
Subject: Re: Style guide for IDL?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 20 Aug 2002 14:49:36 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Andrew Nesbit (alnesbit@optushome.com.au) writes:

> K&R style is arguably the most widely-seen coding style for C source
> code. In an analogous way, does there exist some "standard" way of
> writing IDL, and if so, where can I find descriptions/examples of it?

The IDL Expert Programmer's Association commissioned a study on this very topic several years ago, and the general meeting we held to discuss the issue was the most explosive in memory. (The ballroom had to have extensive repairs and a complete paint job, as I recall.)

There were at least 25 different opinions from the 15 members in attendance, although the group could generally be divided between the damned lowercase fraction and the mixed-case fraction. (The ALLCAPS people were banished to the bar at the start of the meeting and didn't really cause any problems the rest of the day!)

In the end, we issued a report that said, in essence, "whatever works". It was the most disappointed I have ever been with the EPA, because, of course, I am a firm believer in the Coyote Way. :-(

Cheers,

David

P.S. Let's just say I am currently working in a collaborative effort with one of those damned lowercase people and he is DRIVING ME CRAZY!!!

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Phone: 970-221-0438, E-mail: david@dfanning.com

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: Style guide for IDL?

Posted by [notspecified](#) on Tue, 20 Aug 2002 15:09:58 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Tue, 20 Aug 2002 08:49:36 -0600, David Fanning <david@dfanning.com> wrote:

> P.S. Let's just say I am currently working in a collaborative
> effort with one of those damned lowercase people and he is
> DRIVING ME CRAZY!!!

thats just silly and prejudiced im very disappointed

Matt Feinstein does not include his email address
in the text of usenet postings.

Harvard Law of Automotive Repair: Anything that goes away
by itself will come back by itself.

Subject: Re: Style guide for IDL?
Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Tue, 20 Aug 2002 15:32:35 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Andrew Nesbit wrote:

>
> K&R style is arguably the most widely-seen coding style for C source
> code. In an analogous way, does there exist some "standard" way of
> writing IDL, and if so, where can I find descriptions/examples of it?

Here's a style guide written by Mike Schienle:

http://www.ivsoftware.com/IDL_Style.html

I've also seen an unpublished IDL style guide from Research Systems. I
may even have a copy around here somewhere...

Cheers,
Liam.
Practical IDL Programming
<http://www.gumley.com/>

Subject: Re: Style guide for IDL?
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Tue, 20 Aug 2002 18:42:57 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Tue, 20 Aug 2002 07:49:36 -0700, David Fanning wrote:

> Andrew Nesbit (alnesbit@optushome.com.au) writes:

```

>
>> K&R style is arguably the most widely-seen coding style for C source
>> code. In an analogous way, does there exist some "standard" way of
>> writing IDL, and if so, where can I find descriptions/examples of it?
>
> The IDL Expert Programmer's Association commissioned a study on this
> very topic several years ago, and the general meeting we held to discuss
> the issue was the most explosive in memory. (The ballroom had to have
> extensive repairs and a complete paint job, as I recall.)
>
> There were at least 25 different opinions from the 15 members in
> attendance, although the group could generally be divided between the
> damned lowercase fraction and the mixed-case fraction. (The ALLCAPS
> people were banished to the bar at the start of the meeting and didn't
> really cause any problems the rest of the day!)
>
> In the end, we issued a report that said, in essence, "whatever works".
> It was the most disappointed I have ever been with the EPA, because, of
> course, I am a firm believer in the Coyote Way. :-(
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
>
> P.S. Let's just say I am currently working in a collaborative effort
> with one of those damned lowercase people and he is DRIVING ME CRAZY!!!

```

As one who is equally offended by the LOUD, PACKED WITH EXTRA UPPERCASE CHARACTERS, AND TANTAMOUNT TO SHOUTING AT THE READER style certain purveyors of the so-called truth are peddling, allow me to present as postscript two exhibits for your consideration. For the record, my ANSI-like preferences are automatically enabled using the following settings with IDLWAVE:

```

idlwave-block-indent 3      ; Proper Indentation settings
;; Any self-respecting programmer indents his main block
idlwave-main-block-indent 2
idlwave-end-offset -3
idlwave-continuation-indent 3
idlwave-reserved-word-upcase nil ; Don't UPPERCASE reserved words
font-lock-maximum-decoration 3

```

Keywords, strings and other syntax elements should be set apart from the main body of text with color, not with LOUD UPPERCASE EMPHASIS WHICH REMINDS ME OF THE KIND OF EMAILS MY GRANDDAD USED TO SEND BEFORE HE REALIZED HOW RUDE IT IS. For full effect, load these texts into a colorizing editor like Emacs/IDLWAVE or the IDLDE.

