Homework 0: Motivation and Tracks

Due: (see below)

The purpose of this to help you and your classmates see the reasons for studying the various topics in the syllabus, and to make the course more relevant to your interests.

1. (75 points) Your group (of 3 or 4) must select one of the following options, and a topic or track within the option. We will coordinate these so that no two groups are doing the same thing.

   (a) Introduce and summarize a unit in the class. The six units are defined as one of the lines on the syllabus (Smalltalk and OOP, SML and functional programming, λProlog and logic programming, operational semantics, type theory, denotational semantics). The products of this effort will be: a 10 minute presentation introducing the unit, a newsgroup posting suggesting 1 or 2 articles to read about the unit, a 10 minute presentation summarizing the unit, and a newsgroup postings suggesting possible exam questions on the unit. You are encouraged to consult with Gary about these.

   (b) Help teach a track in the class. The three tracks are defined in the course specification as: applications, programming, and semantics. The products of this effort will be: a 10 minute presentation describing the importance of your track and the kind of homework problems you will try to create for each unit (due the next class period!), a discussion with Gary followed by a written problem description for a homework problem in each unit (at least a week before each unit starts, for units after the Smalltalk unit), a newsgroup posting for each unit describing how the unit relates to the track (during the lectures on the unit), and a 10 minute presentation summarizing the relationship of the track to the course material at the end of the course. You are encouraged to consult with Gary about these.