

Program Style Guidelines for CS-1150

The programs you develop in this course are expected to adhere to the following guidelines.

Deviations from these guidelines that enhance the readability of the code are permitted; but note that whether the deviation is deemed to enhance readability is at the sole discretion of the grader.

FILE HEADERS

Each source code file must have a header that conforms to the template shown below. Do not copy/paste the header from this file since there is likely binary format codes that will cause syntax errors. Instead, copy the contents of the Header Template located on the course website.

```
//=====
// PROGRAMMER: ..... BAHN, William L.
// UCCS USER NAME: ..... wbahn
// COURSE: ..... CS-1150
// TERM: ..... 2015 Summer
// ASSIGNMENT: ..... HW01
// DUE DATE: ..... 17 JUN 2015
// PROBLEM: ..... Exercise 01.01
// FILENAME: ..... Exercise01_01.java
// JDK VERSION: ..... 1.8
// IDE/VERSION: ..... NONE
//=====
```

If you use an IDE, indicate the name and version on the last line.

Bracket Style

Compound statements (i.e., blocks of code surrounded by curly braces) should be structured with the curly braces on their own lines and they should be vertically aligned with the left edge of the code before and after.

You are not required to enclose single-statement code blocks (such as for an if() statement) in brackets, but this is not a bad convention and you will not be penalized if you choose to do so.

Indenting

It is preferred that code indenting be done using spaces rather than tabs, but that is not a hard requirement. Most code editors have options to let you type using tabs but that convert each tab to the appropriate number of spaces. There should be three or four spaces per level of indentation.

Comments

Comments are critical to good code writing. You may use end-of-line comments, block comments, or a mixture of both. There should be comments at the top of your code describing what the purpose of the code is. Comments should be used throughout the code to describe what small sections of the code are

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doing. As a general rule, if you have more than ten lines of code without any comments, then it is likely that some additional comments are warranted.

Any sections of code whose purpose or approach are not obvious to a casual reader should be documented. The depth and nature of documentation is dependent on how obscure the approach is.

Javadoc comments

Javadoc comments are encouraged but, in general, are not required unless specified otherwise. This may happen for assignments later in the course as programs become more complex.

Identifiers

You are expected to use meaningful names for variables, methods, and classes. In general, variables and methods should use lower-camelcase while classes should use upper-camel case.

Whitespace

Do not cram all of the code together. Separate sections of code that perform different functions by one (or more) blank lines. These are usually places that a comment might be beneficial.

Line Length

It is recommended that your code not extend past the 75th column, though this is not a hard requirement. But if you extend significantly past that you may be penalized.