

---

Subject: Re: Programming rules  
Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Thu, 23 Mar 2000 08:00:00 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

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](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>

---

---

Subject: Re: Programming rules  
Posted by [Struan Gray](#) on Thu, 23 Mar 2000 08:00:00 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Nicolas Decoster, [Nicolas.Decoster@noveltis.fr](mailto:Nicolas.Decoster@noveltis.fr) writes:

> 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 ?

Mike Schienle has a nice style guide online:

[http://www.ivsoftware.com/IDL\\_Style.html](http://www.ivsoftware.com/IDL_Style.html)

David Fanning's example and tip routines are also pretty exemplary, so it's worth browsing his site even if you don't need the functionality (though sooner or later, you will):

<http://www.dfanning.com>

Struan

---