

# COMSC-165 Lecture Topic 7

## C Strings and C++ Strings

### Reference

Deitel, chapter 6.11-6.12

[Tutorial](#)

### C++ String

#include <string>  
using std::string;  
basically a vector of chars  
...with == and other relational operators added  
...and + and += for concatenation  
...and substr function  
strings are *objects*

### C Strings

not a data type in C  
use arrays to get string functionality  
no library to include, UNLESS you use functions

```
#include <cstring>
strlen(const char*);
strcpy(char*, const char*);
do not use =
strcmp(const char*, const char*);
do not use ==
strupr(char*); Microsoft only
strlwr(char*); Microsoft only
leave a char for the null terminator
to store a string of 11 letters,...
...you need a size 12 char array
```

not all char arrays are C strings  
C strings have null terminators

### Initializing C Strings

```
char hello[] =
    {'h', 'e', 'l', 'l', 'o', '\0'};
char world[] = {"World"};
char world[] = "World";
use for "strings"
```

### C String I/O

Mixing cin >> and cin.getline for C strings  
use cin.ignore(1000, 10); after >>

### Two Ways To Write C Strings

```
char c[] = "Hello";
char* c = "Hello"; // dangerous -- see below
...not exactly the same!
```

### Character Arrays

initialization methods wo/pointers

```
char c[] = "Hello"; // ok
c = "Hello, World"; // fails to compile
c[0] = 'X'; // ok
```

initialization methods w/pointers

```
char* c = "Hello"; // dangerous
c = "Hello, World!"; // ok
c[0] = 'X'; // BAD IDEA
const char* c = "Hello"; // best
```

initializing string arrays

```
char d[7][32] = {"Sunday",...
    cannot reset wo/strcpy()
char* d[7] = {"Sunday",...
    can reset w/d[0] = "SUN";
no delete without new
no initialization with new (wo/"constructors")
```

### Passing C Strings To Functions

with a terminator...

```
void fun(char[]); // mutable C string
...Or void fun(char*); // mutable, reassignable
...Or void fun(const char*); // immutable
fun(anArray);
```

1. with the size of the array (or #of elements) specified...

```
void fun(int, int[]);
...Or void fun(int, int*);
fun(100, anArray);
```

2. with the size unspecified, using a sentinel

3. with the size unspecified, but written as number

### 2D Array as Array of Strings

```
char nums[2][6] = {"one", "two"};
the "2" is optional
strcpy(nums[0], "hello");
strcpy(nums[1], "world");
```

cout displays *contents of string* -- not memory address

Use `getline(cin, ...)` for C++ strings in `<string>`, with using `std::getline`

e.g., `char c[80];` // a "buffer"

`cin.getline(c, 80);` // store up to 79 chars  
*any extra chars, plus ENTER, are consumed*

## ■ Advanced C String Functions

`#include <cstring>`

`strlen` *returns length of string*

`strcmp`, `stricmp` (*Microsoft only*), `strncmp`  
*compare contents*

...because `==` compares memory addresses of strings

`strcpy`, `strncpy` *copy one string to another*

`strcat` *add one string to end of another*

`strchr`, `strrchr`, `strstr`

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