CSC161 2011S *Imperative Problem Solving*

Assignment 3: Explaining Basic Types and Assignment

Assigned: Monday, 7 February 2011
Due: 11:00 p.m., Wednesday, 9 February 2011

Summary: In this assignment, you will write short textbook-like sections about what happens when you assign across types and about basic I/O in C.

Purposes: To help you think more about these topics. To give you a different kind of computer science assignment. To encourage you to explore.

Expected Time: Two to three hours.

Collaboration: I encourage you to work in groups of size two or three. However, you may also work individually or in groups of up to size four. You are certainly welcome to talk to anyone about this assignment, provided you document such discussions. (For this assignment, an Acknowledgements section is particularly appropriate.)

Submitting: Upload your document to Pioneerweb. Further instructions below.

Warning: So that this assignment is a learning experience for everyone, I may spend class time publicly critiquing your work. I may also post your work to the World Wide Web (provided you give me permission to do so).

Assignment

Amazingly, some readers find K&R a bit too concise in their description of assignment and the basic types. and input and output. Your job is to help those readers by writing short, informative documents on using the basic types (`char`, `int`, and `double`), including (a) assignment, (b) the form of constants, (c) coercion, and (d) how things can go wrong. You need not deal with signed/unsigned modifiers nor with `short`, `long`, or `float` values.

Your documents should certainly include informative code snippets and the output from those snippets. Your documents should also provide information to the reader about ways in which the commands can be used incorrectly and what happens when they are used incorrectly.

Try to explore deeply when working on this assignment. For example, when we assign an `int` to a `char`, there are at least four possible cases that depend on the value of the integer (or integer expression).

- The integer is between 0 and 127, inclusive.
- The integer is between 128 and 255, inclusive.
- The integer is greater than 255.
- The integer is less than 0.

I would prefer that you write your documentation in HTML, but you may use any text formatting or word processing application that you deem appropriate.

Important Evaluation Criteria

In part, I will assess this like any other piece of writing at Grinnell: I will look at the clarity of your writing, your grammatical correctness, your flow of ideas, and so on and so forth.

I will also look at the *correctness* of your work. Have you told your reader the truth about what happens in C? When your answers correspond primarily to our implementation of C, have you made it clear that it's our implementation, rather than C in general.

I will also look at the *thoroughness* of your work. Have you explained a wide variety of issues and found code snippets to illustrate those issues?

I reserve the right to impose additional criteria as I see your work.

Miscellaneous Notes

I would encourage you to release your documentation under some form of Creative Commons license.

Submitting Your Homework

Please submit this work via the Assignment 3 link on Pioneerweb.

As noted above, you may want to take advantage of a word processor or document formatter to make your documents available. If you use an application that I may not have, please submit a PDF, too.
