Improving Array Implementation



Giovanni Dicanio
AUTHOR, SOFTWARE ENGINEER
https://blogs.msmvps.com/gdicanio



Overview



cout << myArray</pre>

Copying arrays

- Shallow vs. deep copy
- Copy-and-swap idiom

Move semantics

Generic Array<T> using templates



```
int n{64};
cout << n;
cout << myArray;</pre>
```



```
int n{64};
cout << n;

Insertion
operator</pre>
```





64

<<

```
int n{64};

cout << n;

    Output stream
    std::ostream</pre>
```



```
Function with a 
«special» name

RETURN

PARAMETERS

ostream& operator<<(ostream& os, const IntArray& a) {

...
}
```



```
Output stream
(target)

ostream& operator<<(ostream& os, const IntArray& a) {
...
}
```



```
Object to print
                                                (source)
ostream& operator<<(ostream& os, const IntArray& a)</pre>
  •••
                                                const X&
```

Overloading the insertion operator (<<)



Observing Parameters with const References

«C++11 from Scratch»



```
Output stream
ostream& operator<<(ostream& os, const IntArray& a) {
```





```
ostream& operator<<(ostream& os, const IntArray& a) {
  // Code to print IntArray objects to 'os'
  // ...
  return os;
}</pre>
```



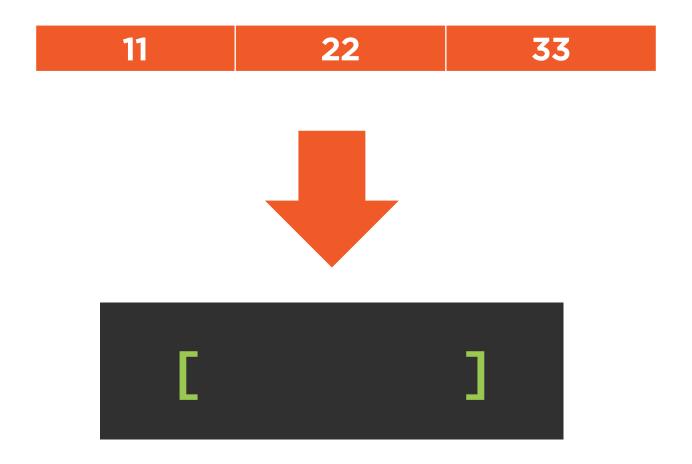
```
Extensible to
                                                          your own
                                                           classes
// e.g. «C64 is 36 years old»
cout <- name <- " is " <- age <- " years old \n";
       string
                            int
```

Chained Calls to Insertion Operator Overloads

```
ostream& operator<<(ostream& os const X& a) {
   // Code to print X object to 'os'
   // ...
   return os;
}</pre>
```

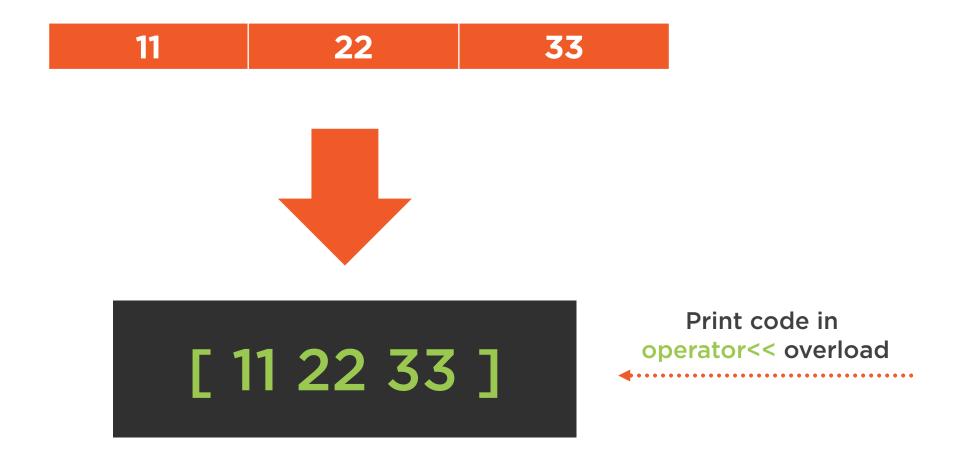


How to Format Arrays?





