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1  // Lecture 67 – Type Conversion I (Basic Type
  •   to Basic Type)
2  int main(){
3      int a = 5, b = 2;
4
5      // Implicit Type Conversion
6      float f = a;
7      // The compiler will apply the cast implicitly,
  •   but the implicit cast may not be correct in all
  •   the cases.
8      // What if we divide this variable with b?
9      float f = a/b; // you expect the value in the
  •   float variable to be 2.5, but it is actually
  •   2.00.
10     // The result is 2.
11     // the reason for the incorrect value is that a is
  •   of type integer, b is also of type integer,
  •   neither of the integers will be promoted to
  •   floating point numbers, and the decimal portion
  •   of the number is lost. So we have to manually
  •   apply a cast on the variable a.
12
13     // You can apply the cast as a C-style cast, like
  •   this.
14     float f = (float)a/b;
15     // C-style cast are discouraged in C++, because
  •   they don't check for the validness of the cast.
  •   That is why C++ provides a casting operator
  •   called as 'static_cast'. Static_Cast is superior
  •   to C style casting because it checks if the cast
  •   is valid or not.
16
17     // Do this instead:
18     float f = static_cast<float>(a)/b;
19
20     // Why is static_cast preferred in C++?
21     // We can create a pointer to the integer variable:
22     // But wait – the type of pointer will be a
  •   character pointer.
23     int d;
24     char *p = &d; // The compiler will not allow this
  •   conversion because the types are different – if

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- you try to build this, there is an error –
- cannot convert from int* to char*.

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25
26 // But we can apply a C-style cast to convert and
    • the compiler will then compile the code without
    • any errors.
27 char *p = (char*) &a;
28 // This will compile without any errors. This type
    • of casting is not right, because you're trying
    • to cast between different pointer types.
29 // If we had used static_cast in place of the C
    • cast,
30 char *p = static_cast<char*>(&a);
31 // If we build this, it does not allow the cast
    • because pointer types are not convertible. So
    • static_cast does not allow us to convert int* to
    • char*.
32
33 // REINTERPRET CAST
34 // but if you know what you're doing and you want
    • to store the address of this integer variable
    • into the character pointer then you can make
    • this cast in C++ using the operator:
35 char *p = reinterpret_cast<char*> (&a);
36
37 // A reinterpret-cast allows casting between
    • different types. Even if the types are not
    • related. A C style cast would have worked in its
    • place, but the advantage of reinterpret cast is
    • that if there are any qualifiers on the source
    • then they are not discarded. MEANING?
38
39 // C style casts will discard the qualifiers.
    • This means if we have a constant integer and we
    • try to create a pointer to this,
40 const int x = 1;
41 int* p = &x; // this doesn't work.
42 // If we use a C style cast, this will compile
    • fine, but this would be a source of bugs.
43 int *p = (int*)&x; // this works, but it shouldn't
44
45 // So a Cstyle cast discards the qualifiers, but

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- if we had used a reinterpret cast, it does not
- discard the qualifiers, and this will NOT ALLOW
- the cast to be performed.

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46  int *p = reinterpret_cast<int*> (&x); // this
    doesn't work!
47
48  // CONST CAST
49  // we can make this work by using a const cast.
50  int *p = const_cast<int*> (&x); // correct!
51  }
52  // In summary, C style casts should be avoided.
    • Instead, we should use the casting operators. In
    • general, casting between types should be avoided.
    • One more advantage of using reinterpret cast over
    • Cstyle cast is that it is easy to search for places
    • that uses 'reinterpret_cast'. all these casting
    • operators work at COMPILE TIME.
53

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