

A *Ziggy* cartoon once showed the image of a person, standing at a podium, starting a talk. The caption read:

Before I start my talk,
I want to say something.

[a message to ponder]

Session Outline

Course themes

- imperative problem solving (think: outline form)
- C programming (close to the machine)
- storage and processing of data
- Linux operating system
- control of robots

Demo

Course Web site

<http://www.cs.grinnell.edu/~walker/courses/161.fa18>

- Syllabus
- Course work: labs, projects, supplemental problems
11 quizzes, 1 hour tests, final exam
- Extra credit options: labs, problems, Thursday extras
- Schedule

Some Preliminaries

Course mechanics

- lab based
 - Before class: read, formulate questions (if any)
 - Class: questions, occasional quiz, then work with partner
 - Before next class: finish lab and/or formulate questions
- check schedule each day!
- labs and projects collaborative
 - this week: work with whomever you are next
 - starting next week: I assign partners, changed each week
- tests and supplemental problems individual
- details will unfold through next few days;
read syllabus for now

More Preliminaries

Start getting to know each other a little (20 seconds/person)

- name
- home town
- why 161?
- hopes for course
- math background
 - sign seen recently:

there's a fine line

between a numerator and a denominator

- no specific math background required for CSC 161
- knowing your background helps me plan examples

Clickers

- slides posted for on-campus use after class
- link on Syllabus and References pages

Clicker Question 1 for practice:

What did you have for breakfast?

- A. Eggs-to-order!
- B. Straight up carbs.
- C. A hot beverage.
- D. None of the above.
- E. What is breakfast?

Expected personal computer use

What computer, if any, do you expect to use as your primary machine for your work this semester?

- A. My Mac OS X laptop or desktop (in my room).
- B. A college owned Mac.
- C. My Windows-based laptop or desktop (in my room).
- D. A college owned Windows-based machine.
- E. Other

Terminal windows

Within a Mac OS X machine or a Windows-based computer, have you opened a Terminal window and typed commands?

- A. Yes, a lot.
- B. Yes, I tried once or twice, but not much.
- C. No, never tried it
- D. What's a Terminal window?

And Still More preliminaries

Course materials

- Extensive (121,000+ lines of online materials in 720+ files)
- Homework for this evening:
 - Look at syllabus
 - Read materials for today and tomorrow
 - Finish workstation setup
 - Make substantial headway on Linux basics lab
 - Come Monday with Questions!!!
- Discussion of various pieces of the course through the week
- Textbooks?
 - none required
 - K.N. King: targets those getting started
 - Kernighan and Ritchie: targets experienced audience

Let's get Started!!!

Plan

Work in pairs—your choice this week!

(I'll assign partners after this week—more later)

Lab activities in 2 parts

1. Each partner should log on and do the Workstation Setup
 - Log on (with your college-wide password)
 - Check you can open a terminal window
 - Set color preferences for terminal window
(My preference is white on black, but do what you want)
2. Make substantial start on the Linux basics lab
 - Do lab in parallel with reading
 - Read lab task, read about it, try it out
 - Focus on terminal commands;
 - Skim matters of system file structures and permissions
 - Must do set up of .bashrc, directory structure
 - For weekend: get through substantial part of Linux basics