Streams

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Game Plan

- Recap
- Purpose of Streams
- Output Streams
- Input Streams
- Stringstream (maybe)
Announcements
Recap
Recap - Hello, world!

```cpp
#include <iostream>

int main() {
    std::cout << "Hello, world!" << std::endl;
    return 0;
}
```
Recap - Hello, world!

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These can get annoying to write for common names like cout, endl, string etc.
Recap - Hello, world!

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The using namespace std directive is a bazooka version of this.
Streams
"Designing and implementing a general input/output facility for a programming language is notoriously difficult"

- Bjarne Stroustrup
Streams - Introduction

A stream is an abstraction for input/output.

You can think of it as a source (input) or destination (output) of characters of indefinite length.
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```
"Hello, world!"
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```
std::cout
```
Streams - Introduction

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The Idea Behind Streams
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You can write data of multiple types to stream objects.

```cpp
cout << "Strings work!" << endl;
cout << 1729 << endl;
cout << 3.14 << endl;
cout << "Mixed types - " << 1123 << endl;
```

In particular, any primitive type can be inserted into a stream! For other types, you need to explicitly tell C++ how to do this.
How does this work?

Idea:

● Input from user is in text form (string)
● Output from user is in text form (string)
● Intermediate computation needs to be done on object type
The Idea Behind Streams

Streams allow a C++ programmer to convert between the string representation of data, and the data itself.
Types of Streams
Output Streams

Can only *receive* data.

- The `std::cout` stream is an example of an output stream.
- All output streams are of type `std::ostream`.

Send data using stream insertion operator: `<<`

Insertions converts data to string and *sends* to stream.
Output Streams

We can use a `std::ostream` for more than just printing to a console.

You can send the data to a file using a `std::ofstream`, which is a special type of `std::ostream`.

Output Stream Example

(output.cpp)
Input Streams

Quick test!

How familiar is this:

```cpp
int x;
std::cin >> x;
```
Input Streams

Can only give you data.

- The `std::cin` stream is an example of an input stream.
- All input streams are of type `std::istream`.

Pull out data using stream extraction operator: `>>`

Extraction gets data from stream as a string and converts it into the appropriate type.
Input Streams

Just like with `std::ostream`, we can use a `std::istream` for more than just console IO.

You can read data from a file using a `std::ifstream`.

Input Stream Example

`(input.cpp)`
Input Streams

To understand a `std::istream`, think of it as a sequence of characters.
Input Streams

Extracting an integer will read \textit{as many characters as possible} from the stream.

```c++
// input is an istream
int value;
input >> value; // value is now 42
```
Input Streams

Extracting again will **skip over any whitespace** when reading the next integer.

```cpp
// input is an istream
int value;
input >> value;  // value is now 134
```
When no more data is left, the fail bit will be set to true and input.fail() will return true.

// input is an istream
int value;
input >> value;    // value is now ??
Input Streams

More Input Stream Examples

(input.cpp)
There are some quirks with extracting a string from a stream.

Reading into a string using `>>` will only read a single word, not the whole line.

To read a whole line, use

```cpp
getline(istream& stream, string& line);
```
Input Streams

More Input Stream Examples

(input.cpp)
Input Stream

Think carefully when mixing `>>` and `getline`!

Using `>>` can have some weird bugs so next lesson we will talk about a way to avoid it by using `getline` and string streams.
Some Questions to Ponder

What happens if you read into the wrong type?

Can you extract user defined types (e.g. classes) from a stream?

Can you control how output stream output the data we give them?

Is there a stream that might be both an input and output stream?

Find out next time!
Next Time

Streams - The Details