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1 // Example illustrating dynamic memory management for a class that
2 // uses dynamic memory as a member variable
3 // ECE3090
4 // George F. Riley, Georgia Tech, Spring 2009
5
6 #include <iostream>
7
8 using namespace std; // We will discuss namespaces later
9
10 // For this example we will define a new C++ object called "Vector"
11 // A vector is essentially an array of "int", but the size of the array
12 // is not known at compile time; rather, at run-time in the Vector
13 // constructor we will specify how big (number of elements) the array should
14 // be. We do this by using the "new" operator in the constructor,
15 // and allocating the specified amount of memory for the dynamically
16 // sized array
17 class Vector
18 {
19 public:
20 // Notice no "default" constructor. What would a default constructor do?
21 Vector(int nElements); // Specify the number of elements in the constructor
22 Vector(const Vector&); // Define the copy constructor
23 void operator=(const Vector&); // Define the "assignment operator"
24 ~Vector(); // Define the destructor
25 // Now define the various member functions that we need to manage
26 // the vector. For this simple example we will provide a method
27 // to query the "length" (maximum number of elements) of the array.
28 int Length() const; // Return the size of the array
29 // We also need a way to "index" the array. There are two ways
30 // to do this:
31 int GetElement(int whichElement) const; // Return an existing element
32 void SetElement(int whichElement, int newValue); // Set a value in the array
33 // However, much simpler than the above would be to overload the
34 // "indexing" operator, which is the "[]" operator.
35 // Pay particular attention to the return type for this function.
36 // It is not an "int" but an "int reference". It will be clear
37 // later why this is the case.
38 int& operator[](int whichElement);
39 // Finally provide a "Print" operator for debugging
40 void Print() const;
41 // Here are the member variables needed
42 private: // Note the use of "private" here. Will discuss in class
43 int length; // Size of the array
44 int* pArray; // Dynamic memory pointer to the actual array
45 };
46 // End of class declaration for Vector class
47
48 // Implementation of Vector class here
49 // Constructors
50 Vector::Vector(int nElements)
51 {
52 cout << "Hello from Vector::Vector(int nElements)" << endl;
53 length = nElements; // Set array length
54 pArray = new int[length]; // Allocate memory for "length" int variables
55 // Should we "zero out" the array here?
56 }

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Program dynamic-memory2.cc

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57
58 // Copy Constructor
59 Vector::Vector(const Vector& v)
60 {
61     cout << "Hello from Vector::Vector(const Vector& v)" << endl;
62     // This is similar to the "int" constructor, but we get the
63     // length from the vector object being copied
64     length = v.Length();
65     pArray = new int[length];
66     // Copy the actual contents
67     for (int i = 0; i < length; ++i)
68     {
69         pArray[i] = v.GetElement(i);
70     }
71 };
72
73 // Destructor
74 // Since the constructors allocated memory with "new", it makes sense
75 // that the destructor "delete" (give back) the memory.
76 Vector::~Vector()
77 { // Destructor
78     cout << "Hello from Vector::~Vector() destructor" << endl;
79     delete [] pArray; // Free the memory previously allocated
80 }
81
82 // Assignment operator
83 void Vector::operator=(const Vector& rhs)
84 {
85     cout << "Hello from Vector::operator=(const Vector& rhs) assignment" << endl;
86     // Assign one vector to another (with the "=" operator)
87     // FIRST..VERY IMPORANT, PROTECT AGAINST "Self-Assignment"
88     if (&rhs == this) return; // We will discuss this in class
89     // Next delete any memory associated with the left hand side
90     delete [] pArray;
91     // Set new length
92     length = rhs.Length();
93     // And allocate the memory
94     pArray = new int[length];
95     // Copy the actual contents
96     for (int i = 0; i < length; ++i)
97     {
98         pArray[i] = rhs.GetElement(i);
99     }
100 }
101
102 // Member functions
103 int Vector::Length() const
104 { // Return the length of the array
105     return length;
106 }
107
108 int Vector::GetElement(int whichElement) const
109 { // Return the specified element in the array
110     // We could add an extra check here to make sure that the specified
111     // "whichElement" is valid. This is extra overhead however, so
112     // we decide not to do that.

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Program dynamic-memory2.cc (continued)

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113     return pArray[whichElement];
114 }
115
116 void Vector::SetElement(int whichElement, int newValue)
117 { // Set a new value in the array
118     pArray[whichElement] = newValue;
119 }
120
121 // The indexing operator
122 int& Vector::operator[](int whichElement)
123 {
124     // return a reference to the specified element. Since we are returning
125     // REFERENCE to an element, we can use the indexing operator either
126     // on the left side OR THE RIGHT side of an assignment.
127     // See the code in main for an example.
128     return pArray[whichElement];
129 }
130
131 // Print for debugging
132 void Vector::Print() const
133 {
134     for (int i = 0; i < Length(); ++i)
135     {
136         cout << "Element " << i << " = " << GetElement(i) << endl;
137     }
138     cout << endl; // Extra end of line to space out the printouts
139 }
140
141 int main()
142 {
143     Vector v1(5); // Vector with 5 element
144     // Set some initial values
145     for (int i = 0; i < v1.Length(); ++i)
146     {
147         v1.SetElement(i, i);
148     }
149     Vector v2(v1); // A copy of v1
150     cout << "Printing v1" << endl;
151     v1.Print();
152     cout << "Printing v2" << endl;
153     v2.Print();
154     Vector v3(10); // Another vector with 10 elements
155     // Set some initial values
156     for (int i = 0; i < v3.Length(); ++i)
157     {
158         v3.SetElement(i, i * 10);
159     }
160     // Assigning v2 from v3
161     v2 = v3; // Assignment operator called
162     cout << "Printing v3" << endl;
163     v3.Print();
164     cout << "Printing v2" << endl;
165     v2.Print();
166     // Illustrate the indexing operator, both left-hand-side and right-hand-side
167     int val1 = v1[4]; // Get index 4 from v1
168     cout << "v1[4] is " << val1 << endl;

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Program dynamic-memory2.cc (continued)

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169 // Set a new value with indexint operator
170 v1[4] = 50; // Note indexing operator on LHS
171 cout << "v1[4] is " << v1[4] << endl;
172 // Illustrate "self-assignment". We will discuss this in class
173 v1 = v1; // Clearly not very useful or meaningful, but we need to handle
174 // Destructor automatically called for v1, v2 and v3.
175 }
176
177
178
179
180
181
182
```

Program dynamic-memory2.cc (continued)