Operators Overloading in C++

You can redefine or overload most of the built-in operators available in C++. Thus, a programmer can use operators with user-defined types as well.

Overloaded operators are functions with special names: the keyword "operator" followed by the symbol for the operator being defined. Like any other function, an overloaded operator has a return type and a parameter list.

Box operator+(Box);

declares the addition operator that can be used to **add** two Box objects and returns final Box object. Most overloaded operators may be defined as ordinary non-member functions or as class member functions. In case we define above function as non-member function of a class then we would have to pass two arguments for each operand as follows −

Box operator+(Box, Box);

Following is the example to show the concept of operator over loading using a member function. Here an object is passed as an argument whose properties will be accessed using this object, the object which will call this operator can be accessed using **this** operator as explained below −

#include <iostream>

using namespace std;

class Box {

public:

double getVolume(void) {

return length \* breadth \* height;

}

void setLength( double len ) {

length = len;

}

void setBreadth( double bre ) {

breadth = bre;

}

void setHeight( double hei ) {

height = hei;

}

// Overload + operator to add two Box objects.

Box operator+(Box b) {

Box box;

box.length = this->length + b.length;

box.breadth = this->breadth + b.breadth;

box.height = this->height + b.height;

return box;

}

private:

double length; // Length of a box

double breadth; // Breadth of a box

double height; // Height of a box

};

// Main function for the program

int main() {

Box Box1; // Declare Box1 of type Box

Box Box2; // Declare Box2 of type Box

Box Box3; // Declare Box3 of type Box

double volume = 0.0; // Store the volume of a box here

// box 1 specification

Box1.setLength(6.0);

Box1.setBreadth(7.0);

Box1.setHeight(5.0);

// box 2 specification

Box2.setLength(12.0);

Box2.setBreadth(13.0);

Box2.setHeight(10.0);

// volume of box 1

volume = Box1.getVolume();

cout << "Volume of Box1 : " << volume <<endl;

// volume of box 2

volume = Box2.getVolume();

cout << "Volume of Box2 : " << volume <<endl;

// Add two object as follows:

Box3 = Box1 + Box2;

// volume of box 3

volume = Box3.getVolume();

cout << "Volume of Box3 : " << volume <<endl;

return 0;

}

When the above code is compiled and executed, it produces the following result −

Volume of Box1 : 210

Volume of Box2 : 1560

Volume of Box3 : 5400