Introduction to C++ and Object-Oriented Programming

Overview

This course explores the key features of the C++ programming language and object-oriented concepts. The course starts with a review of the key language features of C++, followed by essential object-oriented concepts. A complete sequence of working samples are used to demonstrate concepts presented in the course guide. Lab exercises are provided with detailed instructions and working solutions. If you want to learn C++ to create applications on the job or on your own, this course will help you understand how C++ works, and immediately be more productive.

Key Learning Areas

* Learn the basic structural elements of a C++ program
* Learn a disciplined approach to program design
* Learn to compose types and implement encapsulation
* Learn the role of copy constructors
* Learn techniques for handling memory allocation errors
* Learn how to model your problem domain
* Learn the features of virtual functions and dynamic binding
* And much more…

Prerequisites

To gain the most benefit from this course, students should have some experience programming in C. Experience programming in a modern object-oriented language such as Java or C# is also sufficient

Course Outline

* **Language Primer & OO Concepts**
  + Examine the basic syntax and language constructs of a C++ program.
  + Learn how the object model provides the framework for abstraction, encapsulation and instantiation.
* **Classes in C++**
  + Use member data to represent data encapsulated in a class.
  + Use member functions to implement class' operations and provide access to its data.
  + Use the 'this' pointer to refer to the invoking object.
  + Implement an abstract data type using C++ classes.
  + Organize code for C++ classes into code files and header files.
  + Write simple test programs to exercise each member function of a class.
* **Functions in C++**
  + Use function prototypes in your code.
  + Take advantage of C++ support for strong type checking.
  + Make use of automatic conversion of parameters in function calls when there is a prototype.
  + Use inline functions.
  + Use default arguments.
  + Learn the benefits of overloading.
  + Learn the standard C/C++ call by value mechanism for passing parameters in functions calls.
* **Constructors and Destructors**
  + Learn the use and benefit of constructors.
  + Use multiple constructors in a class, including the default constructor.
  + Learn the use and benefit of destructors.
  + Simplify a class by using default arguments in a constructor.
* **Memory Management**
  + Learn the use of static, automatic (stack) and heap memory.
  + Use new and delete to manage memory.
  + Provide constructors and destructors to support dynamic objects.
  + Discuss techniques for handling memory allocation errors.
  + Hide details of memory management in a class.
* **Argument Passing**
  + Use reference declarations to alias variables.
  + Use references in argument passing.
  + Learn the role of copy constructors.
  + Use constant types in your programs.
* **Operator Overloading**
  + Use overloaded operators in your code.
  + Learn the semantics of assignment.
  + Distinguish between initialization and assignment.
  + Overload the assignment operator.
  + Implement type conversions by overloading cast operators and by constructors.
* **Access Control**
  + Use C++ scoping facilities.
  + Use constants through enumeration types and through the const keyword.
  + Define "static members" and use them in your code.
  + Control access to member data and functions through public, private, and protected access specifiers.
  + Define "friend" function and explain how a friend function differs from a member function.
* **Inheritance**
  + Use inheritance to model your problem domain and achieve greater code reuse.
  + Use C++ class derivation to implement inheritance.
  + Use public, protected and private to control access to class members.
  + Use an initialization list for proper base class initialization and embedded member initialization.
  + Determine order of invocation of constructors and destructors.
  + Distinguish between use of inheritance and composition.
* **Polymorphism and Virtual Functions**
  + Learn the features of virtual functions and dynamic binding.
  + Learn pointer conversion in C++ inheritance and use pointers in connection with virtual functions.
  + Use polymorphism in C++ to write better structured, more maintainable code.
  + Provide virtual destructors for classes using virtual functions.
  + Specify abstract classes using pure virtual functions.