

Qt in Education

Datatypes Collections and Files













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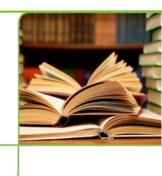


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Managing text



 Simple C strings are handy, but limited to your local character encoding

```
char *text = "Hello world!";
```

- The QString class attempts to be the modern string class
 - Unicode and codecs
 - Implicit sharing for performance



QString

 Stores Unicode strings capable of representing almost all writing systems in use today

Supports conversion from and to different local encodings

```
QString::toLatin1 - QString::toLocal8Bit
```

Provides a convenient API for string inspection and modification



Building Strings



- There are three main methods for building strings
- The operator+ method

```
QString res = "Hello " + name +
    ", the value is " + QString::number(42);
```

The QStringBuilder method

The arg method



QStringBuilder

- Using the + operator to join strings results in numerous memory allocations and checks for string lengths
- A better way to do it is to include QStringBuilder and use the % operator
- The string builder collects all lengths before joining all strings in one go, resulting in one memory allocation

```
QString res = "Hello " % name %
    ", the value is %" % QString::number(42);
```

```
QString temp = "Hello ";
temp = temp % name;
temp = temp % ", the value is %"
temp = temp % OString::number(42);
```

Joining strings in small steps will cost you in performance



QString::arg

The arg method replaces %1-99 with values

```
"%1 + %2 = %3, the sum is %3"

All instances of %n are replaced
```

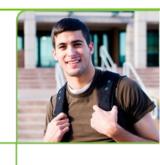
Can handle strings, chars, integers and floats

Can convert between number bases

```
...).arg(value, width, base, fillChar);
...).arg(42, 3, 16, QChar('0')); // Results in 02a
```



Substrings



Access substrings using left, right and mid

```
QString s = "Hello world!";
r = s.left(5); // "Hello"
r = s.right(1); // "!"
r = s.mid(6,5); // "world"
```

 By not specifying a length to mid, the rest of the string is returned

```
r = s.mid(6); // "world!"
```

Use replace to search and replace in strings

```
r = s.replace("world", "universe"); // "Hello universe!"
```



Printing to the console



- Qt is a toolkit primarily for visual applications, i.e. not focused on command line interfaces
- To print, use the qDebug function
 - It is always available, but can be silenced when building for release
 - Works like the printf function (but appends "\n")
 - Using the qPrintable macro, it is easy to print QString texts

```
qDebug("Integer value: %d", 42);
qDebug("String value: %s", qPrintable(myQString));
```

Can be used with streaming operators when QtDebug is included

```
#include <QtDebug>

qDebug() << "Integer value:" << 42;
qDebug() << "String value:" << myQString;
qDebug() << "Complex value:" << myQColor;</pre>
```



From and to numbers



Converting from numbers to strings

```
QString::number(int value, int base=10);
QString twelve = QString::number(12); // "12"
QString oneTwo = QString::number(0x12, 16); // "12"

QString::number(double value, char format='g', int precision=6);
QString piAuto = QString::number(M_PI); // "3.14159"
QString piScientific = QString::number(M_PI,'e'); // "3.141593e+00"
QString piFixedDecimal = QString::number(M_PI,'f',2); // "3.14"
```

Converting from string to value

Cannot handle thousand group separators

```
bool ok;
QString i = "12";
int value = i.toInt(&ok);
if(ok) {
    // Converted ok
}
bool ok;
QString d = "12.36e-2";
double value = d.toDouble(&ok);
if(ok) {
    // Converted ok
}
```



Working with std::(w)string



- Converting from and to STL's strings come handy when interfacing third party libraries and other code
- Converting from STL strings

```
std::string ss = "Hello world!";
std::wstring sws = "Hello world!";

QString qss = QString::fromStdString(ss);
QString qsws = QString::fromStdWString(sws);
```

Assumes ASCII

Converting to STL strings

```
QString qs = "Hello world!";
std::string ss = qs.toStdString();
std::wstring sws = qs.toStdWString();
```



Empty and null strings

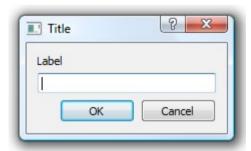


 A QString can be null, i.e. contain nothing

```
QString n = QString();
n.isNull(); // true
n.isEmpty(); // true
```

This is useful for passing no string, compared to an empty string.