How to Format Arrays?





```
ostream& operator<<(ostream& os, const IntArray& a) {</pre>
```

```
//
// Print array elements using cout
//
```









OS << "]";

```
ostream& operator<<(ostream& os, const IntArray& a) {
 os << "[ ";
                               Separate
   elements
 OS << "]";
```

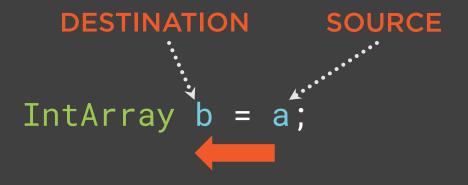




```
ostream& operator<<(ostream& os, const IntArray& a) {
  os << "[ ";
  for (int i = 0; i < a.Size(); i++) {
    os << a[i] << ' ';
 OS << "]";
                                Allow chained calls
  return os; <------
                                cout << x << y << ...
```



```
ostream& operator<<(ostream& os, const IntArray& a) {
  os << "[ ";
  for (int i = 0; i < a.Size(); i++) {
    os << a[i] << ' ';
 OS << "]";
                                  cout << myArray;</pre>
  return os;
```





Copy Initialization COPY CONSTRUCTOR

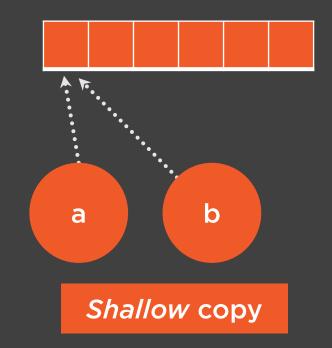
Default: member-wise copy



```
class IntArray {
 private:
  int* m_ptr;
  int m_size;
```

```
IntArray b = a;

b.m_ptr = a.m_ptr;
b.m_size = a.m_size;
```



Default member-wise copy ..



b[1] = 100; Modifications to b are *reflected* to a



```
IntArray a{...};
•••
IntArray b = a;
                                                                      b
    IntArray's destructor invoked on b
```

Subtle memory bug with shallow copies



```
delete[] b.m_ptr;
IntArray a{...};
•••
IntArray b = a;
                                                                        b
    IntArray's destructor invoked on b
```

Subtle memory bug with shallow copies



```
delete[] b.m_ptr;
IntArray a{...};
•••
IntArray b = a;
    IntArray's destructor invoked on b
```

Subtle memory bug with shallow copies



```
Memory was
                                                               already freed
                                      delete[] a.m_ptr;
IntArray a{...};
•••
IntArray b = a;
    IntArray's destructor invoked on a
```

Subtle memory bug with shallow copies

Double-delete Bug





```
class IntArray {
   // Copy constructor
   IntArray(const IntArray&)
   ...
};
```

Disable Compiler-generated Copy Constructor



```
class IntArray {
   // Copy constructor
   IntArray(const IntArray&) = delete;
   ...
};
```

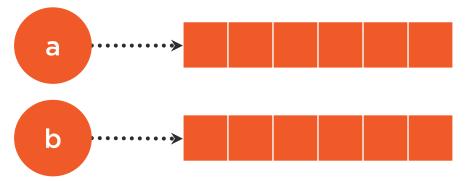
Disable Compiler-generated Copy Constructor



```
IntArray(const IntArray& source) {
    // Allocate memory to store array elements
    // Copy elements from source to this
}
```

Implement a Custom Copy Constructor

Make deep copies





Deep Copy → Distinct Arrays





Deep Copy → Distinct Arrays





Deep Copy -> Distinct Arrays





Deep Copy → Distinct Arrays







Modification does *not* reflect to a



Deep Copy → Distinct Arrays



No more double-delete bugs



Copying with the Assignment Operator

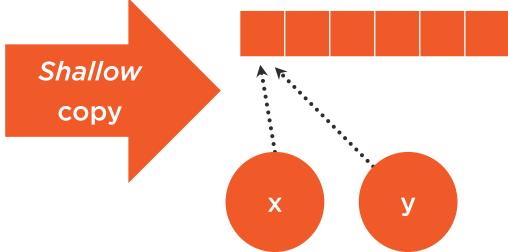
Default:

Member-wise copy

Peep copy

requires

custom code





IntArray& operator=(const IntArray& source)



```
IntArray& operator=(const IntArray& source)
                                  Copy source
```



```
IntArray& operator=(const IntArray& source)
```

