

Class 34: Strings

Held: Monday, 1 November 2010

Summary: We begin to consider the design of strings in C.

Related Pages:

- EBoard.
- Lab: Strings.
- Reading: K&R 5.5, B3.

Notes:

- Reminder: NaNoWriMo and PragProWriMo start today.
- EC for MD's noontime talk. (Free pizza, too!)
- Story from Friday's lunch.
- Reading for Tuesday: K&R 5.6-5.9.
- Are there questions on Exam 2?

Overview:

- About strings.
- Important string functions.
- Thinking like a C programmer.
- Lab.

Strings

- In C, strings are null-terminated arrays of characters.
 - "null" means "0".
- Since arrays are (mostly) interchangeable with pointers, strings are also pointers to characters.
- While this sounds simple, it's easy to screw things up.

Important String Functions

- `strlen (str)` - find the number of characters in `str`.
- `strcpy (target, source)` - copy string from `source` to `target`.
- `strncpy (target, source, n)` - copy up to `n` characters from `source` to `target`.
- `strcat (target, source)` - put `source` on the end of `target`.

Thinking Like a C Programmer

```
/**
 * strcpy: Copy source (s) to target (t).
 */
void
strcpy (char *t, char *s)
{
    char *result = t;
    while (*t++ = *s++)
        ;
    return result;
} // strcpy
```

Lab

- Do the lab.
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