

# C++ MULTI-DIMENSIONAL ARRAYS

[http://www.tutorialspoint.com/cplusplus/cpp\\_multi\\_dimensional\\_arrays.htm](http://www.tutorialspoint.com/cplusplus/cpp_multi_dimensional_arrays.htm)

Copyright © tutorialspoint.com

C++ allows multidimensional arrays. Here is the general form of a multidimensional array declaration:

```
type name[size1][size2]...[sizeN];
```

For example, the following declaration creates a three dimensional 5 . 10 . 4 integer array:

```
int threedim[5][10][4];
```

## Two-Dimensional Arrays:

The simplest form of the multidimensional array is the two-dimensional array. A two-dimensional array is, in essence, a list of one-dimensional arrays. To declare a two-dimensional integer array of size x,y, you would write something as follows:

```
type arrayName [ x ][ y ];
```

Where **type** can be any valid C++ data type and **arrayName** will be a valid C++ identifier.

A two-dimensional array can be think as a table, which will have x number of rows and y number of columns. A 2-dimensional array **a**, which contains three rows and four columns can be shown as below:

	Column 0	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Row 0	a[ 0 ][ 0 ]	a[ 0 ][ 1 ]	a[ 0 ][ 2 ]	a[ 0 ][ 3 ]
Row 1	a[ 1 ][ 0 ]	a[ 1 ][ 1 ]	a[ 1 ][ 2 ]	a[ 1 ][ 3 ]
Row 2	a[ 2 ][ 0 ]	a[ 2 ][ 1 ]	a[ 2 ][ 2 ]	a[ 2 ][ 3 ]

Thus, every element in array **a** is identified by an element name of the form **a[ i ][ j ]**, where **a** is the name of the array, and **i** and **j** are the subscripts that uniquely identify each element in **a**.

## Initializing Two-Dimensional Arrays:

Multidimensioned arrays may be initialized by specifying bracketed values for each row. Following is an array with 3 rows and each row have 4 columns.

```
int a[3][4] = {  
    {0, 1, 2, 3}, /* initializers for row indexed by 0 */  
    {4, 5, 6, 7}, /* initializers for row indexed by 1 */  
    {8, 9, 10, 11} /* initializers for row indexed by 2 */  
};
```

The nested braces, which indicate the intended row, are optional. The following initialization is equivalent to previous example:

```
int a[3][4] = {0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11};
```

## Accessing Two-Dimensional Array Elements:

An element in 2-dimensional array is accessed by using the subscripts, i.e., row index and column index of the array. For example:

```
int val = a[2][3];
```

The above statement will take 4th element from the 3rd row of the array. You can verify it in the above diagram.

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int main ()
{
    // an array with 5 rows and 2 columns.
    int a[5][2] = { {0,0}, {1,2}, {2,4}, {3,6},{4,8}};

    // output each array element's value
    for ( int i = 0; i < 5; i++ )
        for ( int j = 0; j < 2; j++ )
        {
            cout << "a[" << i << "][" << j << "]: ";
            cout << a[i][j]<< endl;
        }

    return 0;
}
```

When the above code is compiled and executed, it produces the following result:

```
a[0][0]: 0
a[0][1]: 0
a[1][0]: 1
a[1][1]: 2
a[2][0]: 2
a[2][1]: 4
a[3][0]: 3
a[3][1]: 6
a[4][0]: 4
a[4][1]: 8
```

As explained above, you can have arrays with any number of dimensions, although it is likely that most of the arrays you create will be of one or two dimensions.