

7 - How the C++ Linker Works

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- Linking is a process from process to executable files
- Focus of linking is to find where each symbol and function is and link it together
- Each file is compiled into an object file and has no relation to each other (don't know where the other is)
- Way to link the files together into one program
- Even if everything is in one file, needs to know where the main function is or example
- There is compiling and there is linking
 - Only compilation will happen at first
- But if it builds the project, it'll compile and link the project
- Different error messages
 - Syntax error, compiler error -> C2143 -> ERROR CODE FOR THIS TYPE OF ERROR
 - Starts with letter C
 - If it's a linking error, it would begin with the letters LNK
 - Helps to understand the error
- Every executable has to have an entry point
 - Doesn't have to be the main function, but usually it is
- Unresolved external linker
 - Can't find what is looking for
- Never called the loger function, so there is no need to link. But if used it'll cause an error
- If can't find the declaration, it will trigger a linking error
- Duplicated named functions will also cause problems
 - Linker doesn't know which one to use
- The include can cause duplicates
 - Can mark as static (when it gets included, will be just internal to this file)
 - Each one would have one version of the file
 - Can make it inline, get the body and put inline where it's called
 - Third option is to put in one file and add the declaration to the other file

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