241 lecture note: For week7

Command line arguments are parameters supplied to a program, when the program is invoked.

main can take 2 arguments, conventionally called argc and argv.

int main(int argc, char\* argv[])

argc

– Number of arguments (including program name)

argv

– Array of char\*s (that is, an array of ‘c’ strings)

– argv[0] à program name

– argv[1] à first argument

– …

– argv[argc-1] à last argument

$ ./main\_arg NWEN241 is about Systems Programming using C 8 arguments

0: ./main\_arg

1: NWEN241

2: is

3: about

4: Systems

5: Programming

6: using

7: C

$

Total of 8 arguments including program name itself. Arguments are read in as strings.

In general, I/O is the process of copying data between main memory and external devices

In C, everything is a file; --🡪each file is simply a sequential stream of bytes;

C imposes no structure on a file.

BUT, Defined in stdio.h is the struct FILE that comprises a file descriptor and a file control block

A file must first be opened properly before it can be accessed for reading or writing.

When a file is opened, a stream is associated with the file. Pointer to (i.e. address of) the “file” is returned

Input / Output & stdio.h

Every UNIX/Linux process begins with three open files corresponding to the standard input, output and error streams, macros defined in stdio.h:

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Also defined in stdio.h are three variable types (including FILE), several macros (including above) and various functions for performing input / output

e.g. printf(), scanf(), getchar() , gets(), putchar(), puts(), etc.

File operations

1. Creating a new file
2. Opening an existing file
3. Writing data to a file
4. Reading data from a file
5. Closing a file
6. Random access operations

Declaring FILE pointer and Opening file

A file must be “opened” before it can be used.