Introduction

As part of this course, you will be writing and compiling a lot of C++ code! The example code in this course is designed to be platform independent, so you can use any C++ editor and compiler you may already be comfortable with. However, the programming assignments (including the compilation scripts and other helper scripts we distribute) will assume that you have access to a computer platform compatible with a Linux system.

Target Platform: A Linux-Compatible System

There are C++ compilers available for every operating system. However, not every operating system has the same collection of system functions and command-line environment, so in practice developing in C++ can be somewhat different depending on which operating system you are targeting. For the graded assignments in this course, we will assume that the target platform is Linux. However, this does not mean that you need to know all about Linux! We will discuss several ways you can get set up to work with our code.

Recommended: Using the AWS Cloud9 Web Coding Environment

In later readings you will find on this course, we will explain how you can access the AWS Cloud9 Web IDE provided by Amazon. Cloud9 will give you access to a coding environment entirely through your browser, which provides you with a code editor, a Linux OS terminal, and all the compiler tools. This option does not require you to install software on your own computer. You will need an internet connection to be able to use Cloud9.

We're recommending this option as a way to ensure that all students can compile and run the examples and projects, regardless of what operating system they have. However, there are certain pros and cons to using Cloud9, since it is an external service.

Please note that Cloud9 may not have full accessibility features. In this case, the options for installing Bash on Windows and using the latest Windows Terminal (or another terminal) may offer better accessibility features.