Reference to destination (this)

this: predefined keyword



```
IntArray& operator=(const IntArray& source) {
```

```
return *this;
```



```
IntArray& operator=(const IntArray& source) {
 if (&source != this) {
  return *this;
```



```
IntArray& operator=(const IntArray& source) {
  if (&source != this) {
                                      this
  return *this;
```



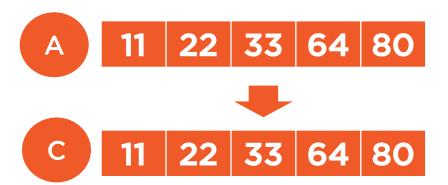
```
IntArray& operator=(const IntArray& source) {
  if (&source != this) {
                                      11 22 33 64 80
                              source
  return *this;
                                          22
                                             33
                                this
```





Reuse copy constructor





Reuse copy constructor



A 11 22 33 64 80

"C++11 from Scratch" C 11 22 33 64 80

The Swap Algorithm swap(T, C)

Т

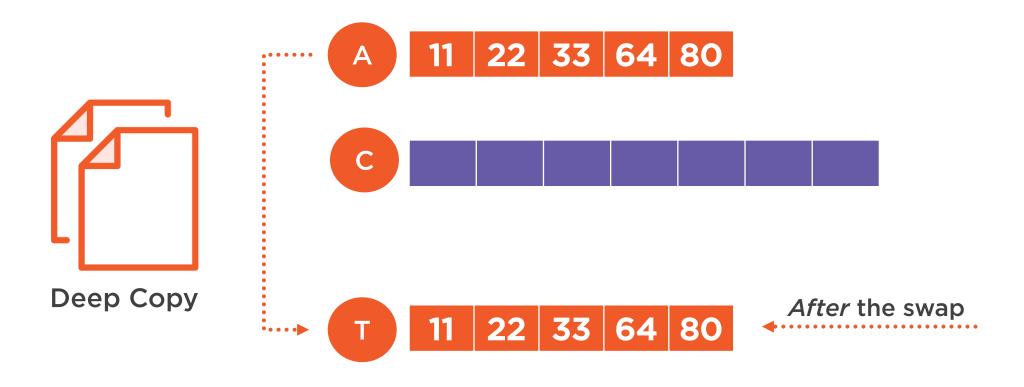




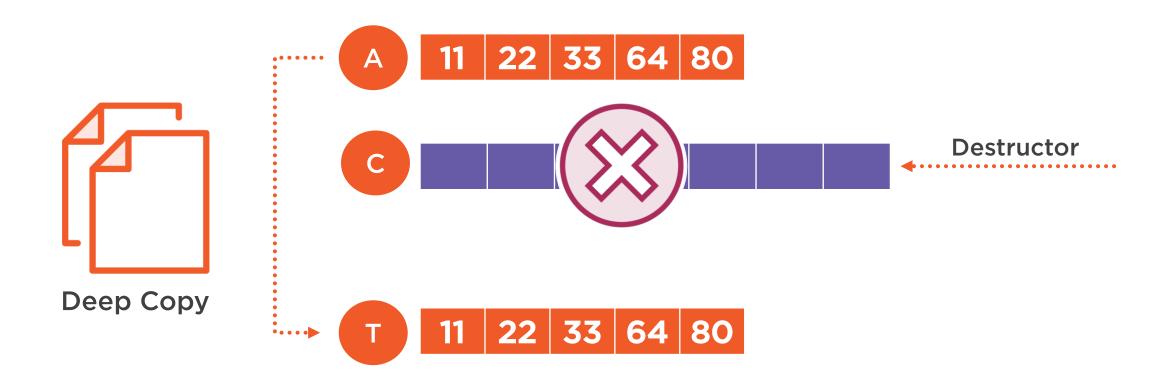
- 11 22 33 64 80

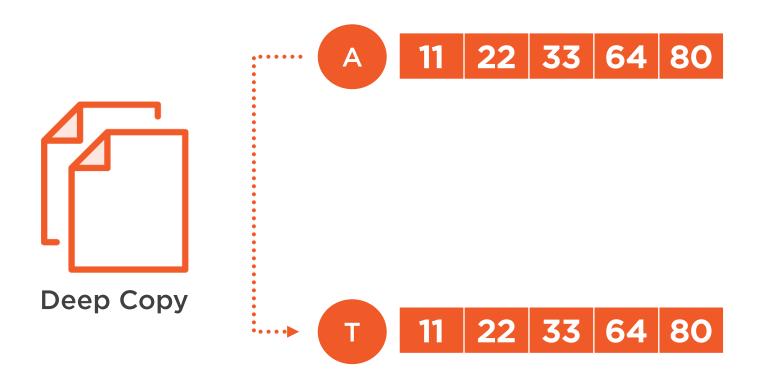
11 22 33 64 80 After the swap





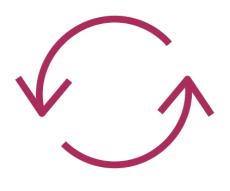
















Destructor

Memberwise swap



```
IntArray& operator=(IntArray source) {
   swap(*this, source);
   return *this;
}
```



```
COPY
Pass by value

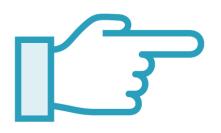
IntArray& operator=(IntArray source) {
  swap(*this, source);
