

18 - CLASSES in C++

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[CLASSES in C++](#)

- OOP is a style on how to write your code
- C++ doesn't imply certain things but support it
- way to group data and functionalities together
- Variables made of class are called object variables
 - And a new object is an instance of that class
- Defining a class we define the visibility of the variables and functions
 - By default the visibility is private, need to specify as public to access or protected
- Functions inside classes are called methods
- USEFUL TO GROUP THINGS TOGETHER AND ADD FUNCTIONALITIES TO THE OBJECT



CLASSES vs STRUCTS in C++

- Kind of a similar one
- there is no much difference
- the main difference is the visibility options in structures (private, public, protected)
 - Class is private by default
 - struct the default is public
- But this is technically, but the use in code may differ
- struct exists by backward compatibility with previous versions
 - the compiler wouldn't know what it was in old codes
- The usage differs
 - That is no right or wrong answer, differ by opinion
- struct used just to represent variables
- Never use a structure with inheritance, go to classes

How to Write a C++ Class

- Log class to manage the log messages, used for debug process
- console is like an information dump
- Defined simple functions, member variables (public and private)
- Instantiated in main and also used the public functions

Static in C++

- 2 meanings,
 - outside of a class
 - Linkage of that symbol will be internal, only visible to that translation unit that you are working with (translation unit = file)
 - Inside of a class
 - All instances of that class will share the same memory, will only be one instance of that static variable across all instances of the class
- Focus on static outside of a class

Static for Classes and Structs in C++

- If used with a variable
 - Only one instance of that variable across all instances of that class
 - If one of the entity changes that variable, it'll affect all other instances
 - Better to update the value by its class than instance
 - By instance could cause confusion and bugs
- Static method
 - Don't have access to the class instance
 - call without a class instance
 - cannot write code that refer to a class instance

```
struct StaticEntity22
{
    static int x22, y22;

    void Print(){
        std::cout << "Entity 22 x22 " << x22 << " y22 " << y22 << std::endl;
    }
};

// When making this variables static, we need to initialize
// them without any instantiation
int StaticEntity22::x22;
int StaticEntity22::y22;

int main()
{
    StaticEntity22 se22;
    se22.x22 = 2;
    se22.y22 = 3;
    se22.Print();
}
```

```
94
95     StaticEntity22 se22;
96     se22.x22 = 2;
97     se22.y22 = 3;
98     se22.Print();
99
100     // StaticEntity22 se22_2 = {5, 8}; // This would fail for static
101     StaticEntity22 se22_2; // This would fail for static classes
102     // se22_2.x22 = 5;
103     // se22_2.y22 = 8;
104     se22_2.Print(); // result should be the same as the other instance
105
106     // we can access them by the class and not by the instance
107     // And it'll change its value
108     StaticEntity22::x22 = 5;
109     StaticEntity22::y22 = 8;
110     StaticEntity22::Print(); // 5, 8
111
112     // Not static struct parameters
113     Entity22 e22;
114
115     e22.x22 = 2;
116     e22.y22 = 3;
117     e22.Print();
118
119     Entity22 e22_2 = { 5, 8 };
120
121     e22_2.Print();
122
```

PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE TERMINAL PORTS

Hey
Hey
Hey

```
StaticEntity22 se22;
e22.x22 = 2;
e22.y22 = 3;
e22.Print();

// StaticEntity22 se22_2 = {5, 8}; // This would fail for static classes
StaticEntity22 se22_2; // This would fail for static classes
e22.x22 = 5;
e22.y22 = 8;
e22.Print();
```

```
Hey
Hey
Hey

Hey
root@aee12d748e6b:/src/Dev/HelloWorld/out/build# ./HelloWorld
Static Entity 22 x22 2 Y22 3
Static Entity 22 x22 2 Y22 3
Static Entity 22 x22 5 Y22 8
Entity 22 x22 2 Y22 3
Entity 22 x22 5 Y22 8
```

Can access a non-static variable within a class, t generates no error

```
struct StaticEntity22
{
    // static int x22, y22;
    int x22, y22;

    static void Print(){
        std::cout << "Static Entity 22 x22 " << x22 << " Y22 " << y22 << std::endl;
    }
};
```

