The Hardware/Software Interface

Binary and Numerical Representation

Instructors:

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AN x64 PROCESSOR IS SCREAMING ALONG AT BILLIONS OF CYCLES PER SECOND TO RUN THE XNU KERNEL, WHICH IS FRANTICALLY WORKING THROUGH ALL THE POSIX-SPECIFIED ABSTRACTION TO CREATE THE DARWIN SYSTEM UNDERLYING OS X, WHICH IN TURN IS STRAINING ITSELF TO RUN FIREFOX AND ITS GECKO RENDERER, WHICH CREATES A PLASH OBJECT WHICH RENDERS DOZENS OF VIDEO FRAMES EVERY SECOND

BECAUSE I WANTED TO SEE A CAT JUMP INTO A BOX AND FALL OVER.



I AM A GOD.

http://xkcd.com/676/

Lecture Outline (1/3)

- Course Introduction
- Course Policies
 - https://courses.cs.washington.edu/courses/cse351/25au/syllabus.html
- Binary and Numerical Representation

Course Staff: Instructors

- Justin Hsia (he/him)
 - CSE Associate Teaching Professor
 - You can just call me "Justin"
 - Important: expecting Baby #2 in the middle of this quarter (!)



- Amber Hu (they/them)
 - CSE Lecturer (part-time)
 - You can call me "Amber," or for fun "Doctor Hu?"
 - I'll be taking on a bigger role as Justin welcomes a new family member



Course Staff: Teaching Assistants

* TAs:































- Learn more about us on the course website!
- More than anything, we want you to feel...
 - ✓ Comfortable and welcome in this space
 - ✓ Able to learn and succeed in this course
 - ✓ Comfortable reaching out if you need help or want change

Welcome to CSE351!



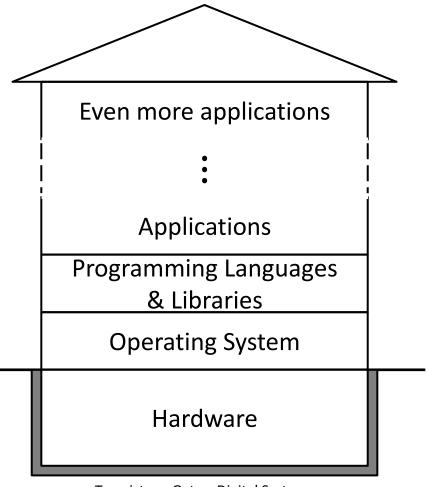




- Our goal is to teach you the key abstractions "under the hood:"
 - Better understand computing hardware as it has evolved
 - Better understand program translation and execution

"House" of Computing Metaphor

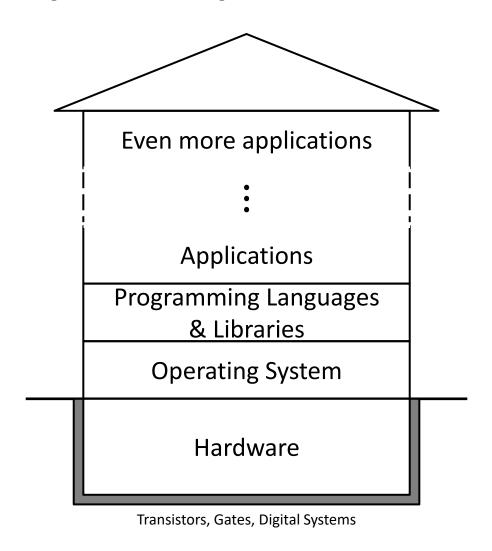
- We continue to build upward but everything relies on the base & foundation
 - We'll explore parts of Hardware, OS, and PL
- Built a long time ago
 - Some parts have been updated over the years, some have not
 - More remodeling necessary, but should understand how and why things are this way before demolishing anything



