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1 // Lecture 49: Copy Constructor II
2 #include <iostream>
3 // So the problem is due to the copying of pointers.
4 // Why does this occur? If we allocate memory for a
5 • pointer and we want to create a copy of the pointer,
6 class Integer {
7     int *m_pInt; // pointer as member
8 public:
9     Integer(); // default
10    Integer(int value); //parameterised
11    // Copy constructor
12    Integer(const Integer &obj); // you should pass
13    • this object by reference and NOT by value. If
14    • you pass this obj by value, then again the copy
15    • of this object will get created and that would
16    • invoke the copy constructor again.
17    // So this call will go in a loop, and to avoid
18    • that, we have to pass this by reference.
19    // Because we are passing this object by
20    • reference, to avoid the modification of the
21    • original object in this function, we should
22    • qualify the integer object with the const
23    • keyword.
24
25    // In most of the cases, when objects are passed
26    • by reference into functions they are always
27    • qualified with const.
28
29    //
30    int GetValue()const; // gets
31    void SetValue(int value); // set
32    ~Integer(); // destructor – free the memory
33    • allocated for the integer pointer.
34
35 };
36
37 // Implementation
38 Integer::Integer() {
39     std::cout << "Integer()" << std::endl;
40     m_pInt = new int(0); // default
41 }
42
43

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30 Integer::Integer(int value) {
31     std::cout << "Integer(int)" << std::endl;
32     m_pInt = new int(value); /
33 }
34
35 // Copy Constructor!!
36 Integer::Integer(const Integer & obj) {
37     std::cout << "Integer(const Integer&)" <<
    •     std::endl;
38     // Store the integer in the new address
39     m_pInt = new int(*obj.m_pInt);
40 }
41
42
43 int Integer::GetValue() const {
44     return *m_pInt;
45 }
46
47 void Integer::SetValue(int value) {
48     *m_pInt = value;
49 }
50
51 Integer::~Integer() {
52     std::cout << "~Integer()" << std::endl;
53     delete m_pInt;
54 }
55 // Case 2: Copy of the object is created because we
    •     are passing by value.
56 void Print(Integer i){}
57
58 // Case 3: copy of the object is created because we
    •     are returning by value.
59 Integer Add(int x, int y){ return Integer(x+y);}
60 // Driver code
61 // So the problem is due to the copying of pointers.
62 // Why does this occur? If we allocate memory for a
    •     pointer and we want to create a copy of the pointer,
63 int main(void)
64 {
65     int *p1 = new int(5);
66     // this is called a shallow copy
67     // If you create a copy like this, it will only

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- copy the ADDRESS, so any change that we make to
- p1 or p2 is going to reflect in all other
- pointers that hold the same address.

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68 // This is called a SHALLOW COPY.
69 int *p2 = p1;
70
71 // To create a DEEP COPY, allocate new memory and
  • then copy the value at the address
72 int*p3 = new int(*p1);
73
74 Integer i (5); // creates an integer i
75 // Creating a DEEP COPY is what we'll have to do
  • in the integer class and this means that we have
  • to define a copy constructor.
76 // The copy of the object is created when you
  • invoke the copy constructor like this
77 Integer i2(i);
78 // or when the object is passed into a function by
  • value, or when a function returns an object by
  • value.
79
80 // A copy also gets created when one object is
  • assigned to another object – so if I assigned i2
  • to i – like so:
81 i = i2; // this also creates a copy through copy
  • assignment even though we have not provided any
  • assignment operator in our class, the compiler
  • synthesised one for us, just like it did for
  • the copy constructor and the default
  • implementation of this assignment operator will
  • perform a shallow copy of the state of i2 into
  • i. We'll see in subsequent lectures how to
  • implement this assignment operator and perform a
  • deep copy. In all these cases, the copy of the
  • object is created.
82
83 // In C++, we try to avoid creating copies of an
  • object but in some cases we cannot avoid. So to
  • avoid the problems due to shallow copy we have
  • to implement a user defined copy constructor.
84

```