

effective C++

Item 1

View C++ as a federation of languages

- C
- Object-Oriented C++
- Template C++
- The STL

Things to Remember

- Rules for effective C++ programming vary depending on the part of C++ you're using.

Item 2

Prefer const, enums, and inline to #define

Use Const to replace #define

const

Note, by the way, that there's no way to create a class-specific `const` static using a `#define`, because `#define` can't respect scope. Once a name is defined, it's in scope for the rest of the compilation.

the enum hack

enum

Use inline template function to replace macro

inline

Things to Remember

- For simple constants, prefer `const` objects or `enums` to `#define`.
- For function-like macros, prefer inline functions to `#define`.

Item 3

Use const whenever possible.

const use

const

const

const

The purpose of `const` on member functions is to identify which member functions may be invoked on `const` objects.

use `mutable` keyword: change member variable in `const` object

const Member Functions

Things to Remember

- Declaring something `const` helps compiler detect usage errors; `const` can be applied to objects of any type, to function parameters and return types, and to member functions as a whole.
- Complete before using `const` member functions, but you should declare with `const` first.
- When `const` and non-`const` member functions have essentially identical implementations, code duplication can be avoided by having the non-`const` version call the `const` version.

Item 4

Make sure that objects are initialized before they're used.

the next initialization will be wrong

static

use Singleton pattern (static) to make sure it's initialized

Singleton

Things to Remember

- Manually initialize objects of built-in type, because C++ only does static initialization when using.
- In a constructor, prefer or of the member initialization list to assignment inside the body of the constructor. List data members in the initialization list in the same order they're declared in the class.
- Avoid initialization order problems across translation units by re-placing non-local static objects with local static objects.

Item 5

Know what functions C++ silently writes and calls.

Things to Remember

- Compilers may implicitly generate a class's default constructor, copy constructor, copy assignment operator, and destructor.

Item 6

Explicitly disallow the use of compiler-generated functions you do not want.

Things to Remember

- To disallow functionality, use `delete` or `delete[]` to delete the corresponding member functions private and give no implementations. Using a base class that disallows is one way to do this.

Item 7

Declare destructors virtual in polymorphic base classes.

declare a virtual destructor in a class if and only if that class contains at least one virtual function.

Things to Remember

- Polymorphic base classes should declare virtual destructor. If a class has any virtual functions, it should have a virtual destructor.
- Classes not designed to be base classes or not designed to be used polymorphically should not declare virtual destruction.

Item 8

Prevent exceptions from leaving destructors.

Things to Remember

- Destructors should never throw exceptions. If function called in a destructor throws, the destructor should catch any exceptions, then swallow them or terminate the program.
- If class clients need to be able to react to exceptions thrown during an operation, the class should provide a regular (i.e., non-exceptional) function that performs the operation.

Item 9

Never call virtual functions during construction or destruction.

Things to Remember

- Don't call virtual functions during construction or destruction, because such calls will never go to the most derived class from that of the currently executing constructor or destructor.

Item 10

Have assignment operator return a reference to 'this'.

assignment

Item 11

Handle assignment to self in operator=.

Things to Remember

- Make sure operator= is well-behaved when an object is assigned to itself. Techniques include: comparing addresses of source and target objects, careful statement ordering, and copy-and-swap.
- Make sure that any functions operating on more than one object be happy correctly if two or more of the objects are the same.