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1  // Lecture 83: Strings I – Raw Strings
2  #include <cstring> // C-STRING!
3  // let's say we want to write code to let a user fill
   •   in a first name and second name and then combine it
   •   into 1 full name.
4  const char* Combine (const char *pfirst, const char*
   •   pSecond){
5      char fullname[20];
6      strcpy(fullname, pfirst);
7      strcpy(fullname, plast);
8      return fullname;
9  }
10 int main(){
11     char first[10];
12     char last[10];
13     std::cin.getline(first,10);
14     std::cin.getline(last, 10);
15     char fullname[] = Combine(first, last);
16
17     return 0;
18 }
19 // This won't work. We are returning address of a
   •   local variable, which will be gone by the end of
   •   the scope. So basically this results in undefined
   •   behaviour.
20 // The last time of fullname is constrained to this
   •   function, so there is no guarantee that it will be
   •   available after the function has returned. But if
   •   you disregard this warning and run the executable
   •   anyway, you can see this resulted in undefined
   •   behaviour (Garbage values)
21 // it print garbage values because fullname is
   •   destroyed after the combine() function returns.
22 // so its address is reclaimed by other parts of the
   •   code.
23 // so if you try to get the data from main(), there
   •   is NO GUARANTEE(it's possible, but no guarantee)
   •   that the fullname has not been overwritten.
24 // In our case, the data is lost.
25
26 // This is not the only problem, we are using FIXED
   •   SIZE CHARACTER ARRAYS. What if the first and last

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- names do not fit? Will the full name fit into the
- array?

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27 // So obviously we cannot use the fixed size array
    • here, so we will use the dynamic memory allocation.
28
29 ///////////////
30 // So we will allocate the amount of memory we want
    • to allocate using new – where we compute the length
    • of the first name and the last name,
31 const char* Combine(const char* pfirst, const char*
    • pSecond)
32 {
33     char* fullname = new char[strlen(pfirst) +
    • strlen(pSecond)];
34     // now this should work.
35     strcpy(fullname, pfirst);
36     strcpy(fullname, pSecond);
37     return fullname; // This should work! why?
    • Because we created memory on the heap, which
    • goes beyond the lifetime of a function.
38 }
39 // With the same main(), this would compile. We
    • allocated memory on the heap, but we need to
    • deallocate it somewhere else. So we need to
    • deallocate it in main().
40 int main(){
41     char first[10];
42     char last[10];
43     std::cin.getline(first,10);
44     std::cin.getline(last, 10);
45     const char* fullname = Combine(first, last);
46     std::cout << fullname << endl;
47     // If we look at this from main(), we don't know
    • whether it is pointed to a character or a
    • string.
48     // So we'll have to go into the Combine()
    • function and see how memory has allocated.
49     delete []fullname; // delete with the subscript.
50     return 0;
51 }
52
53 // So you have to remember all these minor details

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- while writing your code.

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54 // And it is possible that you'll forget some of
    • these details.
55
56 // when you run this in debug mode however, the
    • program crashes. The reason for this is when you
    • allocate memory for the combined string you also
    • need to allocate one extra byte for the null
    • terminating character.
57 // strcpy and strcat() automatically append a null
    • terminating character at the end of the string,
    • regardless of whether memory is available or not.
    • in our case, since we did not allocate memory for
    • the null terminator, these functions will cause a
    • BUFFER OVERFLOW, and this is the cause of the crash
    • when we try to free the memory because the runtime
    • detects that the memory is corrupted.
58 // so we need to allocate 1 byte extra, so we start
    • again in debug mode, and it works again without any
    • errors.
59 const char* Combine(const char* pfirst, const char*
    • pSecond)
60 {
61     char* fullname = new char[strlen(pfirst) +
    • strlen(pSecond)+1]; // for the null terminating
    • character.
62     // now this should work.
63     strcpy(fullname, pfirst);
64     strcat(fullname, pSecond);
65     return fullname; // This should work! why?
    • Because we created memory on the heap, which
    • goes beyond the lifetime of a function.
66 }
67
68 // this is why C++ has a class for strings – they are
    • objects, and we'll use them in the next video,
    • because C strings are just error prone.
69
70
71 /////////////// Lecture 84: Strings II – std::string
72 #include <string>
73 // The string class has many constructor, it provides

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- a default constructor, copy constructor,
- constructor through which the string object can be
- initialised with a raw string and other
- constructors.