Transistors, Gates, Digital Systems

The Hardware/Software Interface Topic Groups

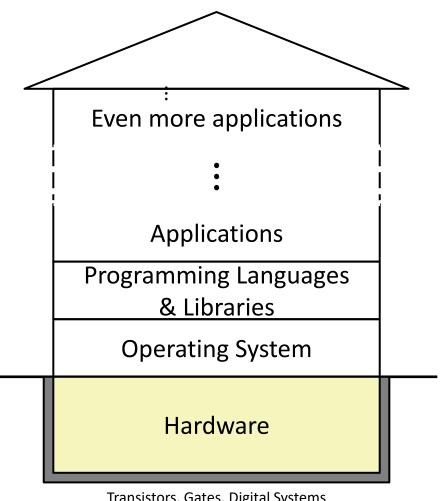
- Topic Group 1: Data
 - Memory, Data, Integers, Floating Point, Arrays,
 Structs
- Topic Group 2: Programs
 - x86-64 Assembly, Procedures, Stacks, Executables
- Topic Group 3: Scale & Coherence
 - Caches, Memory Allocation, Processes,
 Virtual Memory



The Hardware/Software Interface Topic Group 1

- Topic Group 1: Data
 - Memory, Data, Integers, Floating Point, Arrays, Structs

- How do we store information for other parts of the house of computing to access?
 - How do we represent data and what limitations exist?
 - What design decisions and priorities went into these encodings?

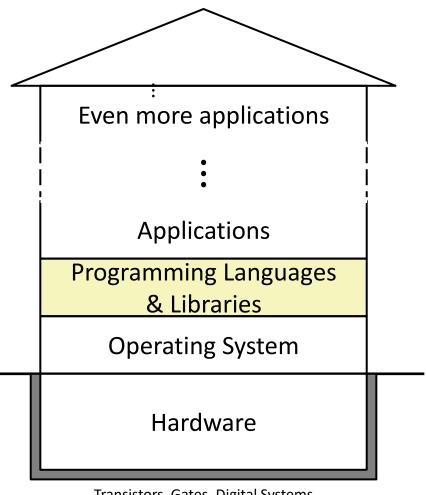


Transistors, Gates, Digital Systems

The Hardware/Software Interface Topic Group 2

- Topic Group 2: Programs
 - x86-64 Assembly, Procedures, Stacks, Executables

- How are programs created and executed on a CPU?
 - How does your source code become something that your computer understands?
 - How does the CPU organize and manipulate local data?

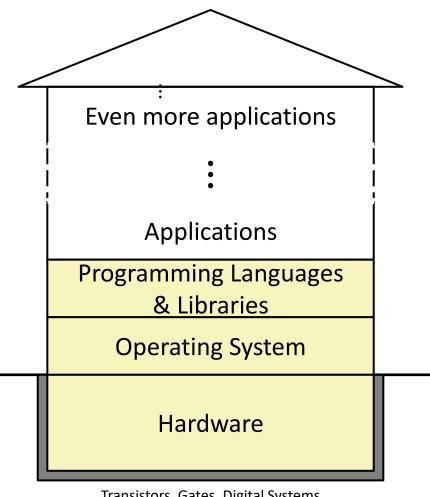


Transistors, Gates, Digital Systems

The Hardware/Software Interface Topic Group 3

- * Topic Group 3: Scale & Coherence
 - Caches, Memory Allocation, Processes, Virtual Memory

- How do we maintain logical consistency in the face of more data and more processes?
 - How do we support control flow both within many processes and things external to the computer?
 - How do we support data access, including dynamic requests, across multiple processes?



Transistors, Gates, Digital Systems

Course Learning Objectives

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

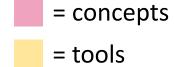
- Describe the multi-step process by which a high-level program becomes a stream of instructions executed by a processor;
- Describe the basic organization of the memory hierarchy and the effect of its parameters on system performance;
- Trace the execution of assembly code (x86-64), map the assembly to high-level language constructs, and write simple pieces of assembly programs;
- Write C code using pointers to create and manipulate data structures;
- Write (or rewrite) code to take advantage of the computer execution model to improve execution efficiency;
- Debug small-ish C and assembly programs using GDB;
- Perform basic navigation and file system operations in Linux using a terminal;
- Explain the basic role of an operating system in executing processes;
- Identify some of the ways that computers and their design principles affect society today.



