Software libraries

Victor Eijkhout, Susan Lindsey

Fall 2022

last formatted: August 28, 2022



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

```
Output
[args] argcv:
./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
```

Can you imagine coding

```
myprog --debug -f "input.txt" -n 10,20,40
```

7



6. Example: cxxopts

https://github.com/jarro2783/cxxopts

Find the 2.2.1 release.

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

Unpack it.



7. Cmake based installation

The cxxopts-2.2.1 directory has a file CMakeLists.txt

```
mkdir build
cd build
cmake -D CMAKE_INSTALL_PREFIX:PATH=${HOME}/mylibs \
    ..
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"
int main() {
    cxxopts::Options
    options("programname", "Program description");
}

compile

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

Can you compile and run this?



9. Commandline options

```
options.add_options()
  ("h,help", "usage information")
  ("n,nsize", "size of the thing",
   cxxopts::value<int>()->default_value("4096"))
   // et cetera
auto result = options.parse(argc, argv);
if (result.count("help")>0) {
  std::cout << options.help() << std::endl;</pre>
  return 0;
int array_size = result["nsize"].as<int>();
```

Write code to test this.

Can you add more types of options?

