The Scam Programming Language

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1 Scam

Scam is a nifty little language that looks a lot like Scheme, but is so much more. Scam is:

- an impure functional language with Scheme-like syntax
- a language where writing iterators like while and for is possible purely through function definition
- a language where everything is a function, including define and set! – overloading these functions can be fun!
- a fully object-oriented language with trivial syntax and easy-to-comprehend semantics
- a language with programmer-controlled delayed evaluation
- a language with built-in garbage collection
- a language that optimizes tail-recursion
- a language that supports multi-threading

Scam’s homepage is beastie.cs.ua.edu/scam.

Scam versus Scheme

For Scheme programmers, here is a list of important differences: quick hits.

Downloads

Latest Scam versions:

32-bit Linux tarball scam-2.2a-i386.tgz
64-bit Linux tarball scam-2.2a-amd64.tgz
32-bit Mac tarball scam-2.2a-OSX_32.tgz
64-bit Mac tarball scam-2.2a-OSX_64.tgz
64-bit Cygwin tarball scam-2.2a-Cyg64.tgz
Installation Notes

To install Scam, perform the following steps (using scam-2.2-i386.tgz as an example)...

1. Make a directory named scam that hangs off your home directory and then move into that directory

   mkdir ~/scam
   cd ~/scam

2. Retrieve the tarball:

   wget beastie.cs.ua.edu/scam/scam-2.2-i386.tgz

   Mac users may need to use curl -O instead of wget.

3. Extract the files in the tarball:

   tar xvzf scam-2.2-i386.tgz

4. copy the scam executable to a directory in your path:

   cp scam ~/bin # if you have your own bin

   or you can put ~/scam in your path. If you don’t know what a path is, then do this instead:

   sudo cp scam /usr/bin

5. It’s unlikely, but you may need to install the readline library. On a Debian system like Ubuntu, you would issue the following command:

   sudo apt-get install libreadline6

   Look to the interwebs for instructions on how to install readline on other systems.

If you have trouble installing Scam, send a message to lusth@cs.ua.edu.

Learning more about Scam

There is an Open Source reference manual that delves into Scam in detail. It is called The Scam Reference Manual

The reference manual gives the nuts and bolts on the syntax and semantics of Scam.

About this website

This website is rendered in the Old School style. Old School is known for its somewhat spartan, but clean and crisp, no-nonsense, get-down-to-brass-tacks appearance. Old School was invented by Tim Berners-Lee during the latter part of the last century. It is made a bit more flashy using a style sheet.
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