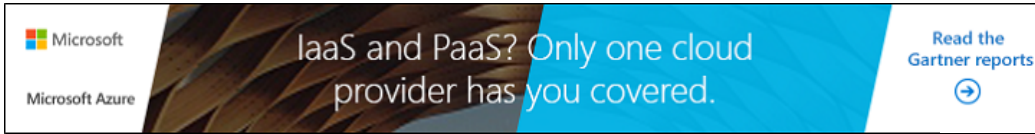


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difference between cin.get() and cin.getline()



I am new to programming, and I have some questions on `get()` and `getline()` functions in C++.

My understanding for the two functions:

The `getline()` function reads a whole line, and using the newline character transmitted by the Enter key to mark the end of input. The `get()` function is much like `getline()` but rather than read and discard the newline character, `get()` leaves that character in the input queue.

The book (C++ Primer Plus) that I am reading is suggesting using `get()` over `getline()`. My confusion is that isn't `getline()` safer than `get()` since it makes sure to end line with `'\n'`. On the other hand, `get()` will just hangs the character in the input queue, thus potentially causing problem?

c++ get cin getline

edited Nov 11 '14 at 20:10



Omid

1,180 2 8 27

asked Nov 11 '14 at 19:58



Yu Zhou

17 1 5

2 Answers

There are an equivalent number of advantages and drawbacks, and -essentially- all depends on what you are reading: `get()` leaves the delimiter in the queue thus letting you able to consider it as part of the next input. `getline()` discards it, so the next input will be just after it.

If you are talking about the newline character from a console input, it makes perfectly sense to discard it, but if we consider an input from a file, you can use as "delimiter" the beginning of the next field.

What is "good" or "safe" to do, depends on what you are doing.

answered Nov 11 '14 at 20:16



Emilio Garavaglia

11.9k 19 40

Thank you for your answer, I have another question regarding to this matter. What if the input characters exceed the character limit for both of these functions, what type of error would it possibly caused? –

Yu Zhou Nov 11 '14 at 20:33

@YuZhou The maximum number of characters that can be entered by the user is `std::numeric_limits<std::streamsize>::max()`. If the stream's buffer runs out of memory then the error flag `std::ios_base::badbit` will be set. – [0x499602D2](#) Nov 11 '14 at 20:44

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`get()` extracts char by char from a stream and returns its value (casted to an integer) whereas `getline()` is used to get a line from a file line by line. Normally `getline` is used to filter out delimiters in applications where you have a flat file (with thousands of line) and want to extract the output (line by line) using certain delimiter and then do some operation on it.

answered Nov 11 '14 at 20:36



Shubham Aggarwal

44 5