JD

```
+++++ ++
FUNCTION FSC_PLOTWINDOW::InTarget, x, y, DIRECTION=direction

; Given a location of the cursor in the window returns the
; target location and the direction the window should be
; resized in. Have to be within 10% of window edge to be
; in moveable target.
IF xtest EQ 1 AND ytest EQ 1 THEN BEGIN
    retVal = 'MOVE'
    direction = 'MOVE'
ENDIF
IF xtest EQ 1 AND ytest EQ 2 THEN BEGIN
    retVal = 'SIZE_NS'
    direction = 'N'
ENDIF
IF xtest EQ 2 AND ytest EQ 0 THEN BEGIN
    retVal = 'SIZE_SE'
    direction = 'SE'
ENDIF
IF xtest EQ 2 AND ytest EQ 1 THEN BEGIN
    retVal = 'SIZE_EW'
    direction = 'E'
ENDIF
IF xtest EQ 2 AND ytest EQ 2 THEN BEGIN
    retVal = 'SIZE_NE'
    direction = 'NE'
ENDIF

alphamImage = Obj_New('IDLgrImage', alpha_image, $
    Dimensions=[400,400], Interleave=0, $
    Blend_Func=[3,4])

RETURN, retVal
END ;-----
+++++ ++
```

VS.

```
+++++ ++
function FSC_PlotWindow::InTarget, x, y, DIRECTION=direction
;; Given a location of the cursor in the window returns the
;; target location and the direction the window should be
;; resized in. Have to be within 10% of window edge to be
;; in moveable target.
if xtest EQ 1 AND ytest EQ 1 then begin
    retVal='MOVE'
```

```

    direction='MOVE'
endif
if xtest EQ 1 AND ytest EQ 2 then begin
    retVal='SIZE_NS'
    direction='N'
endif
if xtest EQ 2 AND ytest EQ 0 then begin
    retVal='SIZE_SE'
    direction='SE'
endif
if xtest EQ 2 AND ytest EQ 1 then begin
    retVal='SIZE_EW'
    direction='E'
endif
if xtest EQ 2 AND ytest EQ 2 then begin
    retVal='SIZE_NE'
    direction='NE'
endif
alphamage=Obj_New('IDLgrImage', alpha_image, $
    Dimensions=[400,400], Interleave=0, $
    Blend_Func=[3,4])
return,retVal
end
+++++

```

Subject: Re: Style guide for IDL?

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 20 Aug 2002 19:53:11 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

JD Smith wrote:

```

>
> As one who is equally offended by the LOUD, PACKED WITH EXTRA
> UPPERCASE CHARACTERS, AND TANTAMOUNT TO SHOUTING AT THE READER style
> certain purveyors of the so-called truth are peddling, allow me to
> present as postscript two exhibits for your consideration. For the
> record, my ANSI-like preferences are automatically enabled using the
> following settings with IDLWAVE:
>
> idlwave-block-indent 3          ; Proper Indentation settings
> ;; Any self-respecting programmer indents his main block
> idlwave-main-block-indent 2
> idlwave-end-offset -3
> idlwave-continuation-indent 3
> idlwave-reserved-word-upcase nil ; Don't UPPERCASE reserved words
> font-lock-maximum-decoration 3
>
> Keywords, strings and other syntax elements should be set apart from

```

> the main body of text with color, not with LOUD UPPERCASE EMPHASIS
> WHICH REMINDS ME OF THE KIND OF EMAILS MY GRANDDAD USED TO SEND BEFORE
> HE REALIZED HOW RUDE IT IS. For full effect, load these texts into a
> colorizing editor like Emacs/IDLWAVE or the IDLDE.

>
> JD
>
> ++++++ ++
> FUNCTION FSC_PLOTWINDOW::InTarget, x, y, DIRECTION=direction
>
> ; Given a location of the cursor in the window returns the
> ; target location and the direction the window should be
> ; resized in. Have to be within 10% of window edge to be
> ; in moveable target.
> IF xtest EQ 1 AND ytest EQ 1 THEN BEGIN
> retVal = 'MOVE'
> direction = 'MOVE'
> ENDIF

.....
[snip]

> vs.
>
> ++++++ ++
> function FSC_PlotWindow::InTarget, x, y, DIRECTION=direction
> ;; Given a location of the cursor in the window returns the
> ;; target location and the direction the window should be
> ;; resized in. Have to be within 10% of window edge to be
> ;; in moveable target.
> if xtest EQ 1 AND ytest EQ 1 then begin
> retVal='MOVE'
> direction='MOVE'
> endif

.....
[snip]

I prefer the first version above, except it should use

```
alphaImage = OBJ_NEW('IDLgrImage', alpha_image, $  
    DIMENSIONS=[400,400], $  
    INTERLEAVE=0, $  
    BLEND_FUNC=[3,4])
```

:o)

paulv

--

Paul van Delst
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP/EMC Beer is good.
Ph: (301)763-8000 x7274 My wife.
Fax:(301)763-8545

Subject: Re: Style guide for IDL?
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Tue, 20 Aug 2002 20:09:33 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Tue, 20 Aug 2002 11:42:57 -0700, JD Smith wrote:

```
> On Tue, 20 Aug 2002 07:49:36 -0700, David Fanning wrote:
>
>> Andrew Nesbit (alnesbit@optushome.com.au) writes:
>>
>>> K&R style is arguably the most widely-seen coding style for C source
>>> code. In an analogous way, does there exist some "standard" way of
>>> writing IDL, and if so, where can I find descriptions/examples of it?
<snip>
>>
>> P.S. Let's just say I am currently working in a collaborative effort
>> with one of those damned lowercase people and he is DRIVING ME CRAZY!!!
>
> For full effect, load these texts into a
> colorizing editor like Emacs/IDLWAVE or the IDLDE.
```

For those of you unwilling or unable to load these into a colorizing editor, take a look at:

<http://turtle.as.arizona.edu/idlstyle.html>

Let your inner aesthete guide you.

JD
