CS326 – Programming Languages, Concepts and Implementation

Homework 5

(Due November 10)

1. (25 pts) The Boolean type is typically represented on a byte in memory, although it can have only two possible values. Why not represent the Boolean type on a single bit?

2. (25 pts) Write a small fragment of code that shows how unions can be used in C to interpret the bits of a value of one type as if they represented a value of some other type (non-converting type cast).

3. (25 pts) Consider the following:

```
typedef struct
{
   int x;
   char y;
} Rec1;
typedef Rec1 Rec2;
typedef struct
{
   int x;
   char y;
} Rec3;

Rec1    a, b;
Rec2    c;
Rec3    d;
```

   Specify which of the variables `a,b,c,d` are type equivalent under (a) structural equivalence, (b) strict name equivalence, and (c) loose name equivalence.

4. (25 pts) Consider the following program, written in C:

```
typedef struct
{
   int   x;
   int   y;
} Foo;


void allocate_node (Foo * f)
{
   f = (Foo *) malloc ( sizeof(Foo) );
}
```

```
void main ()
{
   Foo * p;
   allocate_node (p);
   p->x = 2;
   p->y = 3;
   free(p);
}
```

Although the program compiles, it produces a run-time error. Why?

Rewrite the two functions `allocate_node` and `main` so that the program runs correctly.

5. (Extra Credit - 10 pts) A compiler for a language with static scoping typically uses a LeBlanc-Cook symbol table to track the bindings of various names encountered in a program. Describe the mechanism that should be used by a compiler to ensure that the names of record fields used inside a `with` statement are bound to the correct objects. Specify what should be placed in (a) the symbol table, (b) the scope stack, and (c) the run-time program stack.