

CSC151.02 2013F, Class 02: An Introduction to Linux

Overview

- Admin.
- Clicker Questions.
- Lessons from day one.
- Common parts of an algorithm.
- About the course.
- Getting started with Linux.
- Some administrative details (if there's time).

Admin

- If you expect to have a long-standing interest in CS (even if you don't plan to be a CS major), you can be on the csstudents mailing list and you can participate in CS Table. Email me to get added to the mailing list.
 - CS Table meets in JRC 224A at Noon on Fridays. We pay for your meal if you're a student not on board.
 - This week, we're reading Alan Turing's Computing Machinery and Intelligence <http://www.csee.umbc.edu/courses/471/papers/turing.pdf>
- The CS SEPC is hosting a study break tonight at 8pm in the CS Commons. Feel free to attend.
- With over sixty surveys between my two classes, I didn't have time to respond to all of them yet. (If I'm lucky, I can respond to a survey in 10 minutes.) Give me a few days.
 - You can find some answers to questions in FAQ.
 - I'm also preparing a summary of lessons (currently only linked from today's outline)
 - There seems to be some confusion about the relationship between outline and eboard.
 - outlines are *prospective*, they indicate what I plan to talk about
 - eboards are effectively *retrospective*, they record what we actually did talk about
 - Very few people even bothered to look up PGP or IRC.
 - We will be using IRC starting next week, but I will give you a short in-class introduction first.
 - And since some folks are concerned about revelations about Microsoft or the NSA, you might want to learn about PGP.
- For today's lab (and only today's lab), I'll try to have one of you per computer. We will need to spread out to both labs, and even across the hallway.
- You have four (!) short readings for tomorrow: The Parts of an Algorithm, The DrRacket Programming Environment, Beginning Scheme, and How Scheme Evaluates Expressions (take 1).
- I'll note that Dr. Davis and I seem to have taken very different approaches to today's class.
- Any upcoming events? (talks, performances, games, etc)
- Instead of taking attendance, I will hand out account information for the CS department workstations.

- My, that was a failure.
- Mr. Stone is in class now, so if I don't have a card for you, you'll need to find him after class.

Clicker Questions

- A quick question on policies

Lessons from day one

- You need to understand
 - that the person following instructions may have limited knowledge
 - and what that limited knowledge is
 - traditional writing issue: know your audience
- Explain clearly
- Adapt!

Common parts of an algorithm

- We name things - Variables
 - "Your dominant hand"
 - The jar
 - The piece of bread
- We make choices - Conditionals
 - If you still have something in your right hand, place it gently on the top surface of the table
 - Which thing to start with
 - If there's a screw-top lid, do ...; if there's a pry-top lid, do
- We repeat actions
 - Unscrew lid
- We group actions and name them - Functions, Procedures, Subroutines
 - "To open a jar"

About the course

Not covered

Getting started with Linux

Split

Some administrative details (if there's time)

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