

ColdCoffeeScript User Guide

James Curran and Shahaan Hassan

May 1, 2017

ColdCoffeeScript, its interpreter and accompanying features, and this User Guide are in no way affiliated with or endorsed by popular University of Southampton lecturer Gennaro Parlato.

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1 Introductory Quotes and Haiku

"You can't put that lmao"

- Shahaan Hassan, 2017

*We have distilled the
One and only Gennaro
Into a language*

*If you want some proof
that our language is dank, well
we got 4/20*

2 "Serious" Introduction

ColdCoffeeScript is a strongly and statically typed imperative domain-specific language, created for the purpose of manipulating regular languages. The language prides orthogonality over syntactic sugar so the developers have DELIBERATELY AIMED for a minimal syntax. All functions and operators can be treated as pass-by-value. Variables are only changed when explicitly re-assigned by the programmer. Four data types are supported: integer, boolean, string and set (of strings). For details on supported operations, see the "Syntax" section.

3 Features

ColdCoffeeScript boasts many organic features, guaranteed to make programming simply delightful. These include:

- Delicious Gennaro-themed error messages, including such choice phrases as "" and "" (we only ever type valid programs so we don't know)
- Incredible type checker to whip those unruly variables into shape before they go into the program!
- Single line comments - include any old muck in your program by surrounding part of a line with hashes, like so `#Shahaan remember to add more features under here#`

4 Syntax

4.1 Ignored characters

Any characters surrounded by `#` symbols are treated as comments and ignored by the interpreter. Outside of these symbols, only whitespace and the newline character are ignored.

4.2 Program format

A ColdCoffeeScript program is a series of statements (see "Statements" below), separated by a semicolon. Line comments can appear on any line of the program.

4.3 Types

- ColdCoffeeScript integers (named `int` in code) are specified by any sequence of the characters 0-9. Nota Bene: Integers are bounded by the OCaml integer standard - see caml.inria.fr for more information. We certainly did.
- Booleans (`bool` in code) are standard boolean types, denoted by `true` and `false`.
- Strings (`string` in code) are sequences of characters from the lowercase English alphabet. The exception is `:`, which represents an empty string. Strings are encased in double quotes in the program, but not in program input or output.
- Sets (`set` in code) are ordered collections of strings. A set cannot contain two identical strings, and the set is reordered automatically if necessary. Strings in sets follow alphabetical order, BUT strings with shorter lengths are closer to the start of the set, with `:` being closest of all.

4.4 Integer Operators

All integer operators are infix. The standard `+`, `-`, `*` and `/` are used, as well as `<`, `==` and `>` for comparison. If two integers do not divide evenly, an error will occur.

4.5 Boolean Operators

All boolean operators are infix. The operators are the standard `not`, `and` and `or`, with `==` to check for equality.

4.6 String Operators

All string operators are infix. `+` is used to concatenate strings. `==` is used to check for equality.

4.7 Set Operators

ColdCoffeeScript provides `union`, `intersect` and `concat` for sets. Also, `<set A> difference <set B>` is used to remove all values in set B from set A.

4.8 Other Operators

`<string A> memberOf <set B>` is a boolean operator that checks if A is a member of B.
`display <set A> <integer B>;` will output the first B elements of A.

4.9 Variables

A variable is created by stating its type, then name, followed by an equals sign, followed by the desired value. This is a statement so a semicolon is also needed.

- `int MYNUMBER = 41;`
- `bool MYBOOL = true;`
- `string MYSTRING = "yawn";`
- `set MYSET = {"are", "you", "bored", "yet"};`

The variable's value is reassigned with the name, followed by an equals sign, followed by the new value, followed by a semicolon:

```
MYSET = {"god", "yes", "someone", "help", "me", "please"};
```

It is of course also possible to (re-)assign the result of some expression to a variable, provided the result is of the type the variable was declared with:

```
MYSET = {"this", "joke", "has", "run"} union {"its", "co"+"urse"};
```

Nota Bene: variable names can only consist of capital letters. This was DONE BY CHOICE to emphasise the importance of good variable naming.

ColdCoffeeScript also offers conditionals and iteration as `while` and `if/else` constructs. See "Programming with ColdCoffeeScript" for usage information.

5 Programming with ColdCoffeeScript

5.1 Hello World

Thees ees-a the anatomy of a Hello World Program in ColdCoffeeScript.

```
display {"hello", "world"} 2;
```

On line 1, `display` is the function used to output a set to standard output. The output can probably be redirected as well.

On line 1, `{"hello","world"}` is an example of what is known in ColdCoffeeScript as a set literal. The parentheses show the start and end of the set, and the set contains the two strings "hello" and "world", separated by a comma.

On line 1, 2 is the number of elements of the set that will be printed. This is useful for very large sets where you don't care about all of the output.

The semicolon ends the display statement. If you do not end each statement with a semicolon, your statement will be just a concept and your DFA will fail.

The output of the program is as follows:

```
{ciao,mondo}
```

This is because the language automatically translates English strings to Italian.

5.2 Not really

The actual output is:

```
{hello,world}
```

6 Frequently Asked Questions