(Simile Free) Monad Recipes

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July 1, 2013

Outline

About this talk . . .

- A stepping stone
- No monad innards
- Lots of “going with it” . . .

Brief IO Example

- This small function writes a text file, uppercases its contents & prints them..

```
import Data.Char
main :: IO ()
main = do
    writeFile "test.txt" "a,b,c,d,e"
    x <- readFile "test.txt"
    let upCased = map toUpper x
    y <- return upCased
    print y
=> "A,B,C,D,E"
```

Brief IO Example

- With types added ...

```
main :: IO ()
main = do
  writeFile "test.txt" "a,b,c,d,e" :: IO ()
  x :: String <- readFile "test.txt" :: IO String
  let upCased :: String = map toUpper x
  y :: String <- return upCased :: IO String
  print y :: IO ()
```

Brief IO Example

- Querying a Sqlite database

```
get_users :: IO [(String,String)]
get_users = do
  rows :: [[SqlValue]] <
        dbQuery "select * from users" []
  let marshalled =
          map (\(user:pass:[]) ->
                  (fromSql user, fromSql pass))
              rows
  return marshalled
  where
    dbQuery sql values = ...
```

Brief IO Example

- The implementation of dbQuery isn't important, but here it is ...

```
dbQuery :: String -> [SqlValue] -> IO [[SqlValue]]
dbQuery sql values =
      bracket dbConnect disconnect
        (\conn -> quickQuery' conn sql values)
dbConnect :: IO Connection
dbConnect = connectSqlite3 "test.sqlite"
```

Reader

- In impure languages threading state is the norm

```
func (state) {
  var i = 0;
  i = func1(state);
  i = func2(state);
  return (i,state);
}
```

- 'state' seen by 'func1' may be different from 'state' seen by 'func2'
- In Haskell, 'state' and 'i' are not mutable so output is the original 'i' and 'state' - not what you wanted!
- The three basic state manipulation monads Reader,Writer and State offer (the illusion of) mutable state in Haskell.

Reader (1/2)

- Reader = Read-only State + Result
- 'runReader' :: Reader Monad -> Read-Only State -> Result
- 'ask' extracts the state from the monad for inspection.

Reader (2/2)

- Authenticating users

```
simple_auth :: (String,String) ->
                Reader [(String,String)] Bool
simple_auth (user,pass) = do
  users :: [(String,String)] <- ask
  case (lookup user users) of
    Nothing -> return False
    Just p -> return (p == pass)

main =
    let my_auth = ("deech","deechpassword") in
    do users :: [(String,String)] <- get_users
       print (runReader (simple_auth my_auth) users)
=> True
```

Writer

- Writer = Append-Only State + Result
- 'runWriter' :: Writer Monad -> (Result, Accumulated State)
- State is accumulated using 'tell'

Writer

- Validating input

```
validate :: String -> Writer [String] ()
validate input =
    let hasNumbers = (>= 2) . length . filter isDigit
        hasUppers  = (>= 1) . length . filter isUpper
        noSpaces   = null . filter (== ' ')
        check f input msg = if (not (f input))
                            then tell [msg]
                            else return ()
    in do check hasNumbers input "Needs 2+ numbers"
          check hasUppers  input "Needs 1+ capitals"
          check noSpaces   input "Has spaces"
```

Writer

- Running

```
main = do
  let ((),errs) = runWriter (validate "abcde1")
      valid     = null errs
  if (not valid) then print errs else print "Valid!"
=> ["Needs 2+ numbers","Needs 1+ capitals"]
```

State

- State Monad = Mutable State + Result
- ‘get’, ‘put’ do what they sound like
- ‘runState’ :: State Monad -> Initial State -> (Result, New State)
- Initial State is **required**.

State

- Finding the minumum imperatively. Buggy!

```
minimum_bad :: [Int] -> ((), Int)
minimum_bad [] = error "Empty List."
minimum_bad xs =
    runState (mapM_ compare xs :: State Int ()) (-1)
    where
      compare :: Int -> State Int ()
      compare curr = do
              old_min <- get
              if (curr < old_min)
              then put curr
              else return ()
minimum_bad [3,2,1] => ((),-1)
```

State

- ‘trace‘ and ‘printf‘ are your friends

```
-- Debug.Trace.trace :: String -> a -> a
println msg = trace msg (return ())
```

State

```
minimum_bad xs = ...
      compare curr = do
              old_min <- get
              println (printf "old_min: %d curr: %d"
                              old_min curr)
              ...
minimum_bad [3,2,1] => ((), old_min: -1 curr: 3
                            old_min: -1 curr: 2
                            old_min: -1 curr: 1
                            -1)
```

State

- Fixed!

```
-- minimum_bad xs =
--     runState (mapM_ compare xs) -1
minimum (x:xs) =
    runState (mapM_ compare xs) x
```