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1 //=====
2 // Section 14 Operator overloading
3 //=====
4
5 // What is operator overloading
6 - using traditional operators such as +,=,* with user defined types
7 - Allows our types to behave like built in ones
8 - Can make code more readable\writable
9 - Not done automatically except for the = sign, we must do the others ourselves
10
11 // Example
12 Without operator overloading, we might have to do something like this:
13 Number result = multiply(add(a,b), divide(c,d)); // Using member methods to do these
14 calculations is cumbersome
15
16 With operator overloading, we can instead do this:
17 Number result = (a+b)*(c/d);
18
19 // What operators can be overloaded?
20 Most of them, except:
21 :: :? .* . sizeof
22
23 // Basic rules
24 Precedence and associativity can't be changed
25 'arity' can't be changed - unary will be unary no matter what
26 Can't overload the operators for the primitive types
27 Can't create new operators
28 [], (), -> and the assignment operator (=) MUST be declared as member methods
29 Other operators can be member methods or global functions
30
31 // Examples
32 We can use the + operator on strings and on ints
33
34 // Overloading the assignment operator
35 Copy assignment (=)
36 The default operator used for assigning one object to another
37 Default is memberwise assignment (shallow copy)
38 - If we have a raw pointer we must deep copy
39
40 Assignment occurs when an object has already been initialized
41 Mystring s1{"Frank"}; // initialize an object
42 Mystring s2 = s1; // We don't actually have s2 created yet, so this is an
43 initialization using the copy constructor
44 s1 = s2; // We already have an s1 so now we have assigned s2 to it
45
46 // How to overload the copy assignment operator
47 Type &Type::operator=(const Type &rhs); // Use the keyword operator followed by the
48 operator we wish to overload
49
50 Mystring &Mystring::operator=(const Mystring &rhs);
51
52 // Behind the scenes the compiler converts this statement:
53 s2 = s1;
54
55 // to
56 s2.operator=(s1);
57
58 // Overloading the copy assignment operator with a deep copy
59 Mystring &Mystring::operator=(const Mystring &rhs){
60     if (this == &rhs)
61         return this;
62     delete [] str;
63     str = new char[std::strlen(thd.str) + 1];
64     std::strcpy(str, rhs.str);
65
66     return *this;
67 }

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67 // Inheritance
68 What is it and why?
69 - Create new classes from existing classes
70 - New class contains all data and behavior of existing class
71 - Reuse of existing classes
72 - Focus on the common attributes among a set of classes
73 - New classes can modify the behavior of existing classes to make something unique
  without modifying the base class
74
75 // Related classes
76 Player, Enemy, Level Boss, Hero, Super Player, etc
77 - Identify things different objects might have in common
78
79 Account
80 - balance, deposit, withdraw
81
82 Savings Account
83 - balance, deposit, withdraw, interest rate
84
85 Checking Account
86 - balance, deposit, withdraw, minimum balance, per check fee
87
88 We can see there are lots of duplicated items. Compress the common ones into the base
class
89
90 // Terminology and notation
91 Inheritance
92 - Process of creating new classes fro existing classes
93 - Reuse mechanism
94
95 Single Inheritance
96 - A new class created from another single class
97
98 Multiple Inheritance
99 - A new class is created from two or more other classes
100
101 Base Class (aka Parent class, superclass)
102 - The class being extended or inherited from
103
104 Derived class(child class, subclass)
105 - The class being created from the base class
106 - Will inherit attributes and operations from the base class
107
108 // Relationships
109 Is-a relationship
110 - Public inheritance
111 - Derived classes are sub-types of their base classes
112 - Can use a derived class object wherever we use a base class object
113
114 Generalization
115 - Combining similar classes into a single, more general class based on common attributes
116
117 Specialization
118 - Creating new classes from existing classes providing more specialized attributes or
  operations
119
120 Inheritance or class hierarchies
121 - Organization of the inheritance relationships
122
123
124
125
126

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