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1   //////// Lecture 79: Deleter
2   // We have seen that we can use smart pointers to
    •   automatically manage dynamic memory, but in some
    •   cases you may want to manage a pointer that points
    •   to a resource which cannot be released using delete.
3
4   // I may have some legacy code.
5   #include<cstdlib>
6   #include <iostream>
7   int main(){
8       int *p = (int*) malloc(4);
9       *p = 100;
10      std::cout << *p << "\n";
11      free(p);
12  }
13  // can we use a smart pointer here? Using a smart
    •   pointer here will cause
14  // undefined behaviour.
15  //Try using the smart pointer here - it could either
    •   be a unique_pointer or a shared_ptr.
16
17  //// Using smart pointers:
18  #include <memory>
19  int main()
20  {
21      std::unique_ptr<int> p{(int*)malloc(4)};
22      *p = 100;
23      std::cout << *p << std::endl;
24  }
25  // It works fine, but there is no guarantee that it
    •   will always work.
26  // Because by default, the deleter of the smart ptr
    •   that is unique_ptr will call delete
27  // and we know that for malloc we have to invoke
    •   free(), while for new we have to call delete().
28
29  // So this code will cause undefined behaviour.
30  // In the same way , I may want to manage a file
    •   stream pointer or a file handle.
31  // If we want to manage these with smart pointers,
    •   then the resources will not be released properly
    •   because the smart pointer by default will call
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    delete and not the corresponding function that
    closes the stream.

// Thankfully, smart ptrs support management of
    resources that may not have been acquired using new.
    I said earlier, by default, the smart pointer of
    destructors invoke delete. They don't invoke delete
    directly, instead they invoke a DELETER, a DELETER
    is a callback that releases the resource.

// Both smart pointers - unique_ptr and shared_ptr use
    default deleters that default call delete. So if we
    want to release a different kind of resource, then
    we can specify our own deleter.

// A deleter can be any kind of callable.

// So for example, we want to manage the malloc()
    pointer resource and i want to create a custom
    deleter for it. I can either create a deleter as
 // 1)a global function
 // 2)a function object or
 // 3)a lambda expression
 // or any other kind of callable.
 // We have not discussed function objects yet - but a
     function object is simply a function that has a
     state, and in C++, we can create function objects
     by overloading the function call 'operator'.

// He is using a struct here because he wants
    everything to be public.
// It is more convenient, you can even use a class and
    this should work too!
 struct Free
 {
     // Overloading the function call operator()
     // argument should be the type of pointer you
       want to release.
     void operator()(int *p) {
         // Inside, call free on this pointer.
         free(p);
         std::cout << "Pointer freed!" << std::endl;
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56          }
57      };
58      // Driver code
59      int main()
60      {
61          // How to make a custom deleter: 2 things
62          // In this case we specify the type of deleter to
            the template definition here.
63          // and then specify an object of this class
64          // so we can either create a temporary object
65          std::unique_ptr<int, Free> p{(int*) malloc(4),
            Free{}};
66          // or create an object and pass it in.
67          Free free{};
68          std::unique_ptr<int, Free> p{(int*) malloc(4),
            free};
69      }
70      // When you run it out, you'll see that the smart
        pointer has invoked the custom deleter.
71
72  /// We can also use a function as a custom deleter.
73  void MallocFree(int *p){
74      free(p);
75      std::cout << "Pointer freed!" << std::endl;
76  }
77  int main(){
78      // The return type of the function is void
79      std::unique_ptr<int,void (*)(int*) > malloc(4,
          MallocFree); // number of bytes, and the
          function address.
80      // Must specify the TYPE of the function pointer
          within the template declaration.
81  }
82  // this will also work. But it is recommended to use
      Function Objects as deleters, especially when they
      dont contain any attributes.
83  // Using a function pointer will increase the size of
      the unique_ptr object.
84
85  ////// Whhat if its a shared_ptr instead of unique_ptr?
86  // For function pointers
87  int main(){
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88        std::shared_ptr<int> p {(int*) malloc(4),
          MallocFree}; //this will work - for the
          shared_ptr there is no need to specify the
          function pointer as a template argument.
89    }
90    // For Function Objects
91    int main(){
92        std::shared_ptr<int> p{(int*) malloc(4), Free{}}; /
          / there is no need to specify the type of the
          Function object.
93    }
94    // Now we are able to use smart pointers to manage any
        kind of resource that cannot be released, using
        simple delete calls. Just specify the custom deleter
        and the smart pointer will automatically invoke it
        and the underlying resource will be released.
95
```