

ITEM 14:

Date:

Be careful about copying behaviour in resource managing classes.

Since auto_ptr & shared_ptr are generally inappropriate as resource handles, we may need to create your own resource managing classes.

e.g. class lock which acquire mutex.

class lock {

public:

explicit lock (Mutex *pm): mutexPtr(pm)
{ lock (mutexPtr); }

~lock() { unlock (mutexPtr); }

private

Mutex *mutexPtr;

};

lock m1 (2m); // lock m

lock m2 (m1); // what should happen here? copy m1 to m2?

① Prohibit copying.

By using noncopyable as the parent class.


```

class lock : private Uncopyable .
{ public:
}

```

② Reference count the underlying resource.

To hold onto a resource until last object using it has been destroyed.

If lock wanted to employ reference counting it should change the type of `mutex_ptr` from `mutex*` to

`tr1::shared_ptr<Mutex>`

To avoid delete of `mutex` before unlocking
`tr1::shared_ptr` allows specification of a deleter - a function / function object to be called when reference count goes to zero.

③ Copying underlying resource.

Copying a resource managing object performs a deep copy.

When a string object is copied, a copy is made of both the pointer & the memory it points to.

④ Transfer ownership of underlying resource

Request Resource Acquisition is Initialization (RAII)

To make sure only one RAII object ^{refers} to a resource & that when the RAII object is copied, ownership of resource is transferred from copied object to the copying object.

So unless compiler generated version of copy ctor & copy assignment operator will do what you want, you will need to write them yourself.