

## Assignment for the laboratory work № 4. “The STL vector container, function objects”

In this laboratory, it is necessary to develop a database as a part of some e-mail system, which could store and display the required data.

First of all, class *Email* must be developed to keep information about a received letter: sender's name ("who"), date of receiving ("date"), and a "subject". These data members should be of type *string*. Class *Email* should contain a combined constructor, overloaded friend operator `<<`, as well as three friend function-like classes (structures): *CompWhoDateSubject*, *CompDateWhoSubject*, *CompSubjectWhoDate*, objects of which will be used in the STL *sort* algorithm. Each of these classes has only one member function - overloaded function call operator `()` returning a **bool** value. Such an operator takes and compares two parameters of type *Email*, say, *lhs* and *rhs*, i. e., it's a binary predicate. The comparing algorithm should be a multi-level one (cascaded). For example, for the class *CompWhoDateSubject*, we need first to compare lexicographically "who" data members of the objects *lhs* and *rhs*. If we choose an ascending order, the operation

```
lhs.who < rhs.who;
```

must return **true**. However, we should also consider a situation when

```
lhs.who == rhs.who;
```

and compare the data members "date". If "date"s are equal too, we should compare the data members "subject". That is, if we have two *Email* objects:

```
a("Anders", "2002-02-28", "lab 1"),  
b("Anders", "2002-02-28", "lab 2"),
```

the call of *CompWhoDateSubject* returns **true** if *a* is *lhs* and *b* is *rhs*, i.e., *a* is less than *b*.

A nested **if/else** structure can be used for the multi-level comparing, or logical operators `||` and `&&` may be used.

Secondly, a class *MailBox* must be defined, it should include as a private data member the STL vector container of type *Email*. The *MailBox*'s combined constructor must initialize its member, calling vector's parameterized constructor of 1<sup>st</sup> type that produces a sequence of *n* elements. An access function enabling both vector's reading and writing should also be defined.

The class *MailBox* must also contain three member functions - *SortWho*, *SortDate*, and *SortSubject*, each of them sorts the vector by calling the STL *sort* algorithm with a corresponding binary predicate - a function object of class *CompWhoDateSubject*, etc.

In order to display the *MailBox*'s vector in the *main*, a global function template *Show* should be created that takes a reference to a **const** vector's object.

In the *main*, create a *MailBox*'s object with 3 vector's elements by default, fill in it with 5 *Email*'s messages and test it.