

Section 1.1 C++11

Function static '11

Note that any memory that the `Logger` itself manages would still come from the global heap and be recognized as memory leaks.⁴

In this final incarnation of a decidedly non-Meyers-Singleton pattern, we first reserve a block of memory of sufficient size and the correct alignment for `Logger` using `std::aligned_storage`. Next we use that storage in conjunction with placement `new` to create the logger directly in that static memory. Notice that this allocation is not from the dynamic store, so typical profiling tools will not track and will not provide a false warning when we fail to destroy this object at program termination time. Now we can return a reference to the logger object embedded safely in static memory knowing that it will be there until application exit.

Potential Pitfalls

~~static storage duration objects are not guaranteed to be initialized~~

Despite C++11’s guarantee that each individual function-scope `static` initialization will occur at most once and before control can reach a point where the variable can be referenced, no analogous guarantees are made of nonlocal objects of `static storage duration`. Absence of this guarantee makes any interdependency in the initialization of such objects, especially across `translation units` (TUs), an abundant source of insidious errors.

Objects that undergo `constant initialization` have no such issue: Such objects will never be accessible at run time before having their initial values. Objects that are not constant initialized⁵ will instead be `zero initialized` until their constructors run, which itself might lead to `undefined behavior` that is not necessarily conspicuous.

As a demonstration of what can happen when we depend on the relative order of initialization of variables at file or namespace scope used before `main`, consider the `cyclically dependent` pair of source files, `a.cpp` and `b.cpp`:

```
// a.cpp:
extern int setB(int); // declaration only of setter in other TU
int *a = new int;    // runtime initialization of file-scope variable
int setA(int i)      // Initialize a; then b.
{
    *a = i;          // Populate the allocated heap memory.
    setB(i);         // Invoke setter to populate the other one.
    return 0;        // Return successful status.
}
```

⁴If the global heap is to be entirely avoided, we could leverage a polymorphic-allocator implementation such as `std::pmr` in C++17. We would first create a fixed-size array of memory having `static storage duration`. Then we would create a `static` memory-allocation mechanism, e.g., `std::pmr::monotonic_buffer_resource`. Next we would use placement `new` to construct the logger within the static memory pool using our static allocation mechanism and supply that same mechanism to the `Logger` object so that it could get all its internal memory from that static pool as well; a discussion of this topic is planned for `lakos22`.

⁵C++20 added a new keyword, `constexpr`, that can be placed on a variable declaration to *require* that the variable in question undergo constant initialization and thus can never be accessed at run time prior to the start of its lifetime.