See QInputDialog::getText - returns a null string on Cancel.

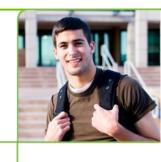


It can also be empty, i.e. contain an empty string

```
QString e = "";
e.isNull(); // false
e.isEmpty(); // true
```



Splitting and joining



A QString can be split into sub-strings

```
QString whole = "Stockholm - Copenhagen - Oslo - Helsinki";
QStringList parts = whole.split(" - ");
```

 The resulting object is a QStringList, which can be joined together to form a QString

```
QString wholeAgain = parts.join(", ");
   // Results in "Stockholm, Copenhagen, Oslo, Helsinki"
```



QStringList

- The QStringList is a specialized list type
- Designed for holding strings

Provides a convenient API for working with the strings in the list

- The class uses implicit sharing
 - Copies on modification
 - Cheap to pass as value



Building and modifying string lists

Use the << operator to add strings to string lists

```
QStringList verbs;
verbs = "running" << "walking" << "compiling" << "linking";</pre>
```

• The replaceInStrings method lets you search and replace within all strings of a QStringList.

```
qDebug() << verbs; // ("running", "walking", "compiling", "linking")
verbs.replaceInStrings("ing", "er");
qDebug() << verbs; // ("runner", "walker", "compiler", "linker")</pre>
```



Building and modifying string lists

Use the << operator to add strings to string lists

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QStringList verbs;
verbs = "running" << "walking" << "compiling" << "linking";</pre>
```

• The replaceInStrings method lets you search and replace within all strings of a QStringList.

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verbs.replaceInStrings("ing", "er");
qDebug() << verbs; // ("runner", "walker", "compiler", "linker")</pre>
```



Sorting and Filtering

A QStringList can be sorted...

```
qDebug() << capitals; // ("Stockholm", "Oslo", "Helsinki", "Copenhagen")
capitals.sort();
qDebug() << capitals; // ("Copenhagen", "Helsinki", "Oslo", "Stockholm")</pre>
```

• ...filtered...

Case sensitive by default

```
QStringList capitalsWith0 = capitals.filter("o");
qDebug() << capitalsWith0; // ("Copenhagen", "Oslo", "Stockholm")</pre>
```

…and cleaned for duplicate entries



Iterating over the strings

 Using the operator[] and length function, you can iterate over the contents of a QStringList

```
QStringList capitals;
for(int i=0; i<capitals.length(); ++i)
    qDebug() << capitals[i];</pre>
```

- Another option is to use the at() function which provides read-only access to the list items
- The at() function also avoids copying the data of the string, which operator[] does
- You can also use the foreach macro

```
QStringList capitals;
foreach(const QString &city, capitals)
    qDebug() << city;</pre>
```



Qt's Collections



- The interface of QStringList is not unique to the string list.
 QStringList is derived from QList<QString>
- QList is one of many of Qt's container template classes
 - QLinkedList quick insert in the middle, access through iterators
 - QVector uses continous memory, slow inserts
 - QStack LIFO, last in first out
 - QQueue FIFO, first in first out
 - QSet unique values
 - QMap associative array, sorted by key
 - QHash associative array, faster than QMap, but requires hash
 - QMultiMap associative array with multiple values per key
 - QMultiHash associative array with multiple values per key

Slow or fast relative to QList which will be our reference and benchmark



Populating



You can populate a QList using the << operator

```
QList<int> fibonacci;
fibonacci << 0 << 1 << 1 << 2 << 3 << 5 << 8;
```

 The methods prepend, insert and append can also be used

```
QList<int> list;
list.append(2); list.append(4); list.insert(1,3); list.prepend(1);
```

index 0: **2**

index 0: **2** index 1: **4**

index 0: **2**index 1: **3**index 2: **4**

index 0: **1**index 1: **2**index 2: **3**index 3: **4**



Removing

 Remove item from a QList using removeFirst, removeAt, removeLast

```
while(!list.isEmpty())
    list.removeFirst();
```

Remove simply removes – good for value types

To take an item, use takeFirst, takeAt, takeLast

```
QList<QWidget*> widgets;
widgets << new QWidget << new QWidget;
while(!widgets.isEmpty())
    delete widgets.takeFirst();</pre>
```

