

Section 1.1 C++11

Defaulted Functions

For example, consider struct `S4` in the code snippet below in which we have chosen to make explicit that the **copy operations** are to be autogenerated by the compiler; note, in particular, that implicit **declaration** and generation of each of the other **special member functions** are left unaffected.

```
struct S4
{
    S4(const S4&) = default;           // copy constructor
    S4& operator=(const S4&) = default; // copy-assignment operator

    // Explicitly declaring a copy constructor (with or without a copy-assignment
    // operator) suppresses implicit declaration of the default constructor
    // and both move operations but has no effect on the defaulted destructor.
};
```

A **defaulted** declaration may appear with any **access specifier** (i.e., **private**, **protected**, or **public**), and access to that generated function will be regulated accordingly:

```
struct S5
{
private:
    S5(const S5&) = default;           // private copy constructor
    S5& operator=(const S5&) = default; // private copy-assignment operator

protected:
    ~S5() = default;                 // protected destructor

public:
    S5() = default;                 // public default constructor
};
```

In the example above, **copy operations** exist for use by **member** and *friend* functions only. Declaring the **destructor** **protected** or **private** limits which functions can create **automatic variables** of the specified type to those functions with the appropriately privileged access to the class. Declaring the **default constructor** **public** is necessary to avoid its declaration being suppressed by another constructor — e.g., the **private copy constructor** in the code snippet above — or *any* **move operation**.

In short, using **=default** on the first declaration denotes that a **special member function** is intended to be generated by the compiler, irrespective of any **user-provided** declarations; in conjunction with **=delete** (see Section 1.1. “Deleted Functions” on page 53), using **=default** affords the fine-grained control over which **special member functions** are to be generated and/or made publicly available.

Defaulting the implementation of a user-provided special member function

The **=default** syntax can also be used after the first declaration but with a distinctly different meaning: The compiler will treat the first declaration as a **user-provided special**