Seminar Configurable Systems

Assignment

1. Read *Scheme as a C Library* by Brent W. Benson Jr. It was published in the Proceedings of the USENIX Symposium on Very High Level Languages (VHLL'94), pages 7–20, October 1994.

   I encourage you to read papers in small groups or to discuss them after you have read them on your own.

2. Prepare a one-page document that summarizes the paper. You should devote about half of your document to the summary of the paper *in your own words*. The rest you can use to judge the paper's strengths and weaknesses, and to offer some opinion.

   Here are some generic questions that you might want to answer in your summary:

   (a) What is the problem being solved or discussed?
   (b) What is the main contribution? In particular with respect to papers that we have already read?
   (c) Do you find the paper convincing? What are the main claims of the author and does he provide evidence for them?

   Note all questions about the paper that you cannot answer yourself; we will try to answer them in class.

   All writing assignments may be completed in German or English. You will receive extra credit for writing in a foreign language.

   Your summary is always due on the Tuesday before the next meeting, 11:30 am at my office (307/45). Please provide me with a printout of your summary and don't forget to put your name on it.

3. If you don't know Lisp, Emacs-Lisp, or Scheme, you can find more informations about Scheme at `http://www.scheme.org/`. The *Revised Report on the Algorithmic Language Scheme* is the language definition. You can also find books about Scheme in the library; a famous book is *Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs* by Abelson and Sussman, MIT Press.

4. Among other things, we will compare Tcl and Scheme as a language during the next meeting. I expect you to understand at least the code in Section 2 of the paper.

5. In general, I do not accept submissions by email. However, if you cannot stop by my office and therefore decide to send me an email with your submission, send it as a PDF or plain text file.