

Including List Element is Faster, But Allows Just One List

In other words,

- **create a list element** structure
- **consisting of a next field** (only), and
- **include a list element** structure
- **as first element of** the “thing” structure.

For list code, a “thing” is just a list node.

List nodes can be turned into “things”
(the address is the same)!

But **can only have one list** for any “thing.”

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Example: Cyclic, Doubly-Linked List with a Sentinel

Let’s build an **example container**:

- **cyclic, doubly-linked list with a sentinel**
- **using list element inclusion**
(rather than extra pointers).

In particular,

- a **double_list_t** includes pointers
to **next** and **prev double_list_t**’s, and
- first field of “thing” is a **double_list_t**.

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A List Node is Simple: Just Two Pointers

```
typedef struct double_list_t
    double_list_t;
struct double_list_t {
    double_list_t* prev;
    double_list_t* next;
};
```

How do we initialize a list?

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List Variables Can be Statically or Dynamically Initialized

List variables can be **initialized statically**:

```
// this variable is the sentinel
static double_list_t my_list =
    {&my_list, &my_list};
```

But **dynamically-allocated lists** must be **initialized at runtime**.



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