



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Denkleiers • Leading Minds • Dikgopolo tša Dihlalefi

Department of Computer Science  
Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment & IT  
University of Pretoria

COS132 - Imperative Programming

Valgrind Errors

# Contents

1	InvalidFree	3
2	UninitCondition	3
3	InvalidRead	3
4	UninitValue	3
5	SIGFPE (Floating Point Exception)	4
6	InvalidWrite	4
7	SIGSEGV (Segmentation Fault)	4
8	MismatchedFree (Simplified)	4
9	FishyValue	5

# 1 InvalidFree

**Explanation:** Trying to free (delete) memory that was *not allocated with new* or was *already freed*.

```
int main() {  
    int x = 10;  
    delete &x; // Invalid: x was not allocated with 'new'  
    return 0;  
}
```

1  
2  
3  
4  
5

# 2 UninitCondition

**Explanation:** Using a variable in a condition before giving it a value.

```
int main() {  
    int x;  
    if (x > 0) { // x is uninitialized  
        // Do something  
    }  
    return 0;  
}
```

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7

# 3 InvalidRead

**Explanation:** Trying to read memory that doesn't belong to your program, such as reading past the end of an array.

```
int main() {  
    int* arr = new int[5];  
    int val = arr[10]; // Invalid read: index 10 is out of bounds  
    delete[] arr;  
    return 0;  
}
```

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6

# 4 UninitValue

**Explanation:** Using a variable without initializing it first, even outside of a condition.

```
int main() {  
    int x;  
    int y = x + 5; // x is uninitialized  
    return 0;  
}
```

1  
2  
3  
4  
5

## 5 SIGFPE (Floating Point Exception)

**Explanation:** Happens when dividing by zero.

```
int main() {  
    int x = 5;  
    int y = 0;  
    int z = x / y; // Division by zero  
    return 0;  
}
```

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6

## 6 InvalidWrite

**Explanation:** Writing to memory you shouldn't, like past the end of an array.

```
int main() {  
    int* arr = new int[5];  
    arr[10] = 42; // Invalid write: index 10 is out of bounds  
    delete[] arr;  
    return 0;  
}
```

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6

## 7 SIGSEGV (Segmentation Fault)

**Explanation:** Accessing memory that's not allowed (e.g., null or invalid pointer).

```
int main() {  
    int* ptr = nullptr;  
    *ptr = 5; // SIGSEGV: dereferencing a null pointer  
    return 0;  
}
```

1  
2  
3  
4  
5

## 8 MismatchedFree (Simplified)

**Explanation:** Using delete for memory allocated with new[] instead of delete[].

**Correct:**

```
int* arr = new int[5];  
delete[] arr; // Correct way to free an array
```

1  
2

**Incorrect:**

```
int main() {  
    int* arr = new int[5];  
    delete arr; // Mismatched free: should use delete[]  
    return 0;  
}
```

1  
2  
3  
4  
5

## 9 FishyValue

**Explanation:** Pointer has a strange or clearly invalid value like 0x1.

```
int main() {  
    int* ptr = (int*)1; // Fishy value: 1 is not valid memory  
    *ptr = 42; // Will likely crash  
    return 0;  
}
```

1  
2  
3  
4  
5