

Problem Sheet #1

Problem 1.1: *freshie crash*

The program is producing unexpected results because of the *strdup* function.

The function returns *strncpy*, which returns a pointer to the destination string. In this case that is a pointer to *d*. However, *d* is a local variable and after the function returns there is no existence of *d* - so the pointer may contain garbage values. The use of said returned pointer leads to undefined behavior - and unexpected results.

Problem 1.2: *memory segments*

```
1 #include <stdlib.h>
2 #include <stdio.h>
3 #include <stdio.h>
4
5 char *strdup(const char *s) // Stack Segment
6 {
7     char *p = NULL; // Stack Segment
8     size_t len; // Stack Segment
9
10    if (s) {
11        len = strlen(s);
12        p = malloc(len+1); // Heap Segment
13        if (p) {
14            strcpy(p, s);
15        }
16    }
17    return p; // Stack segment
18 }
19
20 int main() // Stack Segment
21 {
22     static char m[] = "Hello World!"; // Data Segment
23     char *p = strdup(m); // Stack Segment
24     if (!p) {
25         perror("strdup");
26         return EXIT_FAILURE; // Stack Segment
27     }
28     if (puts(p) == EOF) {
29         perror("puts");
30         return EXIT_FAILURE; // Stack Segment
31     }
32     if (fflush(stdout) == EOF) {
33         perror("fflush");
34         return EXIT_FAILURE; // Stack Segment
35     }
36     return EXIT_SUCCESS; // Stack Segment
37 }
```

The text segment stores the machine instructions of the program.

The static variable `m[]` and `"Hello World!"` is stored in the data segment.

The heap segment stores the buffer from `malloc` pointed to by `p`.

The stack stores return addresses of the function. Also, it stores the parameters of functions - so `const char *s` is stored in the stack segment. Local variables like `len` in the `strdup` function and `char *p` in the `main` function is stored in the stack segment. Similarly, management of the data required by the function calls made in both `main` and `strdup` like `strlen`, `puts` and `fflush` are stored in the stack segment.

Problem 1.3: *execute a command in a modified environment
or print the environment*

Please find the source code `env.c`