  return *this;
}
```



```
IntArray& operator=(IntArray source) {
   swap(*this, source);
   return *this;
}
```



Refresher on Basic C++ Concepts



"C++11 from Scratch"

Local Variables and Scope

Passing Parameters by Value vs. by Reference

Basic Rules for Parameter Passing in C++



```
friend void swap(IntArray& a, IntArray& b) {
  using std::swap;
  // Memberwise swap
  swap(a.m_ptr, b.m_ptr);
  swap(a.m_size, b.m_size);
}
```

Implementing Swap for the Array Class Swap array objects by swapping their data members



Implementing Swap for the Array Class Swap array objects by swapping their data members



```
friend void swap(IntArray& a, IntArray& b) {
    using std::swap;
    // Memberwise swap
    swap(a.m_ptr, b.m_ptr);
    swap(a.m_size, b.m_size);
}

"C++11 from Scratch"
The Swap Algorithm
```

Implementing Swap for the Array Class
Swap array objects by swapping their data members



```
friend void swap(IntArray& a, IntArray& b) {
  using std::swap;

// Memberwise swap
  swap(a.m_ptr, b.m_ptr);
  swap(a.m_size, b.m_size);
}
```

Implementing Swap for the Array Class Swap array objects by swapping their data members

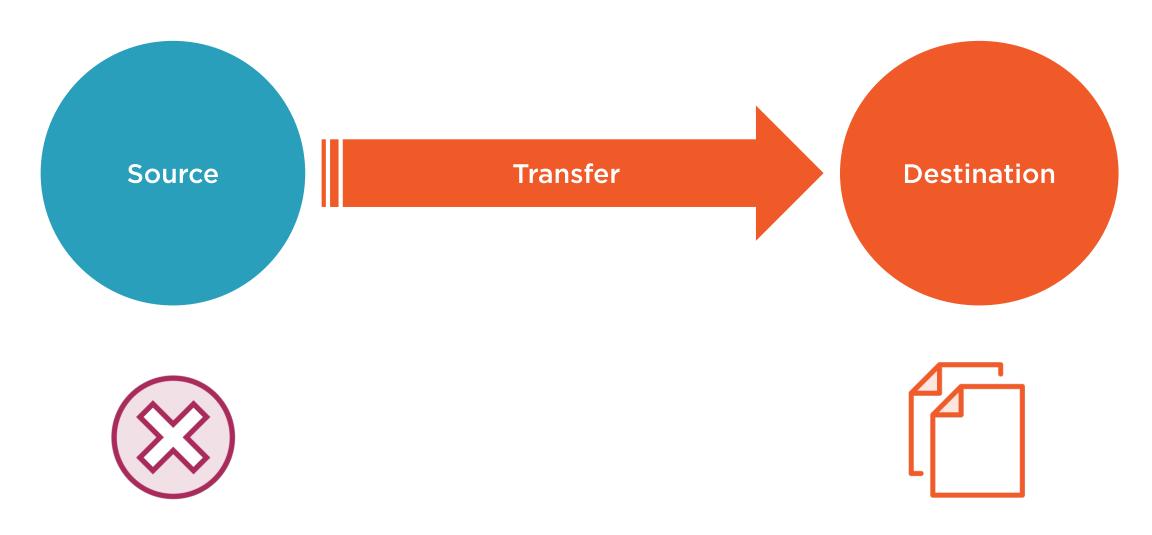


```
friend void swap(IntArray& a, IntArray& b) noexcept {
  using std::swap;
  // Memberwise swap
  swap(a.m_ptr, b.m_ptr);
  swap(a.m_size, b.m_size);
}
```

