

Default and Delete Keywords Solutions

Defaulted member functions

- What does the "default" keyword do?
 - By putting "= default" after a special member function declaration, we force the compiler to synthesize that member function
- Why is it useful?
 - It saves having to write out the code for the member function. (Consider the default copy constructor for a class with a lot of data members)
 - The member function is generated each time the class's code is compiled, so it is always correct and always up to date
 - It makes it explicit that the programmer wanted a default version of that special member function (as opposed to forgetting to implement it)
- Can it be used with non-member functions?
 - No

Deleted member functions

- What does the "delete" keyword do?
 - It causes the compiler to mark the function as uncallable
 - If we try to call the function, we get a compiler error
- Why is it useful?
 - It can be used to prevent operations we do not wish to allow
 - e.g. we can make objects uncopyable by deleting the copy constructor
- Can it be used with non-member functions?
 - Yes

Making a class uncopyable

- Write a simple class which cannot be copied or assigned to
 - Using Traditional C++ features
 - Using Modern C++ features
- Write programs to test your classes

Special Functions synthesized as deleted

- In what circumstances will the compiler synthesize the default constructor and copy operators as "deleted"?
 - If the class has a member which does not support the operation
 - If the class has a member whose destructor is deleted or inaccessible