Take removes and returns – good for pointers and when you need the value

 For removing items with a specific value, use removeAll or removeOne

```
QList<int> list;
list << 1 << 2 << 3 << 1 << 2 << 3;
list.removeAll(2); // Leaves 1, 3, 1, 3</pre>
```



Accessing

- The indexes of items in a QList are in the range 0 length-1
- Individual list items can be accessed using at or the [] operator. value can be used if you can accept out of bound indexes.

```
for(int i=0; i<list.length(); ++i)
    qDebug("At: %d, []: %d", list.at(i), list[i]);

for(int i=0; i<100; ++i)
    qDebug("Value: %d", list.value(i));

Returns the default-
    constructed value
    when the index is
    out of range</pre>
```

• The [] operator returns a modifiable reference

```
for(int i=0; i<list.length(); ++i)
    list[i]++;</pre>
```



Iterating – Java style



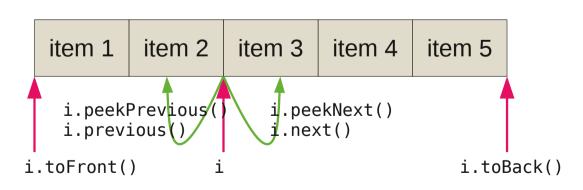
Qt supports Java style iterators

Both return a value and step to the next position of the list

```
OListIterator<int> iter(list);
    while(iter.hasNext())
        qDebug("Item: %d", iter.next());
```

Use a QMutableListIterator if you need to modify the items

- Java style iterators point between entries
 - toFront places the iterator in front of the first item
 - toBack places the iterator after the last item
 - Refer to items using peekNext and peekPrevious
 - Move to items using next or previous





Iterating – STL style

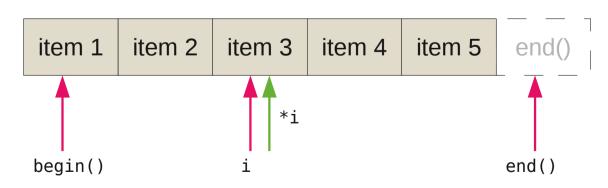
Qt supports STL style iterators

Use an Iterator if you need to modify the items

```
for(QList<int>::const_iterator iter=list.begin();
  iter!=list.end(); ++iter)
  qDebug("Item: %d", *iter);

Both Qt and STL naming can be
  used. Iterator|iterator and
  ConstIterator|const_iterator
```

- STL iterators point at each item, and use invalid items as end markers
 - The first item is returned by begin
 - The end marker is returned by end
 - The * operator refers to the item value



When iterating backwards you must move the operator before accessing



Iterating for the lazy

To iterate over a whole collection, use foreach

```
QStringList texts;
foreach(QString text, texts)
    doSomething(text);
```

Using const references helps improve performance. Not using it, still does not let you change the content of the list

```
QStringList texts;
foreach(const QString &text, texts)
    doSomething(text);
```

Caveat! Make sure to copy the list when it is returned by value

```
const QList<int> sizes = splitter->sizes();
QList<int>::const_iterator i;
for(i=sizes.begin(); i!=sizes.end(); ++i)
    processSize(*i);
```

Copying is cheap thanks to implicit sharing



Interacting with STL



 A QList can be converted to and from the corresponding std::list

```
QList<int> list;
list << 0 << 1 << 2 << 3 << 5 << 8 << 13;
From Qt list to
std::list<int> stlList = list.toStdList();

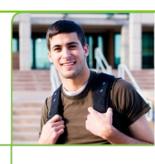
QList<int> otherList = QList<int>::fromStdList(stlList);
```

From STL list to Qt list

 Converting from and to STL means doing a deep copy of the list's contents – no implicit sharing takes place



Other collections



 What are the alternatives to QList and how do they compare to QList

- QLinkedList
 - Slow when using indexed access
 - Fast when using iterators
 - Fast (constant time) insertion into the middle of the list
- QVector
 - Uses continuous memory
 - Slow inserts and prepending



Other collections

Collection	Index access	Insert	Prepend	Append
QList	O(1)	O(n)	Amort. O(1)	Amort. O(1)
QLinkedList	O(n)	O(1)	O(1)	O(1)
QVector	O(1)	O(n)	O(n)	Amort. O(1)