Implementing Swap for the Array Class
Use noexcept for non-throwing swap

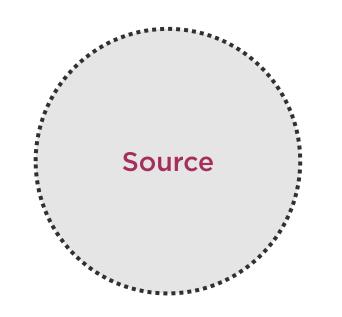


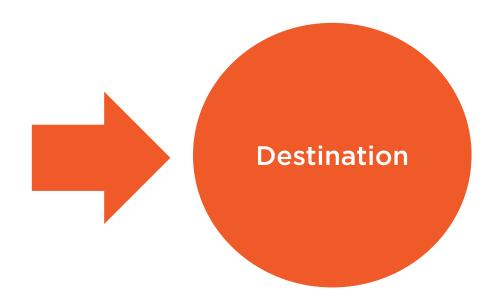
Transfer Objects





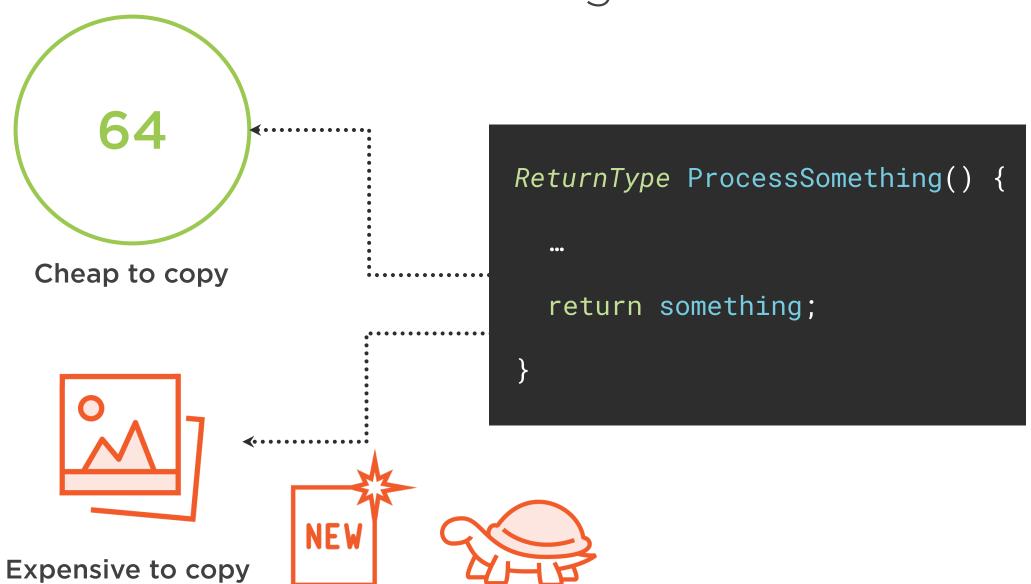
Transfer Objects







Returning Data



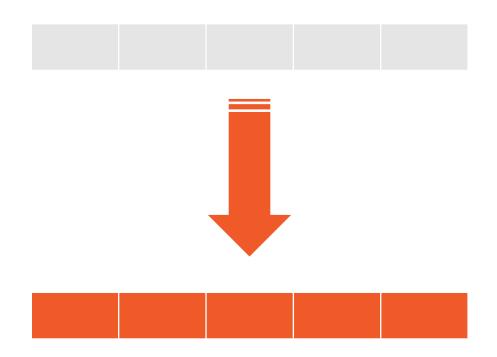


Move Semantics



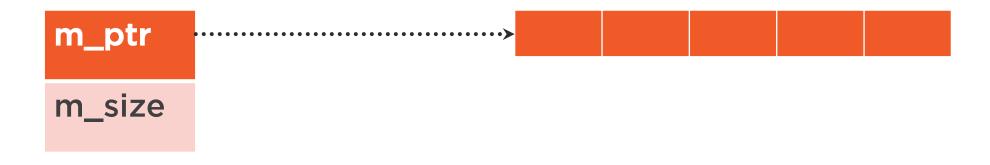


Move Constructor





Moving Arrays





Moving Arrays

Source

m_ptr

m_size

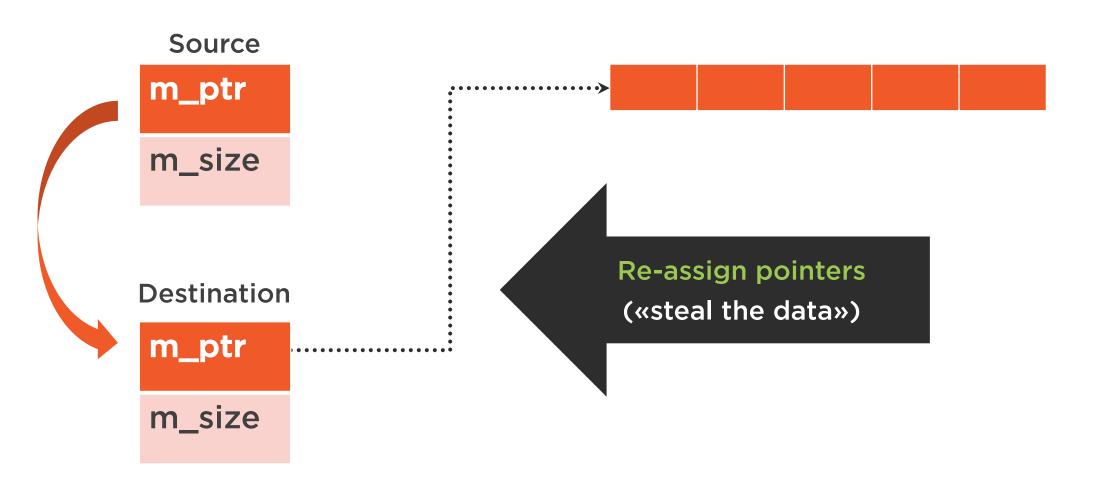
Destination

m_ptr

m_size



Moving Arrays







```
IntArray(IntArray&& source) {
   // Transfer ownership (steal data) from source
   m_ptr = source.m_ptr;
   m_size = source.m_size;
```



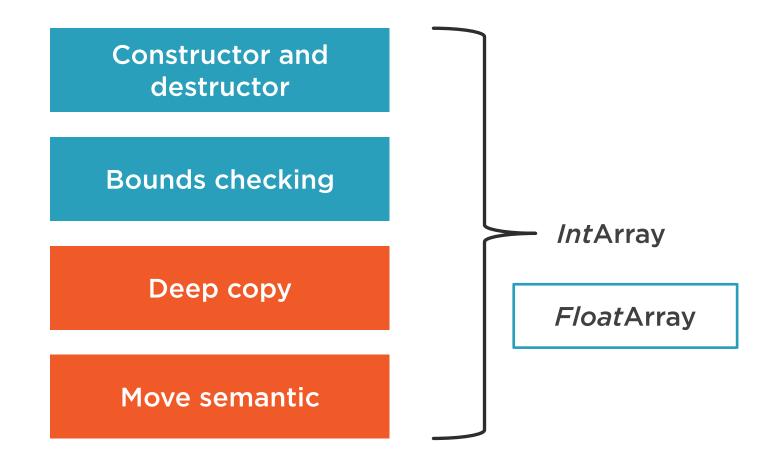
```
IntArray(IntArray&& source) {
 m_ptr = source.m_ptr;
 m_size = source.m_size;
  // Clear source
  source.m_ptr = nullptr;
  source.m_size = 0;
```



```
IntArray(IntArray&& source) {
 m_ptr = source.m_ptr;
 m_size = source.m_size;
  source.m_ptr = nullptr;
  source.m_size = 0;
```



The Array Class Journey



```
class IntArray {
                         class FloatArray
 private:
                      float* m_ptr;
```



```
class IntArray {
                           class FloatArray
 private:
                        float* m_ptr;
                                                         Use templates
                                                          for writing
                                                         generic code
```



