Lab: Doubly Linked List - Throwing Exceptions

Topics and references

- Throwing exceptions.
- Catching exceptions.

Learning Outcomes

- Practice error checking.
- Learn to work with exceptions.

Overview

Exceptions are a useful feature of C++ that facilitates separation of normal and error code for readability. This assignment is a chance to practice programming error checks and the resultant exception throwing.

Task

In this exercise, add error checking and the associated exception throwing for the operator overload assignment `dllist` operators and function tested in the driver file. Do so by adding error checks that throw exceptions in `dllist.cpp` and implementing the items declared in `except.h` in a file called `except.cpp`. Exceptions that `dllist` can throw are declared in `except.h`:

```
#ifndef EXCEPT_H
#define EXCEPT_H

#include <string>
#include <stdexcept>

class SubscriptErr : public std::exception {
public:
    SubscriptErr(int Subscript);
    virtual const char* what() const noexcept;
private:
    int subscript;
};

class NoNdErr : public std::exception {
public:
    virtual const char* what() const noexcept { return wat.c_str(); }
private:
    static std::string const wat;
};
#endif
```

Implementation Details

Complete the above exceptions in a file called `except.cpp` and update `dllist.cpp` to check for errors and throw exceptions as shown in `output.txt`.

Submission Details

Please read the following details carefully and adhere to all requirements to avoid unnecessary deductions.

Header file

There is no header to submit.

Source file

Create and complete `except.cpp` and add exception throwing to `dllist.cpp`. Complete the necessary definitions and upload to the submission server. Remember to frequently check your code for memory leaks and errors with Valgrind.

Compiling, executing, and testing

Download `except.h`, `dllist-driver.cpp`, `makefile`, and a correct output file `output.txt` for the unit tests in the driver. Run make with the default rule to bring program executable `dllist.out` up to date:

```
$ make
```

Directly test your implementation by running `make` with target `test`:

```
$ make test
```

If the `diff` command in the `test` rule is not silent, then one or more of your function definitions is incorrect and will require further work.

File-level documentation

Every source and header file *must* begin with a *file-level* documentation block. This documentation serves the purpose of providing a reader the raison d'être of this source file at some later point of time (could be days or weeks or months or even years later). This module will use Doxygen to tag source and header files for generating html-based documentation. An introduction to Doxygen and a configuration file is provided on the module web page. Here is a sample for a C++ source file:

```
/*!*****************************************************************************
\file    scantext.cpp
\author  Prasanna Ghali
\par     DP email: pghali\@digipen.edu
\par     Course: CSD1170
\par     Section: A
\par     Programming Assignment #6
\date    11-30-2018

\brief
```

```
  This program takes strings and performs various tasks on them via several
  separate functions. The functions include:

  - mystrlen
      Calculates the length (in characters) of a given string.

  - count_tabs
      Takes a string and counts the amount of tabs within.

  - substitute_char
      Takes a string and replaces every instance of a certain character with
      another given character.

  - calculate_lengths
      Calculates the length (in characters) of a given string first with tabs,
      and again after tabs have been converted to a given amount of spaces.

  - count_words
      Takes a string and counts the amount of words inside.
*******************************************************************************/
```

Function-level documentation

Every function that you declare and define and submit for assessment must contain *function-level documentation*. This documentation should consist of a description of the function, the inputs, and return value. In team-based projects, this information is crucial for every team member to quickly grasp the details necessary to efficiently use, maintain, and debug the function. Certain details that programmers find useful include: what does the function take as input, what is the output, a sample output for some example input data, how the function implements its task, and importantly any special considerations that the author has taken into account in implementing the function. Although beginner programmers might feel that these details are unnecessary and are an overkill for assignments, they have been shown to save considerable time and effort in both academic and professional settings. Humans are prone to quickly forget details and good function-level documentation provides continuity for developers by acting as a repository for information related to the function. Otherwise, the developer will have to unnecessarily invest time in recalling and remembering undocumented details and assumptions each time the function is debugged or extended to incorporate additional features. Here is a sample for function `substitute_char`:

```
/*!*****************************************************************************
\brief
   Replaces each instance of a given character in a string with
   other given characters.

\param string
  The string to walk through and replace characters in.

\param old_char
  The original character that will be replaced in the string.

\param new_char
  The character used to replace the old characters

\return
  The number of characters changed in the string.
```

```
**********************************************************************************/
```

Since you are to submit `dllist.cpp`, add the documentation specified above to it.

Submission and automatic evaluation

1. In the course web page, click on the appropriate submission page to submit `except.cpp` and `dllist.cpp`.
2. Please read the following rubrics to maximize your grade. Your submission will receive:
    - `F` grade if your `except.cpp` or `dllist.cpp` don't compile with the full suite of `g++` options.
    - `F` grade if your `except.cpp` or `dllist.cpp` don't link to create an executable.
    - Your implementation's output doesn't match correct output of the grader (you can see the inputs and outputs of the auto grader's tests). The auto grader will provide a proportional grade based on how many incorrect results were generated by your submission. `A+` grade if output of function matches correct output of auto grader.
    - A deduction of one letter grade for each missing documentation block in `dllist.cpp`. Your submission `dllist.cpp` must have **one** file-level documentation block and at least **one** function-level documentation block. Each missing or incomplete or copy-pasted (with irrelevant information from some previous assessment) block may result in a deduction of a letter grade. For example, if the automatic grader gave your submission an `A+` grade and one documentation block is missing, your grade may be later reduced from `A+` to `B+`. Another example: if the automatic grader gave your submission a `C` grade and the two documentation blocks are missing, your grade may be later reduced from `C` to `E`.