- Notice that amortized behavior means unpredictable times in real-time setting
- Other collections
 - QStringList based on QList
 - QStack based on QVector
 - QQueue based on QList
 - QSet based on QHash

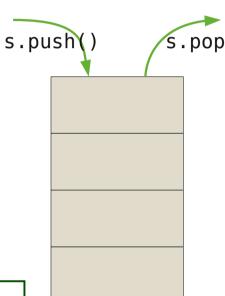


Special cases - QStack



- A stack if a LIFO container last in, first out
- Items are pushed onto the stack
- Items are popped off the stack
- The top item can be seen using top()

```
QStack<int> stack;
stack.push(1);
stack.push(2);
stack.push(3);
qDebug("Top: %d", stack.top()); // 3
qDebug("Pop: %d", stack.pop()); // 3
qDebug("Pop: %d", stack.pop()); // 2
qDebug("Pop: %d", stack.pop()); // 1
qDebug("isEmpty? %s", stack.isEmpty()?"yes":"no");
```

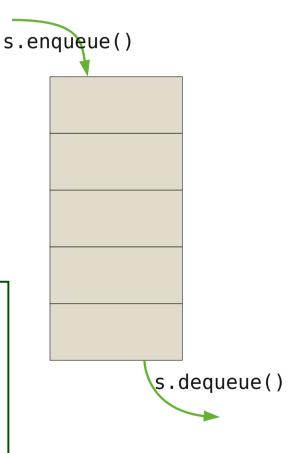




Special Cases - QQueue

- A queue is a FIFO container first in, first out
- Items are enqueued into the queue
- Items are dequeued from the queue
- The first item can be seen using head()

```
QQueue<int> queue;
queue.enqueue(1);
queue.enqueue(2);
queue.enqueue(3);
qDebug("Head: %d", queue.head()); // 1
qDebug("Pop: %d", queue.dequeue()); // 1
qDebug("Pop: %d", queue.dequeue()); // 2
qDebug("Pop: %d", queue.dequeue()); // 3
qDebug("isEmpty? %s", queue.isEmpty()?"yes":"no");
```





Special cases - QSet

- A set contains values, but only one instance of each value.
- It is possible to determine if a value is a part of the set or not

```
QSet<int> primes;
primes << 2 << 3 << 5 << 7 << 11 << 13;
for(int i=1; i<=10; ++i)
    qDebug("%d is %sprime", i, primes.contains(i)?"":"not ");</pre>
```

You can also iterate over a set, to see all values

```
foreach(int prime, primes)
    qDebug("Prime: %d", prime);
```

It is possible to convert a QList to a QSet

```
QList<int> list;
list << 1 << 2 << 2 << 2 << 3 << 3 << 5;
QSet<int> set = list.toSet();
qDebug() << list; // (1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 5)
qDebug() << set; // (1, 2, 3, 5)</pre>
```



Key-value collections



The QMap and QHash classes let you create associative arrays

```
QHash<QString, int> hash;

hash["Helsinki"] = 1310755;
hash["Oslo"] = 1403268;
hash["Copenhagen"] = 1892233;
hash["Stockholm"] = 2011047;

foreach(const QString &key, hash.keys())
    qDebug("%s", qPrintable(key));
```



Using QMap

 The QMap class requires an operator< to be defined for the key type

This operator is used to keep the keys in order

Populating is done using operator[] or insert

```
map["Stockholm"] = 2011047;
map.insert("London", 13945000);
```

• For reading, use value combined with contains

Optional default value. If not specified a default constructed value is returned.



Hashing

- QMap uses keys of the type that are given in the template
- QHash uses uint values
- The key type is hashed to a uint value

- Working with uint values potentially improves performance
- Hashed values mean that keys are not sorted
- The hash function must be designed to avoid collisions to achieve good performance



