

The Node class

In C++, the Node class serves as a fundamental building block for linked data structures such as linked lists. Here's a brief overview of its functionality and purpose:

Purpose: <code>class Node</code> { };	<p>The class is designed to store individual elements of a linked list, each containing data and a pointer to the next node, thus forming a chain.</p> <p>The Node class is typically used in situations where you need a dynamically constructed list, each element of which can independently contain data and point to the next element in the sequence. We will use this Node class in implementing the CandidateList Class.</p>
Default Constructor <code>Node()</code>	<p>The default constructor initializes the node with its link member set to nullptr, indicating that it does not yet point to any next node. This is typical for the last node in a linked list or when a node has not yet been linked.</p>
Overloaded Constructor <code>Node(const CandidateType& votes, Node* theLink)</code>	<p>This constructor takes two arguments: votes and theLink. votes is an object of type CandidateType (holding data related to a candidate, such as votes). theLink is a pointer to the next Node in the list. This constructor initializes a node with provided data and link, allowing for dynamic insertion into the list.</p>
<code>getLink()</code>	<p>Returns the pointer to the next node. This function is useful for traversing the list from one node to another.</p>
<code>getCandidate():</code>	<p>Returns the data (of type CandidateType) stored in the node. This is useful when you need to access or process the specific data held by the node.</p>
<code>setCandidate(const CandidateType& votes)</code>	<p>Allows updating the data in the node. This can be used to modify the node's data without altering the structure of the list.</p>
<code>setLink(Node theLink)</code>	<p>Sets the node's link to another node. This function is critical for re-linking nodes, either when inserting new nodes into the list or rearranging existing parts of the list.</p>
Destructor	<p>The destructor here is trivial as it does nothing special—it is empty, suggesting that no special cleanup is needed when a Node is destroyed.</p>