

Implementing two-phase initialization with ATL

 devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20240118-00

January 18, 2024



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In an attempt to solve problems with exceptions thrown out of constructors that hand out COM references in your class implement with ATL, you might notice this nice extension point called `FinalConstruct()` and use it for the second phase of two-phase construction.

```
// ATL - this code is wrong
class MyPage : public CComObjectRootEx<CComMultiThreadModel>,
    public CComCoClass<MyPage>,
    public IPage
{
public:
    DECLARE_PROTECT_FINAL_CONSTRUCT()

    HRESULT FinalConstruct() try
    {
        Application::LoadComponent(this, blah, blah);
        something_that_might_throw();
        return S_OK;
    }
    CATCH_RETURN();

    [ ... ]
};
```

You thought you were clever and remembered that ATL runs the constructor with a reference count of zero, so you deferred the operations that use COM references to the `FinalConstruct()`, and you used `DECLARE_PROTECT_FINAL_CONSTRUCT()` to ensure that `FinalConstruct()` runs with a nonzero reference count.

However, if you look at how `CComCoClass::CreateInstance` uses `FinalConstruct()`, you'll see that it doesn't really work for two-phase construction:

```
template<class Base>
/* static */
HRESULT WINAPI CComObject<Base>::CreateInstance(
    CComObject<Base>** pp) throw()
{
    ATLASSERT(*pp == NULL);
    if (pp == NULL)
        return E_POINTER;
    *pp = NULL;

    HRESULT hRes = E_OUTOFMEMORY;
    CComObject<Base>* p = NULL;
    ATLTRY(p = _ATL_NEW CComObject<Base>())
    if (p != NULL)
    {
        p->SetVoid(NULL);
        p->InternalFinalConstructAddRef();
        hRes = p->FinalConstruct();
        p->InternalFinalConstructRelease();
        if (hRes != S_OK) {
            delete p;
            p = NULL;
        }
    }
    *pp = p;
    return hRes;
}
```

Observe that if `FinalConstruct()` fails, the object is outright `deleted`; any `AddRef` that occurred during `FinalConstruct()` won't prevent the object's destruction.

You will have to implement the two-phase construction manually.

```

class MyPage : public CComObjectRootEx<CComMultiThreadModel>,
    public CComCoClass<MyPage>,
    public IPage
{
public:
    HRESULT InitializeComponent() noexcept try
    {
        Application::LoadComponent(this, blah, blah);
        something_that_might_throw();
        return S_OK;
    }
    CATCH_RETURN();

    [[ ... ]]
};

HRESULT CreateMyPage(CComObject<MyPage>** result)
{
    *result = NULL;

    CComObject<MyPage>* page;

    HRESULT hr = CComObject<MyPage>::CreateInstance(&page);
    if (FAILED(hr)) return hr;

    CComPtr<CComObject<MyPage>> pageRef(page);

    hr = page->InitializeComponent();
    if (FAILED(hr)) return hr;

    *result = pageRef.Detach();
    return S_OK;
}

```

The important things to note are

- We bump the reference count from 0 to 1 (by putting it in a `CComPtr`) before calling `InitializeComponent()`, so that the COM references we hand out have a nonzero reference count.
- We use a `CComPtr` so that the reference will be released automatically if `InitializeComponent()` throws an exception or returns a COM failure.
- The `CComPtr` destructor does a `Release()` rather than a `delete`, so any extra references created by `InitializeComponent()` are honored.