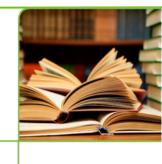
Using QHash

 The key type must provide a qHash function and operator== to QHash

Populating and reading is identical to QMap



Multiple values per key



• QMultiMap and QMultiHash provide associative arrays supporting multiple values per key

```
QMultiMap<QString,int> multiMap;
                                                                QMap and QHash support
There is no
                                                               this too using insertMulti
          nuccinap.insert("primes", 2);
 []. use
          nultiMap.insert("primes", 3);
 insert
          multiMap.insert("primes", 5);
                                                        keys repeat each key for each value,
          multiMap.insert("fibonacci", 8);
                                                        use uniqueKeys to get each key once
          multiMap.insert("fibonacci", 13);
          foreach(const QString &key, multiMap.uniqueKeys())
              QList<int> values = multiMap.values(key);
                                                                 value returns the last insert
              QStringList temp;
                                                                 for each key, values return
              foreach(int value, values)
                                                                 a list of all values for the key
                   temp << QString::number(value);</pre>
              qDebug("%s: %s", qPrintable(key), qPrintable(temp.join(",")));
```



Break



Qt type definitions



 C++ does not define the size of types strictly across platforms

ARM = 4 bytes x86 = 4 bytes IA64 = 8 bytes Depends on CPU architecture, operating system, compiler, etc

 For cross platform code it is important to define all types in a strict manner



Cross platform types

Туре	Size	Minimum value	Maximum value
uint8	1 byte	0	255
uint16	2 bytes	0	65 535
uint32	4 bytes	0	4 294 967 295
uint64	8 bytes	0	18 446 744 073 709 551 615
int8	1 byte	-128	127
int16	2 bytes	-32 768	32 767
int32	4 bytes	-2 147 483 648	2 147 483 647
int64	8 bytes	-9 223 372 036 854 775 808	9 223 372 036 854 775 807
quintptr	"pointer sized"	n/a	n/a
qptrdiff	"pointer sized"	n/a	n/a
qreal	fast real values	n/a	n/a

All types are defined in the <QtGlobal> header



Qt complex types

Qt comes with a range of complex classes and types

```
QColor

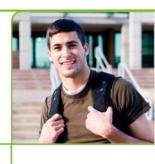
QString QRect QPen
QBrush
QSize

QPoint QImage
QPixmap

QByteArray
```



QVariant



 Sometimes, you want to be able to return any type through a generic interface

```
const QVariant &data(int index);
void setData(const QVariant &data, int index);
```

Data can be a string, a picture, a color, a brush an integer value, etc

- The QVariant class can be treated as a union
 - It would be impossible to create a union of Qt types as unions require default constructors
 - The variant class can contain custom complex types, e.g. QColor belongs to QtGui, QVariant to QtCore – unions cannot be extended with more types once they have been declared



Using QVariant

The basic types are handled using the constructor and to Type methods

```
QVariant v;
int i = 42;
qDebug() << "Before:" << i; // Before: 42
v = i;
i = v.toInt();
qDebug() << "After:" << i; // After: 42</pre>
```

 Non-QtCore types, such as custom types, are handled using the setValue method and templated value<type> method

```
QVariant v;
QColor c(Qt::red);
qDebug() << "Before:" << c; // Before: QColor(ARGB 1, 1, 0, 0)
v.setValue(c);
c = v.value<QColor>(); // After: QColor(ARGB 1, 1, 0, 0)
qDebug() << "After:" << c;</pre>
```



A custom complex type



We implement a trivial class holding a person's name and age

```
class Person
public:
    Person():
    Person(const Person &);
    Person(const QString &, int);
    const QString &name() const;
    int age() const;
    void setName(const QString &);
    void setAge(int);
    bool isValid() const;
private:
    OString m name;
    int m age;
};
```

Does not have to be a QObject.

```
Person::Person() : m_age(-1) {}

...

void Person::setAge(int a)
{
    m_age = a;
}

bool Person::isValid() const
{
    return (m_age >= 0);
}
```



QVariant with Person

 Attempting to pass a Person object through a QVariant object fails

```
qmetatype.h:200: error: 'qt_metatype_id' is not a member of 'QMetaTypeId<Person>'
```

Declaring the type in the meta-type system solves this

```
class Person
{
    ...
};

Q_DECLARE_METATYPE(Person)
#endif // PERSON_H
```



QVariant with Person

 When the type is registered as a meta type, Qt can store it in a QVariant

```
QVariant var;
var.setValue(Person("Ole", 42));
Person p = var.value<Person>();
qDebug("%s, %d", qPrintable(p.name()), p.age());
```

- Requirements for declared types
 - Public default constructor
 - Public copy constructor
 - Public destructor



And then it breaks...

