



Computer Science – Lecture 9

Pascal Programming II

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Objectives

- To understand variables & types
- To understand assignment statements
- We will cover more jargon & buzzwords as we go along
- Tomorrow's practical:
 - More Pascal Programming!



Pascal Variable Names

- **Variables are places to keep information**
- **Last week we looked giving variables a name**
 - Start with a letter, followed by letters, numbers and ‘_’
 - Cannot be a “reserved word” (program, var, while...)
 - Cannot contain blanks
- **It is always best to use meaningful names**
 - BankBalance is better than bb
 - Because most programs have to be changed!
 - Often by someone else!



Pascal Variable Types - 1

- **Pascal has four “built-in” types**
 - (A “built-in” type is one that comes with Pascal – later on we will see to how construct or own types)
- **Integer**
 - A whole number, positive or negative, e.g. 543
 - Do not use ‘,’ to separate thousands
 - The range is usually quite large, but NOT infinite
 - Typically roughly +/- 2 billion (2,000,000,000)
 - Integers are stored exactly



Pascal Variable Types - 2

- **Real**
 - Any number, positive or negative, including decimals
 - E.g. 3.141592, 7.0, 3.1E6
 - Range is very, very large (but still NOT infinite)
 - At least 10E-25 to 10E38
 - Reals may NOT be stored exactly
 - Very large numbers may lose least significant digits
 - Very small numbers may lose least significant digits
 - All decimal numbers are subject to errors
 - Be VERY careful comparing real numbers
 - It is best to avoid real numbers if you can



Real Number Errors

- All numbers are subject to rounding errors
- Some numbers cannot be represented exactly in binary – consider 0.3 (decimal)

0	.	0	1	0	0	1	1
1.0		0.5	0.25	0.125	0.0625	0.03125	0.015625

$$\begin{array}{r}
 0.25000 \\
 +0.03125 \\
 \hline
 0.28125
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 0.250000 \\
 +0.031250 \\
 +0.015625 \\
 \hline
 0.296875
 \end{array}$$



Pascal Variable Types - 3

- **Char**
 - Can be any single character ‘+’, ‘a’, ‘A’
- **Boolean**
 - Can be either ‘true’ or ‘false’
 - Named after a British mathematician, George Boole
- **We “Declare” variables like this:**
 - `Var variable-name [, variable-name...] : variable-type;`

This is the keyword ‘var’

These are one or more variable names (note the comma)

This one of the types, real, char...

– E.g. `var BankBalance : integer;`

Don’t forget the ‘;’!



Assigning Values to Variables

- We use the “assignment operator”
- An “operator” is like a mathematical operation
 - ‘+’, ‘-’ etc.
- The assignment operator assigns a value to a variable e.g.
 - `Start := 0;`
 - `Gross := 102 * 1.175;`
 - `TotalSoFar := TotalSoFar + 1;`
 - `ThisOne := LastOne;`
- A common error is to use ‘=’ instead
 - Say to yourself ‘:=’ means “becomes” or “is set to”



Assigning Types

- You can only assign values of the same type as the variable
 - E.g. cannot assign the value 'T' to an Integer variable
- The only exception is an integer assigned to a real variable
 - It will be automatically converted
- We will look later at how to convert between types



Tomorrow's Practical

- **Two programs involving types**
 - See work sheet
- **Some homework**
 - Questions and a some more small programs
- **You can try your homework during the practical**
- **Worksheets available today if required**

- **Karl will be available to help between 13:00 and 15:00 in the IT Degree Lab**