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Write and Run Your First C++ Program



Now that you have a sense of *what* you will be building in this lesson, you can learn about the tools that you will use. To get started, it helps to know a little bit about the C++ programming language. C++ is a *compiled* language; there is a separate program - the compiler - that converts your code to an executable program that the computer can run. This means that running a new C++ program is normally a two step process:

1. Compile your code with a compiler.
2. Run the executable file that the compiler outputs.

C++ Main()

In C++, every program contains a `main` function which is executed automatically when the program is run. Every part of a C++ program is run directly or indirectly from `main`, and the most basic program that will compile in C++ is just a `main` function with nothing else.

`main()` should return an integer (an `int` in C++), which indicates if the program exited successfully. This is specified in code by writing the return type, followed by the `main` function name, followed by empty arguments:

```
int main()
```

The body of the `main()`, which comes after the `main` function name and arguments, is enclosed in curly brackets: `{}` and `}`. In this exercise, you will write the smallest possible C++ program, which is a `main` function with empty body. If you have trouble, have a look at the `solution.cpp` file in the workspace below.

Remember that you can compile and run your program with the following:

1. To compile, use the following command: `g++ main.cpp`
2. To run, use: `./a.out`

To Complete This Exercise:

- Write a main function in the `main.cpp` file below, and then compile and run the program. The program will not have any output, but it should compile and run without errors.

< +

main.cpp x solution.cpp x

/> home > workspace

main.cpp

solution.cpp

+ BASH x

root@885e4307e7a37: /home/workspace#

↑ Menu ↗ Expand