

Software libraries: cxxopts

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1. Don't reinvent the wheel: use a library

Many things you want to program have been thought of before:
see if there is a library for it.

Library: 'program without main':
you supply the main, functionality comes from library

2. External libraries: usage

Suppose the 'fancy' library does what you need.

1. Include a header file
2. Then use the functions defined there.

```
#include "fancylib.h"
```

```
int main() {  
    x = fancyfunction(y);  
}
```

3. External libraries: compile

1. Compiler needs to know where the header is:

```
icpc -c yourprogram.cxx -I/usr/include/fancylib
```

2. You may need to link a library file:

```
icpc -o yourprogram yourprogram.o \  
-L/usr/lib/fancylib -lfancy
```

(not for 'header only' libraries)

4. Where to find libraries

Search . . . There is a lot of stuff on github.

Commandline arguments

5. Traditional commandline parsing

Use:

```
int main( int argc, char **argv ) { // stuff };
```

then

Code:

```
cout << "Program name: " << argv[0]
    << '\n';
for (int iarg=1; iarg<argc; iarg++)
    cout << "arg: " << iarg
        << argv[iarg] << " => "
        << atoi( argv[iarg] ) << '\n';
```

Output

[args] argv:

./argcv 5 12

Program name: ./argcv

arg 1: 5 => 5

arg 2: 12 => 12

./argcv abc 3.14 foo

Program name: ./argcv

arg 1: abc => 0

arg 2: 3.14 => 3

arg 3: foo => 0

6. Example: cxxopts

`https://github.com/jarro2783/cxxopts`

Find the 2.2.1 release or newer.

Use `wget` or `curl` to download straight to the class machine.

`wget https://github.com/jarro2783/cxxopts/archive/refs/tags`

Unpack it:

`tar fxv v3.0.0.tar.gz`

7. Cmake based installation

The cxxopts-2.2.1 directory has a file CMakeLists.txt

```
cd cxxopts-2.2.1
mkdir build
cd build
cmake -D CMAKE_INSTALL_PREFIX:PATH=${HOME}/mylibs/cxxopts \
..
make
make install
```

(This is an 'in-source' build. I don't like it: prefer to have the build directory elsewhere to keep the source untouched.)

8. Let's use this library

```
#include "cxxopts.hpp"

// in the main program:
cxxopts::Options options
    ("cxxopts", "Commandline options demo");
```

Compile

```
icpc -o program source.cpp \
    -I/path/to/cxxopts/installdir/include
```

Can you compile and run this?

9. Help option

You want your program to document its own usage:

```
options.add_options()
    ("h,help","usage information")
    ;
/* ... */
auto result = options.parse(argc, argv);
if (result.count("help")>0) {
    cout << options.help() << '\n';
    return 0;
}
```

Use:

```
./myprogram -h
```

10. Numerical options

```
// define '-n 567' option:
options.add_options()
    ("n,ntimes","number of times",
     cxxopts::value<int>()->default_value("37")
    )
;
/* ... */
// read out '-n' option and use:
auto number_of_times = result["ntimes"].as<int>();
cout << "Using number of times: " << number_of_times << '\n';
```

11. Positional arguments

```
// define 'positional argument' option:
options.add_options()
    ("keyword","whatever keyword",
     cxxopts::value<string>())
    ;
options.parse_positional({"keyword"});
/* ... */
// read out keyword option and use:
auto keyword = result["keyword"].as<string>();
cout << "Found keyword: " << keyword << '\n';
```

12. Put it all to the test

Now make your program do something with the inputs:

```
./myprogram -n 10 whatever
```