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1
2 // Lecture 61: Operator Overloading II -
  • Assignment Operator
3 // main.cpp
4 int main(){
5     Integer a(1), b(3);
6     Integer c;
7     c = a; // this will create a shallow copy if we
  • did not overload the assignment operator.
8     // we have already seen examples of this in
  • Section 5.
9     // Create a copy assignment operator overload, to
  • prevent shallow copying.
10 }
11
12 // Copy Assignment operator overload
13 // integer.h
14 class Integer{
15 public:
16     ...
17     Integer & operator =(const Integer &a);
18 }
19 //Integer.cpp
20 Integer & operator =(const Integer &a){
21     delete m_pInt; // First delete the memory for
  • the existing object. otherwise this will cause
  • a memory leak.
22     m_pInt = new int (*a.m_pInt); // Then we allocate
  • new memory and we assign the value from the
  • other object.
23     return *this; // Finally, return the current
  • object, because *this is not local we can
  • return this by reference.
24 }
25
26 // There is a small bug though - what if the variable
  • is assigned to itself?
27 int main()
28 {
29     Integer a(1);
30     a = a;
31     ...

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32     }
33     // So if you do this, you get some garbage value –
    • why? Because the first thing you do is that you
    • delete the pointer. consequently you find yourself
    • with undefined values.
34     // So the first thing you need to do in an assignment
    • operator is to check for self assignment:
35     Integer & operator =(const Integer &a)
36     {
37         if (this != &a) // only do the following if the
    • addresses are different.
38         {
39             delete m_pInt;
40             m_pInt = new int...;
41         }
42         // otherwise simply return the current object.
43     }
44
45     // Let's finish this video with the Rule of 5.
46     // Overloading move assignment
47     // integer.h
48     Integer & operator =(Integer && a);
49
50     // integer.cpp
51     Integer & Integer::operator=(Integer && a){
52         if (this != &a){
53             delete m_pInt;
54             m_pInt = a.m_pInt;
55             // Assign null to the pointer of the other
    • object – DON'T FORGET!
56             a.m_pInt = nullptr;
57         }
58         return *this;
59     }
60
61     //////////// Lecture 62: Operator Overloading III –
    • Global Overloads
62
63     // okay so this works because of type conversion.
    • Just understand that this works for now.
64     int main(){
65         Integer a(1), b(3);

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66 // It is possible to replace the second operand
  • with a primitive type.
67 Integer sum = a + 5; // This still works because
  • this integer gets converted into an Integer
  • object through a process called type conversion
  • (KIV – Lecture 67).
68
69 Integer sum2 = 5 + a; // This doesn't work :( Why?
70 // As a member function, the operator overload
  • will be invoked by the object on the left hand
  • side. For the second expression who will invoke
  • this plus(+) operator, because the object on
  • the LHS is NOT an integer object, so the
  • program cannot run.
71
72 // So, if the first operand of an overloaded
  • operator HAS to be a primitive type then the
  • operator should be overloaded as a global
  • function. Overload this as a global function –
  • overload this as an integer, and the second
  • would be an integer object.
73 // Something like this --> see below
74 }
75 Integer operator+(int x, const Integer &y){
76     Integer temp;
77     temp.SetValue(x + y.GetValue());
78     return temp;
79 }
80 // Overloading the bitshift (<<) operator:
81 // The insertion operator is found in the ostream
  • class and we cannot touch that class to overload
  • the operator for our type. That's why you'll have
  • to overload this as a global function:
82 std::ostream & operator << (std::ostream &out, const
  • Integer &a) // should not be constant because we
  • have to insert the value of the integer into this
  • object.
83 {
84     out << a.GetValue();
85     return out;
86 }
87 // this expression is resolved as, the compiler

```

- invokes the call to operator insertion, cout is
- passed as an argument and then sum is passed as an
- argument. this entire expression returns an ostream
- object and that invokes in operator insertion and
- the endl manipulator is passed as well.

88

89 //We caan alsoverload the extraction operator for our

- class, so that we can directly write an expression
- like this:

90

91 `int main(){`

92 `Integer a;`

93 `cin >> a; // extraction operator overloaded.`

94 `}`

95

96 // let's implement the extraction operator overload:

97 // Return type would be istream by reference.

98 `std::istream& operator >> (std::istream &input,`

- `Integer &a){`

99 `int x;`

100 `input >> x;`

101 `return input; // Read and write directly to a.`

102 `}`

103

104 /// Overloading the Function Call Operator:

105 // Very useful operator, used extensively in STL.

106 // We can overload this operator to perform any

- operation that we want on the object.

107

108 // In integer.h, define the overload.

109 `void operator () (); // this operator can accept any`

- number of arguments.

110

111 // In integer.cpp, implement:

112 `void Integer::operator() (){`

113 `std::cout << *m_pInt << std::endl;`

114 `return 0;`

115 `}`

116

117 // In main.cpp, this is how you invoke functon calls

- – It can be used with templates to implement
- callbacks. (KIV – Section on Templates)

```
118     int main(){
119         Integer a(1), b(3);
120         a(); // --> this prints the object!
121         std::cin >> a;
122         std::cout << a << std::endl;
123     }
124
```