- When working with signals and slots, most connections are direct
 - With direct connections, the type works
 - There are queued connections, i.e. non-blocking, asynchronous where the type does not work (e.g. across thread boundaries)

```
connect(src, SIGNAL(), dest, SLOT(), Qt::QueuedConnection);
...
QObject::connect: Cannot queue arguments of type 'Person'
(Make sure 'Person' is registered using qRegisterMetaType().)
```

Error message is printed at run-time



Registering the type

- The error message tells us what it needed
- The qRegisterMetaType function must be called before the connection is made (usually from main)

```
int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    qRegisterMetaType<Person>();
    ...
```



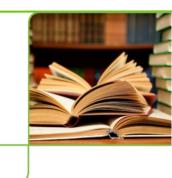
Files and file systems



- Referring to files and directories in a cross platform manner poses a number of problems
 - Does the system have drives, or just a root?
 - Are paths separated by "/" or "\"?
 - Where does the system store temporary files?
 - Where does the user store documents?
 - Where is the application stored?



Paths



Use the QDir class to handle paths

```
QDir d = QDir("C:/");
```

Learn to use the static methods to initialize

```
QDir d = QDir::root(); // C:/ on windows

QDir::current() // Current directory
QDir::home() // Home directory
QDir::temp() // Temporary directory

// Executable directory path
QDir(QApplication::applicationDirPath())
```



Finding directory contents

The entryInfoList returns a list of information for the directory contents

```
QFileInfoList infos = QDir::root().entryInfoList();
foreach(const QFileInfo &info, infos)
    qDebug("%s", qPrintable(info.fileName()));
```

Lists files and directories in arbitrary order.

You can add filters to skip files or directories

QDir::Dirs
ODir::Files

QDir::NoSymLinks

Dirs, files or symbolic links?

QDir::Readable
QDir::Writable
ODir::Executable

Which files?

QDir::Hidden
QDir::System

Hidden files? System files?



Finding directory contents

You can also specify sort order

QDir::Name
QDir::Time
QDir::Size
QDir::Type

QDir::DirsFirst Dirs before or QDir::DirsLast after files

ODir::Reversed

Reverse order

Filter

Order

• Listing all directories from the home directory ordered by name

```
QFileInfoList infos =
    QDir::root().entryInfoList(QDir::Dirs, QDir::Name);
foreach(const QFileInfo &info, infos)
    qDebug("%s", qPrintable(info.fileName()));
```



Finding directory content

Finally, you can add name filters

All cpp and h files



QFileInfo



- Each QFileInfo object has a number of methods
 - absoluteFilePath full path to item

Great for creating new QDir objects when traversing.

- isDir / isFile / isRoot type of item
- isWriteable / isReadable / isExecutable permission for file

```
absolutePath path fileName

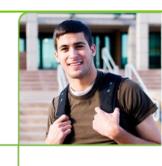
/home/john/the-archive.tar.gz

baseName suffix

completeSuffix
```



Opening and reading files



The QFile is used to access files

```
QFile f("/home/john/input.txt");
if (!f.open(QIODevice::ReadOnly))
                                                                   Reads up to
    gFatal("Could not open file");
                                                                     160 bytes
                                                                     each time.
                                          while(!f.atEnd())
QByteArray data = f.readAll();
                                               QByteArray data = f.read(160);
processData(data);
                                               processData(data);
                 Reads all data
                   in one go.
f.close():
```



Writing to files

 When writing files, open it in WriteOnly mode and use the write method to add data to the file

```
QFile f("/home/john/input.txt");
if (!f.open(QIODevice::WriteOnly))
    qFatal("Could not open file");

QByteArray data = createData();
f.write(data);
f.close();
```

- Files can also be opened in ReadWrite mode
- The flags Append or Truncate can be used in combination with writeenabled modes to either append data to the file or to truncate it (i.e. clear the file from its previous contents)

```
if (!f.open(QIODevice::WriteOnly|QIODevice::Append))
```