Course Learning Objectives: Concepts

- At the end of this course, students should be able to:
 - Describe the multi-step process by which a high-level program becomes a stream of instructions executed by a processor;
 - Describe the basic organization of the memory hierarchy and the effect of its parameters on system performance;
 - Trace the execution of assembly code (x86-64), map the assembly to high-level language constructs, and write simple pieces of assembly programs;
 - Write C code using pointers to create and manipulate data structures;
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 - Explain the basic role of an operating system in executing processes;
 - Identify some of the ways that computers and their design principles affect society today.

Course Learning Objectives: Tools



At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Describe the multi-step process by which a high-level program becomes a stream of instructions executed by a processor;
- Describe the basic organization of the memory hierarchy and the effect of its parameters on system performance;
- Trace the execution of assembly code (x86-64), map the assembly to high-level language constructs, and write simple pieces of assembly programs;
- Write C code using pointers to create and manipulate data structures;
- Write (or rewrite) code to take advantage of the computer execution model to improve execution efficiency;
- Debug small-ish C and assembly programs using GDB;
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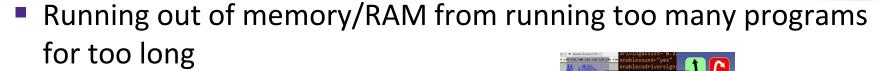
Course Learning Objectives: Skills

= concepts
= tools
= skills

- At the end of this course, students should be able to:
 - Describe the multi-step process by which a high-level program becomes a stream of instructions executed by a processor;
 - Describe the basic organization of the memory hierarchy and the effect of its parameters on system performance;
 - Trace the execution of assembly code (x86-64), map the assembly to high-level language constructs, and write simple pieces of assembly programs;
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 - Explain the basic role of an operating system in executing processes;
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Applications of 351 Material

- Examples you might encounter in the "real world":
 - Shopping for a new CPU (e.g., # of cores, size of cache)



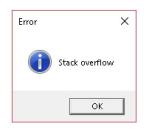


- CPU/GPU benchmarks using the unit of a GFLOP
- Stack overflow (not the website)
- News about security vulnerabilities (e.g., Heartbleed, Cloudbleed)







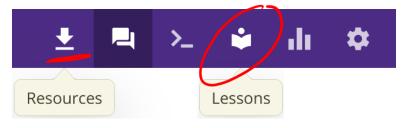


Lecture Outline (2/3)

- Course Introduction
- Course Policies
 - https://courses.cs.washington.edu/courses/cse351/25au/syllabus.html
- Binary and Numerical Representation

Bookmarks

- Website: https://courses.cs.washington.edu/courses/cse351/25au/
 - Schedule, policies, materials, tutorials, assignment specs, etc.
- Ed Course: https://edstem.org/us/courses/80075/
 - Discussion: announcements, ask and answer questions
 - Lessons: pre-lecture readings, lecture polls, homework
- Linked from website and Ed
 - Canvas: surveys, grade book, Zoom links
 - Gradescope: lab submissions, exams
 - Panopto: lecture recordings



Find Ed Lessons in the top-right corner of Ed.

