

```

int x;
myint y;
typedef myint smallint;
smallint z;
printf("enter two values");
scanf("%d %d", &x, &y);
z = x + y;
printf("sum value is: %d", z);
getch();
return 0;
}

```

Output:

enter two values: 4, 2
sum value is: 6

Structure padding:

- * Structure padding is a concept in C that adds the one more empty bytes between the memory addresses to align the data in memory
- * Suppose we create a user defined structure. When we create an object of this structure, then the contiguous memory will be allocated to the structure member.

```

struct student
{
    char a;
    char b;
    int c;
} stu1;

```

- * In this,
 student - structure name
 stu1 - object of the structure
- * After the creation of an object, a contiguous block of memory is allocated to its structure members.
- * Memory will be allocated to 'a', then 'b' after that 'c'.
 Now we calculate the size of the struct student

```

{
    char a;    // 1 byte
    char b;    // 1 byte
    int c;     // 4 byte
}

```

In the above case, we calculate the size of the 'student', size come to 6 bytes. But this answer is wrong. Now, we will understand the concept of **structure padding**.

Structure padding:

- * Generally the processor does ~~not~~ not read 1 byte at a time. It reads 1 word at a time.

- * If we have 32 bit processor, then the processor reads 4 byte at a time, which means that 1 word equal to 4 bytes.

∴ 1 word = 4 byte

∴ 1 word = 8 byte [in 64 bit processor]

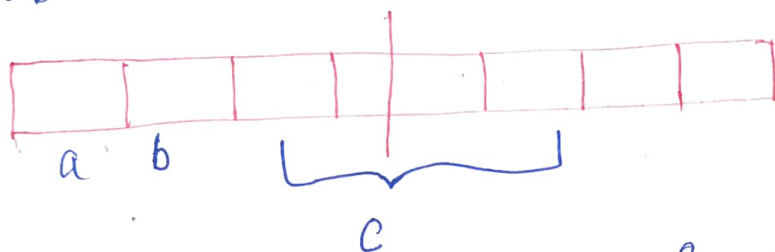
∴ size of the word depends architecture.

Why structure padding:

struct student

```
{  
    char a;    // 1 byte  
    char b;    // 1 byte  
    char c;    // 4 byte  
}
```

- * If we have a 32 bit processor (4 byte at a time) then the pictorial representation of the memory for the above structure would be.

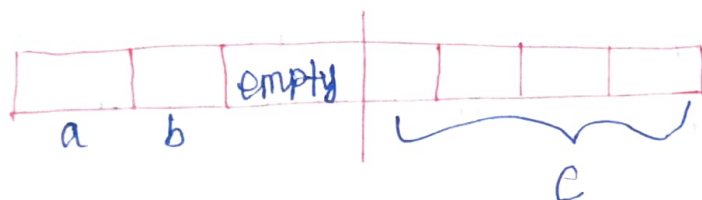


- * As we know that structure occupies the contiguous block of memory as shown in the above diagram. i.e. 1 byte for char 'a', 1 byte for char 'b', and 4 bytes for char 'c'.
- * The 4 bytes can be accessed at a time as we are considering the 32 bit architecture. The problem is that in one CPU cycle, 1 byte of char a, 1 byte of char b, and 2 bytes of int c can be accessed.
- * We will not face any problem during accessing of a and b variables as both the variables can be accessed in one CPU cycle, but int c variable as 2 CPU cycles are required to access the value of the 'c' variable.

* Suppose we do not want to access 'a' ~~and~~ 'b' variables, we only want to access the variable 'c' which requires two cycles. This is an unnecessary wastage of CPU cycles.

* Due to this reason, the structure padding concept was introduced to save the number of CPU cycle.

* The structure padding is done by the compiler automatically.



* In order to achieve the structure padding, an empty row is created on the left [ref picture] and two bytes which are occupied by the 'c' variable on the left are shifted to the right. So all the four bytes of 'c' variable are on the right.

* Now the 'c' variable can be accessed in a single CPU cycle. After structure padding, the total memory occupied by the structure is 8 bytes

a - 1 byte

b - 1 byte

empty - 2 bytes

c - 4 bytes

which is greater than previous one. Although the memory is wasted in this case, the variable can be accessed in within a single CPU cycle