The QIODevice



- QFile is derived from QIODevice
- The constructors QTextStream and QDataStream take a QIODevice pointer as an argument, not a QFile pointer
- There are QIODevice implementations
 - QBuffer for reading and writing to memory buffers
 - QextSerialPort for serial (RS232) communication (3rd party)
 - QAbstractSocket the base of TCP, SSL and UDP socket classes
 - QProcess for reading and writing to processes' standard input and output



Streaming to files



 The read and write methods feel awkward in many situations – handling complex types, etc

A modern approach is to use stream operators

- Qt offers two types of stream operators
 - For handling text files
 - For handling binary file formats



QTextStream



- The QTextStream class handles reading and writing from text based files
- The class is
 - codec aware (uses locale by default, but can be set explicitly as well)
 - aware of lines and words
 - aware of numbers



Writing to text streams

 Use the << operator and modifiers, much as using STL's streams

```
QFile f(...);
if(!f.open(QIODevice::WriteOnly))
   qFatal("Could not open file");

QTextStream out(&f);
out << "Primes: " << qSetFieldWidth(3) << 2 << 3 << 5 << 7 << endl;</pre>
```

Modifier, sets the minimum field width

Adds a line break to the stream

Results in:

Primes: 2 3 5 7



Reading using text streams

It is possible to read the file line by line

```
QTextStream in(&f);
while(!f.atEnd())
    qDebug("line: '%s'", qPrintable(in.readLine()));
```

You can also extract words and numbers

```
QTextStream in(&f);
QString s;
int i;
in >> s >> i;
```

 Use atEnd to determine if you've reached the end of the file



Handling binary files



- The QDataStream class is used for streaming bytes
 - Guarantees byte-ordering (default big endian)
 - Supports basic types
 - Support Qt complex types
 - Supports adding custom complex types

Simply pass a pointer to a QFile object to the stream constructor to setup a stream for a specific file.



Data streams as a file format

- When basing a file format on QDataStream there are some details to keep in mind
 - Versioning as Qt's structures evolve, so do their binary serialization formats. Using QDataStream::setVersion, you can explicitly force a specific serialization format to be used.
 - Type information Qt does not add type information, so you need to keep track of which you store in what order.
 - Byte ordering Qt's data streams are big endian by default, but when using the class for handling legacy file formats you can set the byte ordering using QDataStream::setByteOrder.



Data streams as a file format

```
QFile f("file.fmt");
if (!f.open(QIODevice::WriteOnly))
    qFatal("Could not open file");

QDataStream out(&f);
out.setVersion(QDataStream::Qt_4_6);

quint32 value = ...;
QString text = ...;
QColor color = ...;

out << value;
out << text;
out << color;

Ensure to match
types and order
when writing and
reading streams.</pre>
```

If you want to serialize objects of mixed types without specifying the order of the types you can serialize QVariant objects.

Versions down to Qt 1.0 are supported here.

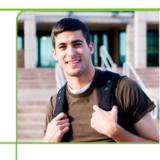
```
QFile f("file.fmt");
if (!f.open(QIODevice::ReadOnly))
        qFatal("Could not open file");

QDataStream in(&f);
in.setVersion(QDataStream::Qt_4_6);

quint32 value = ...;
QString text = ...;
QColor color = ...;
in >> value;
in >> text;
in >> color;
```



Streaming custom types



 By implementing the stream operators << and >> custom types can be streamed from and to data streams

```
QDataStream &operator<<(QDataStream &out, const Person &person)
{
   out << person.name();
   out << person.age();
   return out;
}

QDataStream &operator>>(QDataStream &in, Person &person)
{
   QString name;
   int age;
   in >> name;
   in >> age;
   person = Person(name, age);
   return in;
}

   A friend function could base accessed means
```

A friend function could have accessed m_age and m_name directly.



Streaming custom types

 To be able to stream a custom type contained in a QVariant object the stream operators must be registered

```
qRegisterMetaTypeStreamOperators<Person>("Person");
```

 When the variant is streamed, it adds the name of the data type to ensure that it can be restored from the stream later



Custom types check-list

Implement

- Type::Type() Public default constructor
- Type::Type(const Type &other) Public copy constructor
- Type::~Type() Public destructor
- QDebug operator<< Convenient debugging
- QDataStream operator<< and >> Streaming

Register

- Q_DECLARE_METATYPE In header
- qRegisterMetaType In main
- qRegisterMetaTypeStreamOperators In main