Grading

Pre-Lecture Readings: 10%, collaboration allowed



- Can reveal solution after one attempt (completion)
- Homework: 20% total, collaboration allowed



- Unlimited submission attempts (autograded correctness)
- Labs: 35% total, partners optional



- Last submission graded (correctness)
- Exams: Midterm (12%) and Final (20%)



- In-person paper exams; individual
- Midterm clobber policy!
- EPA: Effort, Participation, and Altruism (3%)

Group Work in 351

- Get to know each other and help each other out
 - More fun! Valuable life skill! Expand your horizons with diversity of perspectives!
- Group work will be emphasized in this class
 - Lecture & section will have group work time will gain the most if you participate!
 - TAs will circle around the room and interact with groups
 - Raise your hand to get the attention of a staff member
 - Most assignments allow collaboration talking to classmates will help you synthesize concepts and terminology
 - The major takeaways for this course will be the ability to explain the major concepts verbally and/or in writing to others
 - However, the responsibility for learning falls on you

Generative AI in 351

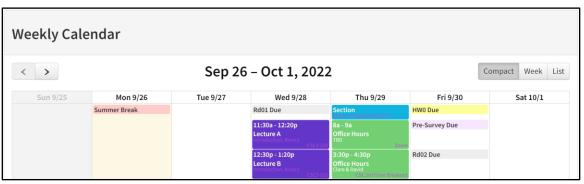
- Can use for concepts
 - *e.g.*, re-explain a concept, summarize notes
 - Note that some specific terminology may differ for this course vs. what's on the Internet, so be careful!
- Cannot use to generate code, but can explain/check code you wrote
 - This includes Copilot code writing suggestions



- You will likely have a better time talking to a staff member
 - We've been there before! We know what you're going through.

Office Hours

- Check Weekly Calendar on website for scheduled office hours:
 - In-person or virtual, but NOT hybrid
 - Zoom meeting links found in Zoom tab within Canvas



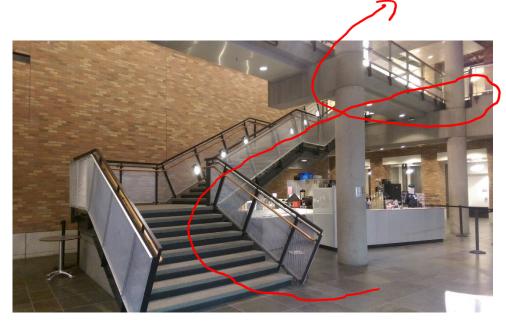
- All office hours will use a Google Sheets queue:
 - Fill out first 3 columns to enter queue:

Name(s)	Category	Description	Time Queued	Staff	Status
Example 1	Concept →	Question about floating point encoding range.		Justin	Done 🕶
Example 2	Debugging 🔻	Lab 5: running into a segfault in mm_malloc after reaching end of the heap.		Justin	Done 🕶
Example 3	Spec ▼	Lab 1a: confusion over within same block examples		Justin	Done 🔻
Example 4	Tools +	GDB: how do I examine memory on the stack?		Justin	Done 👻

- We encourage you to chat with other students if the TAs are busy!
 - Keep it high level, no sharing code or answers

In-Person Office Hours

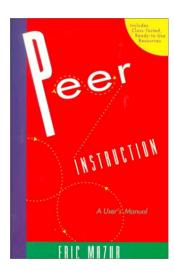
- Mostly Allen breakouts
 - Up the stairs in the CSE Atrium (Allen Center, not Gates)
 - The open areas with the whiteboard walls are the breakouts!
- Amber's OHs in CSE 204
 - Second floor, right across bathrooms near the main elevators





Lecture Polls and Discussions

- Increase learning, test your understanding, increase student interactions, makes the class more engaging and fun
 - Lot of research supports its effectiveness:



- Polls on technical material will be multiple-choice and short answer
 - You haven't mastered the material yet; mistakes are part of the process!
- Discussion questions will be more open-ended
 - Be respectful of others' opinions and experiences
- Respond on Lecture Ed lesson for credit and we will use random call to solicit responses from audience
 - Don't need to be correct, just want the feedback of what was discussed

Extensions, Accommodations, Help

- Extenuating circumstances
 - Students (and staff) face an extremely varied set of environments and circumstances
 - For formal accommodations, go through Disability Resources for Students (DRS)
 - We will try to be accommodating otherwise, but the earlier you reach out, the better
- Don't suffer in silence talk to a staff member!
 - We have a 1-on-1 meeting request form

