digits. For example, to show four digits of a nine-digit number, lop off the last five digits.
You can code this approach as follows:

```cpp
c t = digits - ct;
while (ct--)
    num /= 10;
return num;
```

Listing 8.8 incorporates this code into a new `left()` function. The function includes some additional code to handle special cases, such as asking for zero digits or asking for more digits than the number possesses. Because the signature of the new `left()` differs from that of the old `left()`, we can, and do, use both functions in the same program.

**Listing 8.8 leftover.cpp**

```cpp
// leftover.cpp -- overloading the left() function
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
unsigned long left(unsigned long num, unsigned ct);
char * left(const char * str, int n = 1);
int main()
{
    char * trip = "Hawaii!!";  // test value
    unsigned long n = 12345678; // test value
    int i;
    char * temp;

    for (i = 1; i < 10; i++)
    {
        cout << left(n, i) << " \n";
        temp = left(trip,i);
        cout << temp << " \n";
        delete [] temp;  // point to temporary storage
    }
    return 0;
```