Constructors in C++

- Special type of method that runs each time we instantiate an object
- When we instantiate a class without initializing the parameters, there is no actual value and they would receive garbage
- To declare it, there is no return type and needs to match the name of the class
 - Can optionally give parameters
- Has to manually initialize the primitive values, otherwise it'll get garbage in C++
 - Other languages may have different behaviours
- We can write as many constructors as we want, but with different parameters to have different signatures
- We can define a class with static properties and methods, and don't want to instantiate anything (no constructors)
 - <Class Name>() = delete;

Destructors in C++

- Even twin, the destructor kkk
- Call every time when destroy an object
 - Usually free and uninitialized and clean memory that will not use anymore
 - If initialized objects with new, the destructor will delete them
- Destroyed in the end of the scope... if in a function, will be destroyed when leaving the function
- Used to delete memory allocation, in the heap for example.... or any other initialization
- But is not very common

Inheritance in C++

- Allow us to have a hierarchy of classes that relates with each other
- Create subclasses from a parent class
- Avoid code duplication
 - Put duplicated code into a base class
 - So we don't need to keep implementing that
- Polymorphism is the idea of having multiple types of a single type
 - We can use a subclass whenever we want to use the base class
- The subclass always have everything that the base class have
- Used all the time to extend an existing class
 - Separate responsibilities

Virtual Functions in C++

- Allow us to override methods in our derived method
- If created a virtual function in class A, we have the option to override them in the base class B
 - To do something else
- Virtual functions introduce something called dynamic dispatch
 - Based on a V table for all the virtual functions, so we can match to the correct function we desired
 - If you want to override a function, you need to mock the base function
- If not declared as virtual, the function is associated with the class itself, if we call a method from a base class, the base class behavior will prevail. If virtual is defined, the vtable will determine the correct function to use based on the object calling and not just the class
- Maybe costly but the impact is minimal, don't worry

Interfaces in C++ (Pure Virtual Functions)

- Pure virtual functions

```
172 void PrintFunction26()
173 {
174     // Object will be created and deleted within this function
175     // Deleted when leaving it
176     Entity24 e24_6(10, 11);
177     e24_6.Print();
178 }
179
180 int main()
181 {
182
183     PrintFunction26();
```

```
Destroyed Entity!
Destroyed Entity!
Destroyed Entity!
root@aee12d748e6b:/src/Dev/HelloWorld/out/build# ./HelloWorld
Created Entity!
Entity 24 x24 10 Y24 11
Destroyed Entity!
Created Entity!
```

```
219 class Entity27
220 {
221 public:
222     // generate a v table for this function so if it is overridden,
223     // we can call the proper function
224     virtual std::string GetName() {return "Entity27"; }
225 };
226
227 class EntitySub27 : public Entity27
228 {
229 private:
230     std::string m_Name;
231 public:
232     EntitySub27(const std::string& name)
233         : m_Name(name) {}
234
235     std::string GetName() {return m_Name; }
236 };
237
238
239
240
241 int main()
242 {
243     Entity27* e27 = new Entity27();
244     std::cout << e27->GetName() << std::endl;
245
246     EntitySub27* esub27 = new EntitySub27("Hugo");
247     std::cout << esub27->GetName() << std::endl;
248
249     // things starts to crac, this is actually a player but references the base cl
250     // So we get the base class method output
251     Entity27* e27_2 = esub27;
252     // If not virtual function output is "entity27"
253     // If virtual function output is "hugo"
254     std::cout << e27_2->GetName() << std::endl;
255
256     std::cout << "" << std::endl;
257 }
```

- Define a function in the base class that doesn't have an implementation
- Force subclasses to actually implement that function
 - No base method definitions, implement in the inherited class is not optional
- Need to define the method as virtual and add a =0 to the end of the declaration, instead of the function body
 - Also, we can't instantiate that class

Visibility in C++

- Belongs to OO
- How visible some members or methods under a class are
- No effect on how things run or in the performance,
- Just exist to write better code and organize things
 - Private
 - Only this class and friend ones can access this class members and methods
 - Protected
 - The base class and all the inheritance classes can access the members and methods
 - But outside of that chain is not possible
 - Public
 - Anyone can access the members and methods, no need to be in the chain of inheritance
- Where to use
 - Idea for been a developer and write code
 - code easy to maintain and understand
 - For other people to extend the code as well
 - what can be used or not
 - If something as private, the developer shouldn't access this by another class. Increase maintainability
 - If I never used a class and got some members as private, I know that I can't access or call it directly