the file

– Missing libraries

The linker may not be able to find all library functions used in the program

- In Unix, the -lm option may need to be specified when a program that uses <math.h> is linked
- C PROGRAMMING

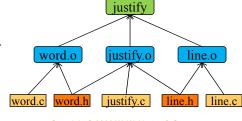
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Chapter 15: Writing Large Programs

Rebuilding a Program

- During the development of a program, it is rare that we will need to compile all its files
- To save time, the rebuilding process should recompile only those files that might be affected by the latest change
- Assume that a program has been designed with a header file for each source file
- To see how many files will need to be recompiled after a change, we need to consider two possibilities



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Rebuilding a Program

- If the change affects a single source file, only that file must be recompiled
- Suppose that we decide to condense the read_char function in word.c:

```
int read_char(void)
{
  int ch = getchar();
  return (ch == '\n' || ch == '\t') ? ' ' : ch;
}
```

• This modification does not affect word.h, so we need only recompile word.c and relink the program



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Chapter 15: Writing Large Programs

Rebuilding a Program

- The second possibility is that the change affects a header file
- In that case, we should recompile all files that include the header file, since they could potentially be affected by the change



Rebuilding a Program

- Suppose that we modify read_word so that it returns
 the length of the word that it reads
- First, we change the prototype of read_word in word.h:

Chapter 15: Writing Large Programs

Rebuilding a Program

• Next, we change the definition of read word:

```
int read_word(char *word, int len)
{
  int ch, pos = 0;

  while ((ch = read_char()) == ' ')
  ;
  while (ch != ' ' && ch != EOF) {
    if (pos < len)
      word[pos++] = ch;
    ch = read_char();
  }
  word[pos] = '\0';
  return pos;
}</pre>
CPROGRAMMING

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```

Rebuilding a Program

• Finally, we modify justify.c by removing the include of <string.h> and changing main:

```
int main(void)
{
  char word[MAX_WORD_LEN+2];
  int word_len;

  clear_line();
  for (;;) {
    word_len = read_word(word, MAX_WORD_LEN+1);
    ...
  }
}
```



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Rebuilding a Program

- Once we have made these changes, we will rebuild justify by recompiling word.c and justify.c and then relinking
- A gcc command that rebuilds the program:

```
gcc -o justify justify.c word.c line.o
```



Rebuilding a Program

- One of the advantages of using *makefiles* is that rebuilding is handled automatically
- By examining the date of each file, make can determine which files have changed since the program was last built
- It then recompiles these files, together with all files that depend on them, either directly or indirectly



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Chapter 15: Writing Large Programs

Rebuilding a Program

- Suppose that we make the indicated changes to word.h, word.c, and justify.c
- When the **justify** program is rebuilt, make will perform the following actions:
 - 1. Build justify.o by compiling justify.c (because justify.c and word.h were changed)
 - 2. Build word.o by compiling word.c (because word.c and word.h were changed)
 - 3. Build justify by linking justify.o, word.o, and line.o (because justify.o and word.o were changed)

