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1 // Several examples of pointer dereferencing and incrementing
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3
4 #include <iostream>
5 using namespace std;
6
7 // First a global array for illustration
8 #define ASIZE 8
9 // Array a is the array used in most of the examples below
10 int a[ASIZE] = { 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7};
11 // Array b is used for the array copying loop below
12 int b[ASIZE] = { 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80};
13 int c = 100; // A global variable
14 int d = 200;
15
16 int main()
17 {
18     int* pA = a; // pA is a pointer, pointing to array "a", element 0
19     // See below showing that the pointer, pA, can be dereferenced
20     // with the '*' operator, or with the indexing '[' operator.
21     cout << "pA is " << pA << " *pA is " << *pA
22         << " pA[0] is " << pA[0] << endl;
23     // Note that the incrementing operator '++' has precedence over
24     // the dereferencing operator '*'. But keep in mind that the
25     // VALUE of the expression pA++ is the value of pA BEFORE the
26     // increment takes place. Thus the below should result in the
27     // value 0 stored in j0 and 1 in j1;
28     int j0 = *pA++;
29     int j1 = *pA++;
30     // j0 should be zero and j1 should be one
31     cout << "j0 is " << j0 << " j1 is " << j1 << endl;
32     // At this point, pA points to the '2' in array a. Try using
33     // the pre-increment operator to see the difference.
34     int j2 = ++pA;
35     // THIS is tricky...what should j2 be here? The VALUE of the expression
36     // ++pA is the INCREMENTED value of pA (which will then point to the
37     // 3 in array a, so we expect j2 to be 3.
38     cout << "j2 is " << j2 << endl;
39     // Another try using parens. At this point pA points to the 3 in array a
40     int j3 = (*pA)++;
41     // Again tricky. Using parens, we said to evaluate "*pA" and then
42     // post-increment the results. Evaluating *pA results in the
43     // value 3 (what is pointed to by pA). The post-increment operator
44     // evaluates to the value before the increment, so (*pA)++ evaluates
45     // to 3. But, two important things. First, pA is UNCHANGED. Second,
46     // the 3 in array a is changed to a 4.
47     // This is illustrated later.
48     int j4 = (*pA)++;
49     // j4 should be four, but pA still points to the address where the
50     // original 3 was.
51     cout << "j3 is " << j3 << " j4 is " << j4 << endl;
52     // One more try. What should j5 be below?
53     int j5 = ++(*pA);
54     cout << "j5 is " << j5 << endl;
55     // Illustrate array copying using pointers
56     // Reset pA back to beginning of array a

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Program pointer-dereferencing.cc

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57     pA = a;
58     int* pB = b; // pB points to the b array
59     cout << "&c " << &c
60         << " &d " << &d
61         << " pB " << pB
62         << " pA " << pA << endl;
63     for (int i = 0; i < ASIZE; ++i)
64     { // copy a to b
65         *pB++ = *pA++;
66     }
67     // Print out b
68     for (int i = 0; i < ASIZE; ++i)
69     {
70         cout << b[i] << " ";
71     }
72     cout << endl;
73     // What would we get if we dereferenced pB here?
74     cout << "*pB is " << *pB << endl;
75
76     // This last one is tricky...think about what should be printed here
77     pA = a; // reset pA
78     cout << " first " << *pA++ << " second " << *pA++
79         << " third " << *pA++ << " fourth " << *pA++
80         << endl;
81 }
82
83
84
85

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Program pointer-dereferencing.cc (continued)