To-Do List

Admin

- Explore/read the course website thoroughly, especially the syllabus
- Check that you can access Ed Discussion & Lessons
- Get your machine set up to access the CSE Linux environment (attu or cancun) as soon as possible
 - Optionally, sign up for CSE 391: System and Software Tools

Assignments

- Pre-Course Survey and HW0 due Friday (9/26)
- HW1 and Lab 0 due Monday (9/29)
- Pre-lecture Readings due before each lecture @ 11 am
- Lecture activities are due before NEXT lecture @ 11 am

Lecture Outline (3/3)

- Course Introduction
- Course Policies
 - https://courses.cs.washington.edu/courses/cse351/25au/syllabus.html
- Binary and Numerical Representation

Common Bases (Review)

- Humans think about numbers in base 10, but digital computers "think" about numbers in base 2 (binary)
 - Symbols: 0, 1
 - Common binary denominations
 - A binary digit is known as a bit
 - A group of 8 bits is called a byte
- * Hexadecimal (hex, for short) is base $16 = 2^4$
 - Every hex digit is 4 bits values: 8,9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15
 - Symbols? 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, F
 - Example: What is $A5_{16}$ in base 10? $A5_{16} = (10 \times 16^{1}) + (5 \times 16^{0}) = 165_{10}$



Base 10	Base 2	Base 16
0	0000	0
1	0001	1
2	0010	2
3	0011	3
4	0100	4
5	0101	5
6	0110	6
7	0111	7
8	1000	8
9	1001	9
10	1010	Α
11	1011	В
12	1100	С
13	1101	D
14	1110	Е
15	1111	F/

Polling Questions

- What is the *decimal value* of the numeral 107_8 ? $1\times8^2+0\times8^4+7\times8^\circ$

64 + 0 + 7= 71

- B. 87
- C. 107
- **568**
- Represent 0b100110110101 in hex.

$$16 = 2^4$$
1 hex digit 4 bits

 What is the decimal number 108 in hex?

- - 108 = 96+120xA8 $= 6 \times 16^{1} + 12 \times 16^{\circ}$ = $0 \times 6^{\circ}$
- C. 0x108
- D. 0x612
- Represent 0x3C9 in binary.

Numerical Encoding (Review)

- You can represent any countable set of things using numbers
 - Create the encoding scheme by assigning a unique numeral to each element
 - Example: English Letters such as CSE→0x435345, yay→0x796179
 - Example: Emoticons such as $\stackrel{\text{\tiny CP}}{=}$ 0x0, $\stackrel{\text{\tiny CP}}{=}$ 0x1, $\stackrel{\text{\tiny CP}}{=}$ 0x2, $\stackrel{\text{\tiny CP}}{=}$ 0x3, $\stackrel{\text{\tiny CP}}{=}$ 0x4, $\stackrel{\text{\tiny CP}}{=}$ 0x5
- * With x digits in base b, how many "things" can you represent? b^* things
 - Example: With 3 bits $\rightarrow 2^3 = 8$ things $(\infty)_1, (0)_2, (0)_3, (0)_4, (0)_2, (0)_2, (0)_3, (0)_4, (0)_4$
 - Example: With 2 hex digits $\rightarrow 16^2 = 256$ things
- * If you are determining your numeral width to represent N things, you will need $b^x \ge N$
 - Example: 5 bits for alphabet because 25 = 32 > 26 6 uno signed numerals