74

75 // initialise and assign:

76 std::string s; // s will be empty – this will invoke

- the parameterised constructor for the string. You
- can either initialise it like this and you may
- assign the string to it later

77 s = "Hi!"; // the assignment operator is overloaded

- to accept a raw string.

78

79 //Access

80 // Individual elements

81 s[0] = 'w'; // overloaded subscript operator

82 char ch = s[1];

83

84 // If you would like to print the string on the

- console, you can directly do it.

85 std::cout << s << std::endl;

86 std::cin >> s ; // cin will stop reading once it

- encounters the first space.

87 // If you would like to read the entire line, then

- there is a global function called getline() that
- takes the stream and the string object.

88 std::getline(std::cin, s); // stream is std::cin,

- string object is s.

89 // Note that the count of characters does not need to

- be specified.

90

91 // Size functions

92

93 // If you would like to know how many characters are

- inside the string object, you can use the method
- length()

94 // Here's one advantage of the string class compared

- to a raw string – if you would need the length of a
- raw string and if you need a length of a string
- object, the string object will be faster because it
- CACHES the string length.

95 // So querying the length will take constant time:

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96 s.length();
97
98 // Compared to
99 strlen(s.c_str()); // which would take LINEAR time
100
101 // Insert and concatenate
102 // The + operator is overloaded for concatenation of
    • 2 strings, as well as the += operator.
103 std::string s1{"Hello"}, s2{"World"};
104 s = s1 + s2; // this feels more natural, the +
    • operator is going to concatenate s1 and s2 and the
    • result would be stored in s.
105
106 // If you want to add string to an existing string
    • object, you can use the += operator.
107 s += s1;
108
109 // There is a method called "insert()" you can decide
    • where the string should be inserted into the target
    • string, so we can use insert() and it has a lot of
    • overloads, so we use the one that inserts a string
    • at a specific position.
110 // So the first argument maybe the position – like 6
    • and the next argument is a string. This takes O(n)
    • time.
111 s.insert(6,"Hello world!"); // index of insertion,
    • raw string
112
113 // Comparison
114 if (s1 != s2) {}
115
116 // Removal
117 s.erase(0,5); // this will erase the first 5
    • characters of the string.
118 s.clear(); // clears the entire string.
119
120 // Search
121 auto pos = s.find("World", 0); // finds a substring
    • within a given string.
122 // Substring, index to start searching from, so if
    • you put index 0 it will search the whole string.
123 // If it is not able to find it. it will output an

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123 // If it is not able to find it, it will output an
    • 'npos' constant, which has a value of -1.
124 if (pos != std::string::npos){
125     // Substring found
126 }
127
128
129
130 /// Initialising Strings
131 std::string first1 = "Umar";
132 std::string last1("Lone");
133 std::string name{"Umar Lone"}; // PREFERRED (C++11)
134
135 // There is no difference between these 3 styles of
    • initialisation, but you should always prefer direct
    • initialisation.
136 // C and C++ already have a feature where you can
    • prefix or suffix a character to a type, and this
    • character is called a literal.
137 // it simply changes the meaning of the value.
138
139 // for example, if I want to create an unsigned
    • integer type, I would initialise it like this.
140
141 unsigned int value = 100u; // this 'u' is a literal
    • and there are other types also where you can prefix
    • and suffix literals. C++11 added the ability of
    • creating custom literals, and in C++14, the
    • standard added literals for some library types.
142
143
144 // std::string name2 = "Umar Lone"s; // this
    • initialisation isn't valid yet, this 's' is a
    • literal, and it is defined inside the standard
    • library, but to use it, you have to open its
    • corresponding namespace.
145
146 // So something like this:
147 using namespace std::string_literals; // this line is
    • needed!!
148 std::string name2 = "Umar Lone"s; // this literal is
    • actually a FUNCTION, and that FUNCTION accepts this
    • type as an argument and initialises a string object

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-      type as an argument and initialises a string object
•      and returns that as the return value.
149
150 // I can further reduce the syntactic noise here
•      using auto.
151 auto name2 = "Umar Lone"s;
152
153 // You can create literals for your own user defined
•      types, but this will be covered in a future lecture.
154
```