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1  // Lecture 89: User Defined Literals
2  /* NOTES
3  A literal is a fixed value that appears directly in
4  • the code.
5  C++ supports different types of literals – integer,
6  • floating point, boolean, string.
7
8  Some of these literals can be modified through
9  • prefixes and suffixes.
10
11 -> 14u (unsigned int)
12 In C++11, we can define OUR OWN SUFFIX
13 -> Can be applied to integer, floating point,
14 • character and string literals.
15
16 -> ADVANTAGE: Represent values more clearly by
17 • Creating custom literals: syntactic shortcuts and
18 • increase type safety.
19 */
20 //For example, if we had a class called Temperature
21 • and we want to create an instance of that class by
22 • specifying a value of 82.5
23 Temperature temp {82.5}; // Fahrenheit or celsius?
24 // Now internally, the temperature class may store the
25 • value as a celsius, but what if we want to specify
26 • the temperature as Fahrenheit?
27
28 // in that case, we can create a user-defined literal
29 • which will help us represent the temperature in a
30 • different unit.
31
32 // SYNTAX:
33 // To create a user-defined literal, you have to
34 • define a function using the operator keyword.
35 return_type operator ""_literal (arguments){};
36 /*
37 - The operator"" defines a literal operator function.
38 • The keyword operator"" is followed by a pair of
39 • empty double quotes.
40
41 - The return type can be any type, INCLUDING VOID, and
42 • the literal is a name that always starts with
43 • UNDERSCORE. (underscore is part of the name –
44 • literals without the underscore are reserved for the

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- standard library.

25 – The arguments of the literal operator function can

- be of the following types only:

26 => to use the integer argument, the argument type

- should be unsigned long long

27 => to use the floating point argument, the argument

- type should be long double.

28 => to use the character argument, the argument type

- should be char, wchar_t, char16_t, char32_t

29 => to use the string argument, the argument type

- should be a const char*.

30

31 // these types are used because they can hold the

- LARGEST VALUE of that category type.

32 */

33

34 `#include <iostream>`

35 `class Distance{`

36 `long double m_Kilometres;`

37 `public:`

38 `Distance (long double km) : m_Kilometres{km} {};`

39 `long double GetKm() const {`

40 `return m_Kilometres;`

41 `}`

42 `void setKm(long double km) {`

43 `m_Kilometres = km;`

44 `}`

45 `};`

46 // What if we specified miles instead of km? we would

- have to convert the miles into km.

47 // Instead of doing that manually, we can add a User

- Defined Literal Function.

48 `Distance operator"" _mi (long double val){`

49 `return Distance {val * 1.6};`

50 `}`

51 // This is just a syntactic sugar. The literal

- operator function will create an object of distance
- which has been initialised with the value that you
- have specified here, but that has been suitably
- converted into km. Using custom literals, we can
- make our code more expressive and reduce the chance
- of errors.

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52 // now we may also add one more operator – for meters
53 • – and we can create the instance like this.
54 Distance operator"" _m (long double val){
55     return Distance {val / 1000};
56 }
57 int main(){
58     Distance dist {32.0_mi}; // 32 miles
59     Distance dist {32.0_m}; // 32m
60     std::cout << d2.setKm() << std::endl;
61 }
62 /*
63 IMPORTANT POINTS:
64 – Custom literals should always begin with an
65 • underscore
66 => Literals without underscore are reserved for the
67 • standard library.
68 => if you do try to create a UDF Literal without an
69 • underscore, the compiler may flag it as a warning or
70 • an error.
71
72 – it is not possible to redefine the meaning of built
73 • in literal suffixes.
74
75 – Only following types can be suffixed to make user
76 • defined literals:
77 => unsigned long long, long double, const char*, char
78
79 – Literal operator functions CANNOT BE MEMBER
80 • FUNCTIONS.
81 => They will always be global functions.
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