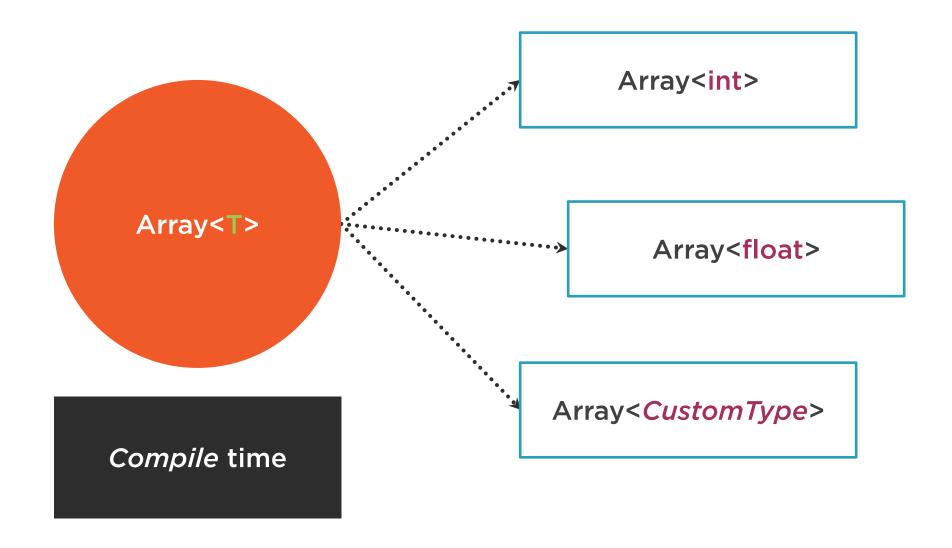
```
template <typename T>
class Array {
 private:
                                                       Use templates
                                                        for writing
  T* m_ptr;
                     Use generic type T
                                                       generic code
                        C++ compiler
                        will synthesize
                        array classes
```



```
template <typename T>
                               Introduce class template
class Array {
 private:
                                                      Use templates
                                                       for writing
  T* m_ptr;
                                                      generic code
  •••
```

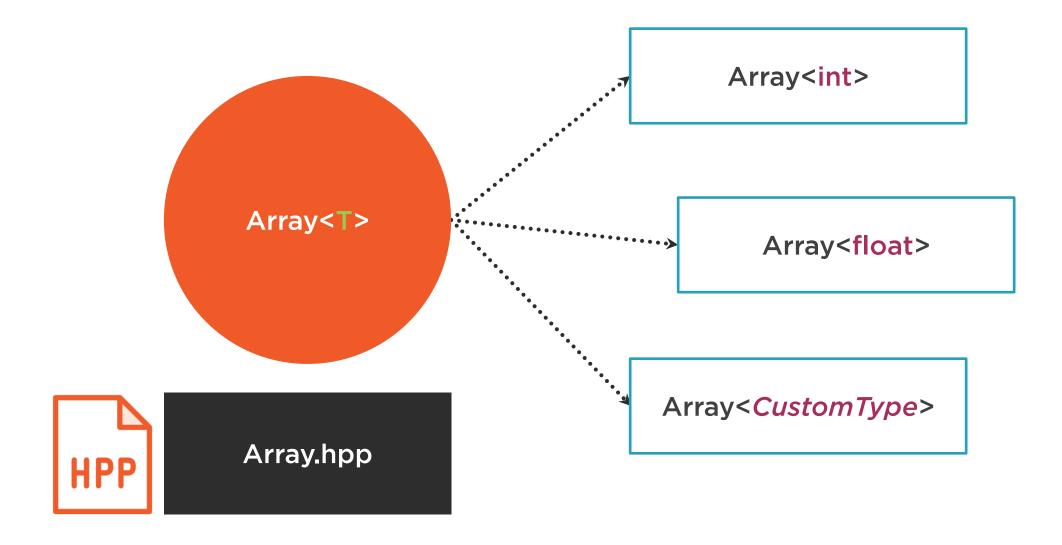


From Class Template to Concrete Classes





From Class Template to Concrete Classes



Summary



Overload <<

Copy semantics

- Shallow vs. deep copy
- Copy-and-swap idiom

Move semantics

Generic Array<T> class template

