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Role of C++ in Unreal Engine for Game Development

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Abstract/Introduction

C++ is a powerful and versatile programming language that was created by Bjarne Stroustrup, a Danish computer scientist, back in 1979. Originally, it was an extension of the C language and was known as C with Classes. What makes C++ special is that it combines the best of both worlds; the low-level control you get from C with the high-level features you might find in more modern languages.

Algorithms & Methods

- 1.Set Up Project:**
Create a new Unreal Engine project with C++ support.
- 2.Define Classes:**
Write C++ classes for custom game elements (e.g., characters, objects).
- 3.Implement Logic:**
Develop gameplay mechanics and logic in C++ code.
- 4.Integrate with Blueprints:**
Expose C++ functions and properties to Unreal Engine's Blueprint system.
- 5.Optimize Performance:**
Use efficient algorithms and manage memory effectively.
- 6.Test & Debug:**
Test the game and debug using Unreal Engine's tools.
- 7.Build & Deploy:**
Compile the project and deploy it to target platforms.

Conclusion/Future Scope

- High-Performance Computing:**
 - C++ will continue to be crucial for optimizing game performance, handling complex calculations, and ensuring efficient use of system resources.
- AI and Machine Learning:**
 - Future developments will leverage C++ for more sophisticated AI systems and machine learning models, enhancing gameplay with intelligent, adaptive behaviors.
- Next-Gen Graphics and Rendering:**
 - C++ will support advancements in graphics technology, including real-time ray tracing and high-fidelity visual effects, pushing the boundaries of realism in games.
- Extended Platform Compatibility:**
 - As new platforms and devices emerge, C++ will enable Unreal Engine to adapt, supporting a wider range of hardware, including next-gen consoles and advanced VR/AR systems.
- Enhanced Networking and Multiplayer:**
 - C++ will improve networking capabilities, making multiplayer experiences more seamless, scalable, and robust, with better synchronization and reduced latency.
- Custom Tool Development:**
 - Developers will use C++ to create custom tools and plugins, enhancing the Unreal Engine editor and streamlining development workflows.
- Integration with Emerging Technologies:**
 - C++ will facilitate the integration of new technologies, such as blockchain and cloud computing, into Unreal Engine, expanding the possibilities for game features and services.

Objectives

- Maximize Performance:**
- Fine-tune game performance with low-level control.
- Create Custom Mechanics:**
- Build unique game logic and systems.
- Customize the Engine:**
- Modify and extend Unreal Engine features.
- Optimize Critical Systems:**
- Ensure fast, efficient processing for physics, AI, and animations.
- Build Custom Tools:**
- Develop tools and editor extensions to streamline workflows.
- Integrate Extra Tech:**
- Add third-party libraries and middleware.
- Develop Core Systems:**
- Implement essential game systems like player controls and game modes.
- Support Multiple Platforms:**
- Develop games for PC, consoles, and mobile with consistent quality.
- Efficient Memory Management:**
- Avoid memory leaks and optimize resource usage.
- Modular Design:**
- Create flexible, reusable game components.

Diagram

```
// Called to bind functionality to input
void AShooterCharacter::SetupPlayerInputComponent(UInputComponent*
PlayerInputComponent)
{
    //Input player movement
    Super::SetupPlayerInputComponent(PlayerInputComponent);

    PlayerInputComponent->BindAxis(TEXT("MoveForward"), this,
&AShooterCharacter::MoveForward);
    PlayerInputComponent->BindAxis(TEXT("LookUp"), this,
&APawn::AddControllerPitchInput);
    PlayerInputComponent->BindAxis(TEXT("MoveRight"), this,
&AShooterCharacter::MoveRight);
    PlayerInputComponent->BindAxis(TEXT("LookRight"), this,
&APawn::AddControllerYawInput);
    PlayerInputComponent->BindAction(TEXT("Jump"),
EInputEvent::IE_Pressed, this, &ACharacter::Jump);
}

//Forward and backward movement
void AShooterCharacter::MoveForward(float AxisValue)
{
    AddMovementInput(GetActorForwardVector() * AxisValue);
}

//Left and right movement
void AShooterCharacter::MoveRight(float AxisValue)
{
    AddMovementInput(GetActorRightVector() * AxisValue);
}
```

Figure 17. Movement control code

Fig. Movement control code

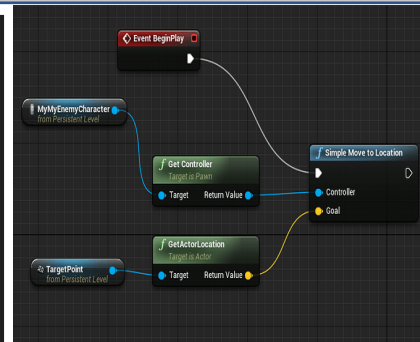


Fig. blueprint

References

- =>epic developer community
- => Google scholar
- => Unreal engine forums
- => Wikipedia
- => Unreal engine website