
Subject: Re: Free source code diagramming programs

Posted by idlwizard-1@yahoo.com on Fri, 14 Apr 2006 14:40:59 GMT

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- > I wouldn't ask a pretty printer to format anything that won't compile.
- > Count your parentheses and braces. Check the definition of strcmp().

You win. My keyboard made minor errors.

The idea is still the same. When a programmer formats his/her code and/or comments carefully, pretty printers destroy it. Here is another example, FORTRAN only, in which you have a useful comment table that explains things (again, you need a fixed width font).

c	variable	Initial Value	Meaning	Permanence
c	-----	-----	-----	-----
	a	= 5	! Happiness quotient	Transitory
	b	= 17	! Unhappiness factor	Changeable
	garbage	= 3	! Time differential	Irrelevant
	silly	= 5.23	! Semantics	Who cares?
	example	= 18	! Meaningfulness	A lifetime
	ohmy	= 999	! Wizard of Oz	Forever

Again, a pretty printer will kill all this extremely useful information. If you casually apply a pretty printer to tens of thousands of lines of code, and that gets passed on to the next benighted programmer, you will lose something he/she will need to understand.

Enough.
