10/28/08

## save continuation.scm

~/umb/cs450/continuations/

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;;; File: save continuation.scm
;;; This is a simple example to show how
;;; call-with-current-continuation can be used to implement exception
;;; handling. The example is so trivial that it could be done more
;;; simply; the point is just to show how call/cc can be used.
;;; We will define a procedure (main_loop) which when invoked asks the
;;; user to input a number different from 0. If the user inputs the
;;; number 0 or anything other than a number, a message is generated
;;; explaining what the user did wrong, and the loop starts over. If
;;; the input is acceptable, the procedure echoes it and quits.
;;; Define the target symbol in the global environment. What it is
;;; defined to is immaterial, since it will be overwritten.
(define target '())
;;; Define a procedure which needs to escape. Use the target to tell
;;; it where to escape to.
(define (f x)
  (cond ((= x 0)
         (display "0 entered; try again.")
         (target x)) ;;; the argument x will be ignored.
        (else
         (display "Success: ")
         (display x)
         (newline))
;;; Define the calling routine, which in turn defines the target.
(define (main_loop)
  (call/cc
   (lambda(here)
     (set! target here)))
  (display "Type a number different from 0: ")
  (let ((n (read)))
    ;; First check to make sure that a number was entered.
    (if (not (number? n))
        (begin
          (display n)
          (display " is not a number; try again.")
          (newline)
          (target n) ;;; the argument n will be ignored.
    ;; OK: a number was entered. Now call f to do the rest of the
    ;; processing.
    (f n)
```

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;;; The continuation that is passed to "here" can't really be expressed in
 ;;; simple Scheme. It would be pretty close to this, however (note that we
  ;;; still need to use an "escape" procedure named "exit"):
;; (lambda (val)
;; (display "Type a number different from 0: ")
;; (let ((n (read)))
;;
;;
       ;; First check to make sure that a number was entered.
       (if (not (number? n))
::
;;
          (begin
;;
            (display n)
             (display " is not a number; try again.")
;;
;;
             (target n) ;;; the argument n will be ignored.
;;
;;
;;
: :
       :: OK: a number was entered. Now call f to do the rest of the
;;
;;
       ;; processing.
;;
      (f n)
;;
    (exit) ;; well, escape to the top level!
;;
```