

Vectors & Loops

The modern C++ range-based loops work with **vector** as well as with **string**.

This loop automatically visits every element in the **vector**:

```
1 | for (auto e : v) {...}           // e is a copy
2 | for (auto& e : v) {...}          // no copy; may modify
3 | for (const auto& e : v) {...}    // no copy; cannot modify
```

1. The **local variable** **e** is initialized with **a copy** of the next value in **vector v**.
2. Here, **e** is a **reference** to the next element in **v**. When you modify **e** you are actually modifying the element inside the **vector v**.
3. If **v** is a **vector<string>**, for example, you **don't want to make a copy** of each of the elements. And, if **you want to prevent any changes**, then use this version of the range-based **for** loop.

Counter-controlled Loops

The **general pattern** for **manually** iterating through a vector looks like this:

```
for (size_t i = 0, len = v.size(); i < len; ++i)
{
    // Process the vector elements here
}
```

Some notes about this loop:

- Instead of calling **v.size()** each time in the loop, call it once and **save the value in a variable**; your loop initializer will thus have **two** variables.
- Use **size_t** to avoid the lengthy declaration of **vector::size_type**.
- **At all costs** avoid comparing an **int** to the value returned from **v.size()**. **Mixing signed and unsigned numbers is error prone**.

Next, let's look at a few common vector algorithms.



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