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1  // Lecture 81: Make Functions
2
3  #include <cstdlib>
4  #include <iostream>
5  #include <memory>
6  // Modern C++ discourages manual memory management. So
7  • we should avoid using new and delete operators
8  • directly in our code, but if we want to create a
9  • smart pointer, then we have to use the new operator
10 • to allocate the memory on the heap. This can be
11 • avoided, the smart pointers provide global functions
12 • through which you can construct a smart pointer
13 • without having manually allocate memory for the
14 • underlying resource.
15
16 // those global functions are MAKE FUNCTIONS, and are
17 • provided for both unique_ptr and shared_ptr.
18
19
20 int main()
21 {
22     auto p = std::make_unique<int>(5);
23     //Make unique will do the following:
24     /*
25     1. Create an integer on the heap
26     2. Initialise it with a value 5
27     3. Store the address of this integer inside a
28     • unique_ptr
29     4. Return the ptr.
30     */
31     // In this way, you don't have to use new operator
32     • in your code.
33 }
34
35 // make_unique() is a VARIADIC FUNCTION TEMPLATE, that
36 • means it can accept an arbitrary type and number of
37 • arguments. If the type we want to construct has a
38 • constructor that accepts multiple arguments, you can
39 • pass those arguments here.
40
41 // For example, we can create a class called Point.
42
43
44 class Point{
45 public:
46     Point(int x, int y){}

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29 }
30 int main(){
31     auto pt = std::make_unique<Point>(1,2);
32 }
33
34 // You may even use make_unique to create a unique_ptr
  • for dynamic arrays.
35 int main(){
36     auto array = std::make_unique<int[]>(5); // the
  • argument represents the SIZE of the dynamic
  • array.
37     // You are not allowed to initialise the dynamic
  • array using make_unique(), but you can always
  • initialise it using the subscript.
38     // But from C++17, we can initialise it after
  • declaration using the subscript operator.
39     array[0] = 1; // this works!
40 }
41
42 // All this will work for shared_ptr.
43 // To construct a shared_ptr, use 'make_shared'.
44 // make_shared for arrays was introduced in the C++20
  • standard.
45
46 //
47 // shared_ptr is implemented differently compared to a
  • unique_ptr, and it has to store additional unique
  • information related to the underlying pointer in its
  • control block.
48 // If you create a shared_ptr yourself, then you will
  • have to use new to allocate the memory for the
  • underlying resource, and then, the shared_ptr will
  • again use new to allocate memory for the control
  • block, but make_shared has knowledge of the
  • internals of the shared_ptr. So when we use it, it
  • will allocate memory for the control block and the
  • underlying resource using one new call.
49 // During destruction, there will be only 1 delete
  • call to delete both the underlying resource and the
  • control block.
50 // So if you create a shared_ptr using make_shared,

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- you will save multiple calls to the new and delete
- constructors.

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51 // Note that this is not applicable to make_unique
• because unique_ptr does not store any other
• information except the pointer, so it will make no
• difference to the number of calls to new and delete
• whether you construct it yourself or you use
• make_unique.
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53 // There is 1 disadvantage when you use make()
• functions – there is NO WAY TO SPECIFY CUSTOM
• DELETERS, while using make() functions.
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54 // If you would like to use a custom deleter, you have
• to constructor the smart ptr and allocate the memory
• for that resource yourself.
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55 // but if you're not using a custom deleter, then it
• is recommended to use the make functions.
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