

Re: Pointer Question

Source: <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/VC/microsoft.public.vc.language/2006-04/msg00941.html>

- *From:* "Igor Tandetnik" <itandetnik@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 30 Apr 2006 14:07:57 -0400
-

"David++" <David@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:D1FC7B0C-36D1-483C-87F4-A73B176EFF2A@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

I am reading over Pointers again to make it clearer. In my book it rightly says that using an uninitialized pointer is dangerous i.e.

```
int *pInt;

*pInt = 12;
```

In other words, pInt doesnt point to anything known, it could be pointing at any piece of memory.

But in C style strings the following is used all the time to hold character strings –

```
char *pChar = "Hello World";
```

Isnt that the same thing? as using an uninitialized pointer? I mean, pChar isnt pointing to anything known either, is it?

The first example assigns to the memory the pointer is pointing to. Since the pointer is uninitialized, it points to random piece of memory which the assignment overwrites.

The second example assigns to the pointer itself, making it point to something valid.

Consider:

```
int x = 0;
int* pInt; // uninitialized pointer

*pInt = 1; // undefined, illegal
pInt = &x; // well defined, legal. pInt now points to x
*pInt = 1; // now it's well defined, equivalent to x = 1;
```

Re: Pointer Question

With best wishes,
Igor Tandetnik

With sufficient thrust, pigs fly just fine. However, this is not necessarily a good idea. It is hard to be sure where they are going to land, and it could be dangerous sitting under them as they fly overhead. -- RFC 1925