
Subject: Re: Programming rules

Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Thu, 23 Mar 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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Nicolas Decoster <Nicolas.Decoster@noveltis.fr> wrote in message
news:38DA2927.1AF88F24@noveltis.fr...

- > I am new in IDL and I am looking for documentation on programming rules
- > such as:
- > - common code formatting (naming conventions, etc.);
- > - good and wrong coding (such as the trivial "no goto" rule);
- > - how to write help and documentation.
- > Is there anything like that somewhere ?

Here's a list I put together for a few friends:

http://www.homestead.com/gumley/files/Recommended_Reading.htm

For your needs, I'd recommend "Code Complete". It is not language specific, and it has tons of excellent practical advice about code formatting and variable naming conventions, coding practice (the goto issue is discussed in some depth), and many other topics which are directly relevant to IDL. I encourage IDL programmers at any level to read this book.

For a prolog template, start the IDL development environment (idlde on UNIX), and type

```
.compile template
```

which will open an example template.

Cheers,

Liam.

<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley>