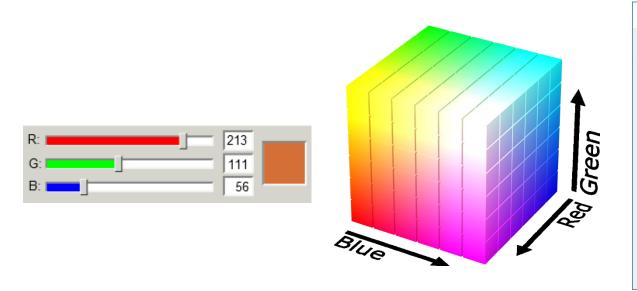
Digital Computer Data

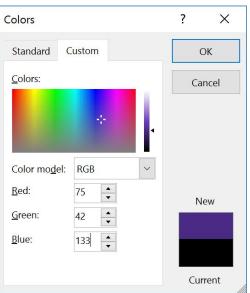
- Anything with a numerical encoding scheme can be stored in binary and used in a digital computer!
 - We have created countless different encoding schemes that work for and between specific pieces of hardware and software
- A sequence of bits can have many meanings!
 - Consider the hex sequence 0x4E6F21, whose common interpretations include:
 - The decimal number 5140257
 - The real number 7.203034×10^{-39}
 - The characters "No!"
 - The background color of this text
 - It is up to the program/programmer to decide how to interpret the sequence of bits

Binary Encoding – Colors

- RGB Red, Green, Blue
 - Additive color model (light): byte (8 bits) for each color
 - Commonly seen in hex (in HTML, photo editing, etc.)
 - Examples: Blue→0x0000FF, Gold→0xFFD700, Pink→0xFF1493

→0xFFFFFF, Deep





Binary Encoding – Characters/Text (1/2)

- ASCII Encoding (<u>www.asciitable.com</u>)
 - American Standard Code for Information Interchange

```
Det Hx Oct Html Chr
                                                        Dec Hx Oct Html Chr Dec Hx Oct Html Chr
Dec Hx Oct Char
                                     32 20 040   Space
                                                                            96 60 140 @#96;
 0 0 000 NUL (null)
                                                          64 40 100 @ 0
 1 1 001 SOH (start of heading)
                                     33 21 041 6#33; !
                                                          65 41 101 a#65; A
                                                                            97 61 141 @#97; 8
                                     34 22 042 4#34; "
                                                          66 42 102 B B
                                                                            98 62 142 @#98; 1
   2 002 STX (start of text)
                                                          67 43 103 C C
                                                                            99 63 143 @#99;
 3 3 003 ETX (end of text)
                                     35 23 043 # #
    4 004 EOT (end of transmission)
                                     36 24 044 $ 🗧
                                                          68 44 104 D D
                                                                            100 64 144
   5 005 ENQ (enquiry)
                                     37 25 045 % 🕏
                                                                            101 65 145
                                                          70 46 106 F F
                                     38 26 046 & &
   6 006 ACK (acknowledge)
 7 7 007 BEL (bell)
                                     39 27 047 4#39; '
 8 8 010 BS (backspace)
                                     40 28 050 ( (
   9 011 TAB (horizontal tab)
                                     41 29 051 ) )
   A 012 LF (NL line feed, new line)
                                        2A 052 * *
   B 013 VT (vertical tab)
                                           053 &#43
12 C 014 FF
             (NP form feed, new page)
                                     44 2C
             (carriage return)
14 E 016 SO
             (shift out)
                                                                            110 6E 156 n n
15 F 017 SI
             (shift in)
                                      7 2F 057
                                                                            111 6F 157 o 0
                                                                           |112 70 160 @#112; p
16 10 020 DLE (data link escape
17 11 021 DC1 (demice con
                                          061 1 1
                                                                           |113 71 161 q <mark>q</mark>
                                     50 32 062 4#50; 2
                                                          82 52 122 R R
18 12 022 <u>DC2</u>
                                                                           |114 72 162 &#ll4; <mark>r</mark>
19 13 023
                                     51 33 063 4#51; 3
                                                          83 53 123 4#83; 💲
                                                                           |115 73 163 s 3
                                     52 34 064 4 4
                                                          84 54 124 T T
                                                                           |116 74 164 t t
                                     53 35 065 4#53; 5
                                                          85 55 125 U U
                                                                           |117 75 165 u <mark>u</mark>
               ynchronous idle)
                                     54 36 066 6 6
                                                          86 56 126 V V
                                                                           |118 76 166 v ♥
23 17 027 (end of trans. block)
                                     55 37 067 4#55; 7
                                                          87 57 127 4#87; ₩
                                                                           |119 77 167 w ₩
24 18 030 CAN (cancel)
                                     56 38 070 4#56; 8
                                                          88 58 130 X X
                                                                           |120 78 170 x 🗙
            (end of medium)
                                     57 39 071 4#57; 9
                                                          89 59 131 Y Y
                                                                           |121 79 171 y Y
                                     58 3A 072 : :
                                                          90 5A 132 Z Z
                                                                           122 7A 172 z Z
26 1A 032 SUB (substitute)
                                     59 3B 073 &#59; ;
                                                          91 5B 133 [ [
                                                                           123 7B 173 {
27 1B 033 ESC (escape)
                                                          92 5C 134 \ \
                                                                           124 7C 174 |
28 1C 034 FS
             (file separator)
                                     60 3C 074 < <
29 1D 035 GS
             (group separator)
                                     61 3D 075 = =
                                                          93 5D 135 @#93; ]
                                                                           125 7D 175 @#125;
                                                          94 5E 136 ^ ^
                                                                           126 7E 176 ~
30 1E 036 RS
             (record separator)
                                     62 3E 076 > >
                                                          95 5F 137 _ _ | 127 7F 177  DEL
31 1F 037 US
                                     63 3F 077 ? ?
             (unit separator)
```

