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1  // Lecture 80: Smart Pointers & Dynamic Arrays
2  // It is possible to use smart pointers with dynamic
   • arrays.
3  // But again, the default deleter of the unique_ptr
   • will call delete
4  // instead of delete[].
5  // This might lead to undefined behaviour.
6
7  int main(){
8      std::unique_ptr<int> array(new int[5]{1,2,3,4,5});
9  }
10 // If we were to define the array in this manner, we
   • will not be able to access the elements of the array
   • using the array[] notation.
11 // For example, if we want to modify the first
   • element, we can't use the square bracket notation:
12 // array[0] = 2; // we are not allowed to use the
   • subscript operator like this – but instead this
   • operator is not provided by the unique_ptr, although
   • it's still possible to access the elements using
   • dereferencing – but the syntax is inconvenient.
13 // Do this instead:
14 array.get()[0] = 2;
15 // The same thing is applicable to shared_ptr.
16 // Do not use a dynamic array like this with a
   • shared_ptr, because the default deleter will call
   • delete.
17
18
19 // You might say that we can use a custom deleter that
   • will call delete on the underlying pointer to the
   • array – yes , you can do that.
20 // But that means you have to write more code and you
   • still do not get the benefit of the subscript
   • operator.
21 // Thankfully, smart pointers have a solution for this:
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23 // The solution is to use a partial specialisation of
   • the unique_ptr for array types. (For types of
   • specialisations: this will be covered in the
   • TEMPLATES section).
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25  std::unique_ptr<int[]> array(new int[5]{1,2,3,4,5});
26  // In this case, the deleter will use the correct
   •   delete. That is, it will use the delete[].
27  // This specialisation and the array notation:
28  array[0] = 10; // was added in C++17.
29  // this code may not compile in the C++11 and C++14
   •   standards.
30  // Ideally, we should avoid creating a dynamic array
   •   like this – just use a vector!!
31  // If you would like to create a fixed size dynamic
   •   array, and not want to worry about the memory
   •   management, then you will have to use the unique_ptr
   •   or shared_ptr.
32  // The rules of when to use the unique_ptr or
   •   shared_ptr still apply, even if you are storing a
   •   dynamic array inside the smart pointer.
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