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1  ///// Lecture 53: L-value and R-values (C++11)
2  #include <iostream>
3
4  //Returns by Value: hence it returns an r-value
5  int Add(int x, int y) {
6      return x + y;
7  }
8  //Return by Reference: hence it returns an l-value
9  int & Transform(int &x) {
10     x *= x;
11     return x;
12 }
13 int main() {
14     //x,y and z are L-values & 5, 10 and 8 are r-values
15     // Because they are temporary values, they cannot
16     • come on the left
17     // hand side of the assignment operator.
18     int x = 5;
19     int y = 10;
20     int z = 8;
21
22     // Some values will persist beyond the expression
23     • - these are L-values.
24     //Expression returns l-value
25     // This is an L-value, so it can appear on the
26     • LEFT HAND SIDE of the assignment op
27     // and we can assign a value to it.
28     ++x = 6;
29     // Expression (x+y)*z returns an r-value
30     // so this means that this line of code will be
31     • lost, when the next line of code is executed.
32     // Some values don't persist beyond the
33     • expression. (L-values)
34     int result = (x+y) * z;
35
36     Transform(y) = 3; // because the function returns
37     • by reference, the function returns an L-value,
38     • which has a name, and hence it can be placed on
39     • the left hand side of the operator.

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35     /// R-value references (C++11)
36     int && r1 = 10;
37     int && r2 = Add(5,8);
38     // Recall that r-value references only can bind
    •     strictly to temporaries, and we cannot bind r-
    •     value reference to that L-value.
39     // int && r3 = x; --> ERROR CODE
40
41
42     /// L-value References (C++11) – or reference
    •     variables (Basically) in C++
43     int &ref = x; // binds to L-value
44     int &ref2 = Transform(y); // binds to a function
    •     that return by reference.
45     // Remember it can never bind to a temporary
46     // int &ref3 = 10; --> ERROR CODE
47
48 }
49
50 // Purpose of L & R-value references?
51 // They allow us to detect temporaries in expressions,
    •     so we can write functions that overload based on R-
    •     values and L-value references.
52
53 // Consider the following example without an R-value
    •     reference
54 // L-value reference
55 void Print(int &x) {
56     std::cout << "Print(int&)" << std::endl;
57 }
58 // Constant L-value reference
59 void Print(const int &x) {
60     std::cout << "Print(const int&)" << std::endl;
61
62 }
63
64 int main()
65 {
66     int x = 10;
67     Print(x); // x is an l-value, so the l-value
    •     reference will be invoked.
68

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69     // If we invoke print() function with an R-value,
    •     the constant reference function will be invoked.
70     Print(3); // will invoke the const int since 3 is
    •     a temporary.
71 }
72
73
74 // Now consider the example with the R-value reference
75 void Print(int &x) {
76     std::cout << "Print(int&)" << std::endl;
77 }
78 void Print(const int &x) {
79     std::cout << "Print(const int&)" << std::endl;
80
81 }
82 void Print(int &&x) {
83     std::cout << "Print(int &&)" << std::endl;
84 }
85
86 int main()
87 {
88     int x = 10;
89     Print (x); // same
90     Print(3); // will invoke the R-value reference
91     // this can be used to detect temporaries in
    •     expressions that use user defined objects, and
    •     this fact can be used to implement move
    •     semantics which is a faster way of copying
    •     temporary objects.
92 }
93

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