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1  // Lecture 76: Weak Ownership
2  #include <iostream>
3  class Printer{
4      int *m_pValue{};
5  public:
6      void SetValue(int *p){
7          m_pValue = p;
8      }
9      void Print(){
10         std::cout << "Value i*" << *m_pValue <<
    •         std::endl;
11     }
12 };
13
14 int main(){
15     Printer prn;
16     int num{};
17     std::cin >> num; // get number from user
18     int *p = new int{num};
19     prn.SetValue(p);
20     prn.Print();
21     delete p;
22 }
23 // Nothing wrong with this code here and it does work
    •   fine.
24
25
26 // Let's say there is more complex code now...
27
28 int main(){
29     Printer prn;
30     int num{};
31     std::cin >> num; // get number from user
32     int *p = new int{num};
33     prn.SetValue(p);
34     // Let's say we want to implement more complex
    •   logic, and there are a few conditions.
35     // Let's assume we want to compare the value if
    •   it's greater than 10, then we no longer need
    •   this pointer (so we are going to delete it)
36     if (*p > 10) {
37         delete p;

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38         p = nullptr;
39     }
40     prn.Print();
41     delete p; // This is to ensure that if delete is
    •         called again on the same pointer it will not do
    •         anything.
42     // If we do not assign nullptr, this will lead to
    •         a double delete situation, and that may crash
    •         the program.
43 }
44 // So now, if we write a value that is smaller than
    •     10, it works.
45 // If you enter a value larger than 10, there is a
    •     runtime error as the printer will print out some
    •     garbage value.
46 // This is because the printer is being assigned this
    •     pointer value over here
47 prn.SetValue(p);
48 // and afterwards, the pointer may be deleted over
    •     here:
49 if (*p > 10) {
50     delete p;
51     p = nullptr;
52 }
53 // The memory address that this m_pValue has may be
    •     deleted.
54 // So this m_pValue will point to invalid memory –
    •     that is memory that has been released.
55 // Therefore within the class Printer, we need
    •     something within the print() function to check if
    •     the pointer is still valid or not.
56 // Can we compare against null? Obviously that
    •     doesn't work, because when you assign nullptr to
    •     the p variable, the m_pValue isn't assigned to null!
57 // That pointer variable m_pValue will NOT know about
    •     it because it's a different pointer variable, so
    •     there is NO WAY of checking whether the pointer is
    •     still valid or not.
58 // We need some kind of communication between these
    •     pointers and manually it is extremely difficult to
    •     implement.
59 // So what should we do here? let's try one thing –

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•      instead of using raw pointers, let's use smart
•      pointers,
60  // and since we are sharing this pointer with the
•      Printer class, we should use the shared_ptr.
61  #include <iostream>
62  #include <memory>
63  class Printer{
64      std::shared_ptr<int> m_pValue{};
65  public:
66      void SetValue(std::shared_ptr<int>p){
67          m_pValue = p;
68      }
69      void Print(){
70          std::cout << "Value is*" << *m_pValue <<
•          std::endl;
71      }
72  };
73
74  int main(){
75      Printer prn;
76      int num{};
77      std::cin >> num; // get number from user
78      std::shared_ptr<int> p {new int{num}}; // use
•      direct initialisation.
79      prn.SetValue(p);
80      if (*p > 10) {
81          // delete p; // don't need to call delete on
•          this pointer (Cuz its not a pointer)
82          // instead, we can either assign nullptr to
•          the shared_ptr that will automatically
•          decrement the reference count or we should
•          call reset.
83          p = nullptr; // or you can call reset () on
•          this.
84      }
85      prn.Print();
86  }
87  // The code works now and if you key in a value > 10,
•      this will print you the value you entered. However
•      there is a slight issue – the problem is when this
•      shared_ptr p is passed as a parameter inside
•      SetValue(), pass by value is used, and a copy of

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- the shared_ptr is created, and the reference count becomes 2.
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88 // So even if you assign nullptr to the smart pointer
    shared_ptr object, the reference count will only be
    DECREMENTED BY 1.
89 // so the underlying memory is NOT released.
90 // And maybe it is important for us to release the
    underlying memory here, because if the reference
    count does not become zero, the memory is NOT
    released.
91 // It will be released only at the end of the scope,
    or when the Printer object is destroyed.
92 // What if this Printer object is destroyed much much
    later? Therefore, until it has been destroyed, the
    memory that was allocated here will still remain in
    use and it will NOT be deleted on this line
93     p = nullptr;
94 // when this statement is executed. So what should we
    do here?
95 // how do we know that the memory should be destroyed
    here? We need a mechanism so that after that smart
    ptr is destroyed, then this
96 // m_pValue pointer should somehow know that the
    underlying memory has been released.
97 // And obviously, shared_ptr cannot be used here
    because it blocks this shared_ptr from releasing
    the underlying memory.
98 // we need a way through which this Printer object
    can access the underlying pointer that this
    shared_ptr has. If the underlying pointer is
    destroyed, we should know that the underlying
    pointer is destroyed, and we should not use it.
99
100 // in this situation, we can use the Weak Pointer.
101
102 // Lecture 77: std::weak_ptr internals
103 // Change all shared_ptr to weak_ptr
104 #include <iostream>
105 #include <memory>
106 class Printer{
107     std::weak_ptr<int> m_pValue{};
108 public:

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---
109     void SetValue(std::weak_ptr<int>p){
110         m_pValue = p;
111     }
112     void Print(){
113         std::cout << "Reference count: " <<
        •         m_pValue.use_count() << std::endl;
114         if (m_pValue.expired()) {
115             std::cout<< "Resources no longer
        •         available!" << std::endl;
116         }
117         auto sp = m_pValue.lock(); // returns a
        •         shared_ptr, and increments the reference
        •         count by 1.
118         std::cout << "New Reference count:" <<
        •         sp.use_count() << std::endl;
119         std::cout << "Value i*" << *sp << std::endl;
120     }
121 };
122
123 int main(){
124     Printer prn;
125     int num{};
126     std::cin >> num; // get number from user
127     std::shared_ptr<int> p {new int{num}}; // NOTICE
        •     this is a shared_ptr.
128     // Not a weak_ptr!
129     // only the functions accept a weak_ptr by VALUE.
130     prn.SetValue(p);
131     if (*p > 10) {
132         p = nullptr;
133     }
134     prn.Print();
135 }
136 // There is another problem that weak_ptrs can solve
        •     for us, but we'll discuss that in the next video.
137

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