

Ternary Operator

Once upon a time I hinted that there were operators that had more than two operands. This is true, but there is only one case of it in C++. This is a ternary operator, *the* ternary operator. I have found several different technical explanations of this. Some say it is *the* ternary operator while others say it is a condition-expression using *a* ternary operator. They are basically both right, but there is only the one ring, er ... ternary operator. ☺ (Sorry, been reading *Lord of the Rings*).

So what *is* this damn thing I'm talking about? This particular operation, with the ternary operator, uses the question mark ('?'). It is basically a compressed 'if/else' that represents a resulting value. And its practically impossible to explain, let me show you an example:

```
01  #include <iostream.h>
02
03  main()
04  {
05      int num;
06      cout << "Enter a number (1-10):";
07      cin >> num;
08      num = (num < 1)?1:num;
09  }
```

Blargo.