
Subject: Re: Is there any conventions style programming IDL?

Posted by [meinel](#) on Thu, 22 Apr 2004 14:24:46 GMT

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"Esteban Garcí½a Cuesta" <egc@fis.uc3m.es> wrote in message
news:<c686up\$a84\$1@khitai.uc3m.es>...

> Hello,

> I'm trying to standarize the way we programm in IDL , is there any
> rules or conventions programming IDL ?

>

> Thanks a lot.

> Esteban Garcí½a Cuesta

Only personal preferences. If you use EMACS there is a plug-in that
will take care of most pretty-fying for you.

My personal preferences for ease of readability are:

Procedures/functions/keywords all UPPERCASE

Variables all lowercase

Indent FOR loops, CASE, IF, continuation lines

Keywords on separate continuation lines

Align multiple "=" or "\$" or anything else common to multiple lines

A keyword and its associated variable should have the same name

For example, call a procedure with multiple keywords:

```
-----  
PLOT, hist,                $  
  XMARGIN = [0, 0],        $  
  YMARGIN = [0, 0],        $  
  XSTYLE  = 1,             $  
  PSYM    = 10,            $  
  YRANGE  = [0, 0.9*MAX(hist)] , $  
  XRANGE  = [0, N_ELEMENTS(hist) - 1]
```

(I don't know how this will appear on GOOGLE, but if you use a
fixed-pitch font, these lines will appear the way I described)

Multiple IF...THEN lines:

; Defaults for keywords

```
IF (N_ELEMENTS(title) EQ 0) THEN title = 'New Data'  
IF (N_ELEMENTS(latitude) EQ 0) THEN latitude = [0, 0, 0, 0]  
IF (N_ELEMENTS(longitude) EQ 0) THEN longitude = [0, 0, 0, 0]  
IF (N_ELEMENTS(filename) EQ 0) THEN filename = "
```

```
IF (N_ELEMENTS(true) EQ 0) THEN true = 3
```

Of course, if you are devious and WANT to make your distribution code hard to read, you can remove all extra white space (all UPPERCASE strings need whitespace) and reassign the variables with random strings (search for lowercase strings).

Have fun!

Ed Meinel
