

Re: using "!!" in "c"

Source: http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/C_CPP/comp.lang.c/2006-01/msg02834.html

- *From:* "pemo" <usenetmeister@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 19 Jan 2006 23:17:37 -0000
-

"Keith Thompson" <kst-u@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message

news:ln3bjkklzk.fsf@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

> "pemo" <usenetmeister@xxxxxxxxxx> writes:

>> <snip>

>>

>>>> So is (value, 0) (i.e., a comma operator). It turns a scalar value

>>>> into 1 or 0. It just happens to be 0.

>>>>

>>>> What's the point here?

>>>>

>>>> I believe that Keith was just pointing out that your specification of
>> what !! does was incomplete. What he wrote met your specification but
>> would generally be pointless in real code (there are potentially some
>> exceptions) and does not do what !! does.

>>>>

>>>>

>>>> If that *IS* the case, it seems um, rather unnecessarily pedantic – I
>>>> believe that what I said was clear enough – and correct in as far as it
>>>> went: and I also didn't say it was the only way to do something so
>>>> why

>>>> point out alternatives? Maybe it's necessary to produce litanies

>>>> containing

>>>> alternative possibilities for each non-exhaustive statement ever made

>>>> here

>>>> sometimes?

>>>>

> (A number of attributions were snipped. I wrote the text starting
> with "So is (value, 0)", pemo wrote the text starting with "What's the
> point here?", and Flash Gordon wrote the text starting with "I believe
> that Keith was". Please leave attributions in place. Thanks.)

After this reply, I'll try and remember to simply enter any further replies I make to posts at the bottom of any existing text – and then let others either ignore my posts, or else figure out to what it is I might be referring – seems like I'll never get the hang of this process, and if I'm black-flagged, knobbed, f**ked up the ass [or whatever the proper 'in the know' usenet term is] by some for not posting correctly, at least I won't be committing the ultimate sin: top posting.

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- > What you wrote was:
- >
- > !! is a good way of turning a scalar value into 1 or 0.
- >
- > That's not a useful specification unless you also specify **when**
- > it yields 0 and when it yields 1. By itself, it doesn't provide any
- > clue of why you'd want to turn a scalar value into 1 or 0. I was just
- > emphasizing the fact that !! maps 0 to 0 and all non-zero mappings
- > to 1. There are many many other possible mappings.

- > By itself, it doesn't provide any clue of why you'd want to turn a scalar
- > value into 1 or 0.

'By itself' – yes – which is why I then gave an example (malloc).

- > Whether I was being overly pedantic is a matter of opinion, of course.
- > I likely wouldn't have bothered mentioning it if I weren't commenting
- > on other things in your article.
- >
- >>>>> printf("%p\n", (void *)"boo");
- >>>>>
- >>>>> will output some value that's not 0, and very unlikely to be 1, e.g.,
- >>>>> 0040300
- >>>
- >>>> It will output some implementation-specific sequence of printing
- >>>> characters. The sequence may or may not look like a number.
- >>>
- >>> Can you explain this comment too? Is it an allusion to some obscure
- >>> minutiae in the std, like "In reality, an implementation is free to
- >>> encode
- >>> an address such that it is displayed in egyptian hieroglyphics"?
- >>
- >>>>One very common format of output is something like "1234:5678", another
- >> is something like "0x12345678". <snip>
- >>
- >> Ah, so it was as I expected – an allusion to some obscure minutiae [well,
- >> it
- >> is isn't it – letter-of-the-law-correct-or-not] that seems picky and
- >> generally non-constructive. The two examples you gave look like numbers
- >> to
- >> me. And I would hazard a guess that most every compiler outputs
- >> something
- >> similar – even if it doesn't **have to**. So, saying that a compiler
- >> **could**
- >> output this in a braille encoding of the morse-code interpretation of
- >> egyptian hieroglyphics is kinda like saying that there is a remote

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>> possibility that you *could* pick up a book which is written in English –
>> but that you can't read – because the author decided to choose a remote
>> vocabulary and to 'encode' his/her prose in such an impenetrable way as
>> it
>> make it more or less impossible. Both situations *could* exist, but both
>> are, in reality, unlikely to – so what's the point in making a noise
>> about
>> it?
>
> No, this is not "some obscure minutiae", this is part of a basic
> understanding of the language.
>
> Here's what the standard says about the "%p" format for the *printf()
> functions:
>
> The argument shall be a pointer to void. The value of the pointer
> is converted to a sequence of printing characters, in an
> implementation-defined manner.
>
> There's also some wording for the *scanf() functions saying that it
> can read the same format produced by *printf().
>
> There is no implication that the output looks anything like a number,
> and portable code cannot depend on any particular output format.

Ok, so this is where the problem is – although the OP might not give a flying f**k about it, as they also might possibly not give the same for portability – you're saying that I should have added ...

"will output some value that's not 0, and very unlikely to be 1, e.g., 0040300. But remember that nothing is said in the C stds about the actual output here, so you might see output that's in a format that you might not readily understand for example, some version of printf might output cockney rhyming slang! – "two fat ladies, two rubber ducks, and a ton" (meaning 8822100 in base 10)"

• **Follow-Ups:**

◆ *Usenetiquette (was: using "!!" in "c")*

◇ *From: CBFalconer*

• **References:**

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- ◆ [using "!!" in "c"](#)
 - ◇ From: markkryde
- ◆ [Re: using "!!" in "c"](#)
 - ◇ From: pemo
- ◆ [Re: using "!!" in "c"](#)
 - ◇ From: Keith Thompson
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 - ◇ From: pemo
- ◆ [Re: using "!!" in "c"](#)
 - ◇ From: Flash Gordon
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