Binary Encoding – Characters/Text (2/2)

- ASCII Encoding (<u>www.asciitable.com</u>)
 - American Standard Code for Information Interchange
- Created in 1963
 - Memory was expensive, 32KB in brand new machines
 - Economic incentive to use fewer bits for encoding

Design Goals:

- Represent everything on an American typewriter as efficiently as possible
- Organize similar characters together
 - Numbers, uppercase, lowercase, then other stuff

Binary Encoding – Unicode & Emoji

- Unicode Standard is managed by the Unicode Consortium
 - "Universal language" that uses 1-4 bytes to represent a much larger range of characters/languages, including emoji
 - Adds new emojis every year, though adoption often lags: (orca)
 - https://emojipedia.org/new/
- Emojipedia demo: http://www.emojipedia.org
 - Taco: (added 2015)
 - Code points: U+1F32E
 - Display (as of 2023):













Apple

Google Android

Samsung

Windows 11

WhatsApp

Twitter

Facebook

Discussion Question

- Discuss the following question(s) in groups of 3-4 students
 - I will call on a few groups afterwards so please be prepared to share out
 - Be respectful of others' opinions and experiences
- The Unicode Consortium publicly solicits proposals from the public for new emoji to add to future standards
 - What do you think some of the decision factors are (or should be) in how many and which ones to add?
 - Voting is done by a combination of paid members consisting of companies, institutions, and individuals – how do you feel about who has control and how they gained that control?
 - https://home.unicode.org/membership/members/

Summary

- Humans think about numbers in decimal; computers think about numbers in binary
 - Base conversion: digit d in position i in base b has a decimal value of $d \times b^i$
 - Changing bases does not change value; just different representations
 - Hexadecimal (base 16, prefix 0x) is more human-readable than binary (base 2, prefix 0b)
 - Unit of data in a computer is 1 byte = 8 bits = 2 hex digits
- Binary encoding can represent anything!
 - Computer/program needs to know how to interpret the bits
 - Encodings aren't "neutral"; priorities are baked in

Base 10	Base 2	Base 16
0	0b0000	0×0
1	0b0001	0×1
2	0b0010	0x2
3	0b0011	0x3
4	0b0100	0x4
5	0b0101	0x5
6	0b0110	0x6
7	0b0111	0×7
8	0b1000	0x8
9	0b1001	0x9
10	0b1010	0×A
11	0b1011	0xB
12	0b1100	0xC
13	0b1101	0xD
14	0b1110	0xE
15	0b1111	0xF