

Modern C++ Programming

11. CODE CONVENTIONS

Federico Busato

University of Verona, Dept. of Computer Science
2021, v3.04



1 C++ Project Organization

- Project Directories
- Project Files
- `src/include` directories

2 Coding Styles and Conventions

- Coding Styles

3 `#include`

4 Macro and Preprocessing

5 namespace

6 Variables

7 Functions

8 Structs and Classes

- 9** Control Flow
- 10** Modern C++ Features
- 11** Maintainability
- 12** Naming and Formatting
- 13** Code Documentation

C++ Project Organization

Project Organization

Project
Root



bin



build



doc



submodules



third_party



data



tests



examples



utils



include



src



LICENSE



README.md



CMakeLists.txt



Doxyfile



.gitignore



.clang-tidy



.clang-format

Fundamental directories

`include` Project *public* header files

`src/source` Project source files and *private* headers

`test` Source files for testing the project

Empty directories

`bin` Output executables

`build` All intermediate files

`doc` Project documentation

Optional directories

`submodules` Project submodules

`third_party` (less often `deps/external/extern`)
dependencies or external libraries

`data` Files used by the executables or for testing

`examples` Source files for showing project features

`utils` (or `script`) Scripts and utilities related to the project

`cmake` CMake submodules (`.cmake`)

Project Files

`LICENSE` Describes how this project can be used and distributed

`README.md` General information about the project in Markdown format *

`CMakeLists.txt` Describes how to compile the project

`Doxyfile` Configuration file used by doxygen to generate the documentation (see next lecture)

others `.gitignore`, `.clang-format`, `.clang-tidy`, etc.

* Markdown is a language with a syntax corresponding to a subset of HTML tags github.com/adam-p/markdown-here/wiki/Markdown-Cheatsheet

README

- README template:
 - Embedded Artistry README Template
 - Your Project is Great, So Let's Make Your README Great Too

LICENSE

- Choose an open source license:
choosealicense.com
- License guidelines:
Why your academic code needs a software license

File extensions

Common C++ file extensions:

- **header** .h .hh .hpp .hxx
- **header implementation** .i.h, .i.hpp, -inl.h, .inl.hpp
 - (1) separate implementation from interface for inline functions and templates
 - (2) keep implementation “inline” in the header file
- **source/implementation** .c .cc .cpp .cxx

Common conventions:

- .h .c .cc [GOOGLE](#)
- .hh .cc
- .hpp .cpp
- .hxx .cxx

Organization:

- Public **headers** in `include`
- **source files, private headers, header implementations** in `src/source` directory
- The **main** file (if present) can be placed in `src/source` and called `main.*` or placed in the project root directory with an arbitrary name

The file should have the same name of the class/namespace that they implement

- `class MyClass`

`my_class.hpp` (`MyClass.hpp`)

`my_class.i.hpp` (`MyClass.i.hpp`)

`my_class.cpp` (`MyClass.cpp`)

- `namespace my_np`

`my_np.hpp` (`MyNP.hpp`)

`my_np.i.hpp` (`MyNP.i.hpp`)

`my_np.cpp` (`MyNP.cpp`)

Code Organization Example

- **include**

- `my_interface.hpp`

- **src**

- `my_class1.cpp`
- `my_tmpl_class.hpp`
- `my_tmpl_class.i.hpp`
(template/inline functions)
- `my_tmpl_class.cpp`
(specialization)

- **subdir1**

- `my_lib.hpp`
- `my_lib.i.hpp`
- `my_lib.cpp`

- `main.cpp` (if necessary)

- `README.md`

- `CMakeLists.txt`

- `Doxyfile`

- `LICENSE`

- **build** (empty)

- **bin** (empty)

- **doc** (empty)

- **test**

- `test1.cpp`

- `test2.cpp`

Coding Styles and Conventions

“one thing people should remember is there is what you can do in a language and what you should do”

Bjarne Stroustrup

Most important rule:

BE CONSISTENT!!

“The best code explains itself”

GOOGLE

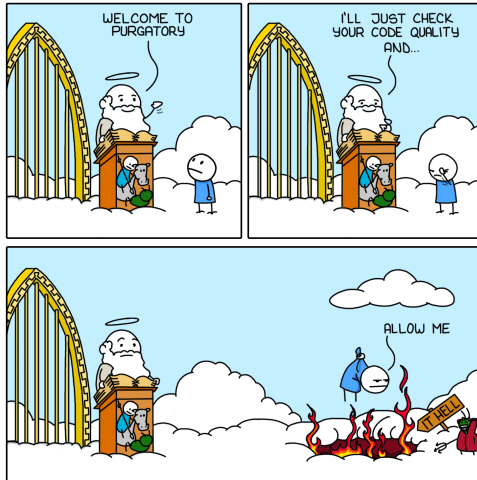
“80% of the lifetime cost of a piece of software goes to maintenance”

Unreal Engine

“The worst thing that can happen to a code base is size”

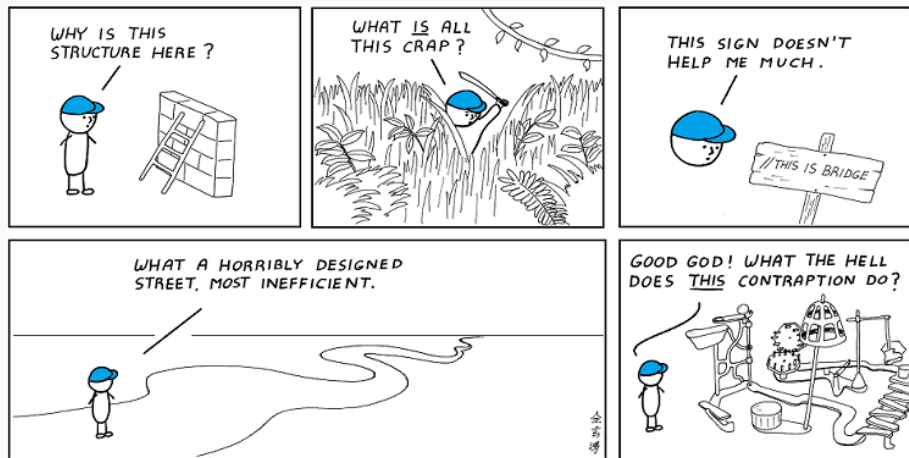
— Steve Yegge

LAST PUSH



Bad Code

How *my* code looks like for other people?



Coding styles are common guidelines to improve the *readability*, *maintainability*, prevent *common errors*, and make the code more *uniform*

- ***LLVM Coding Standards***

`llvm.org/docs/CodingStandards.html`

- ***Google C++ Style Guide***

`google.github.io/styleguide/cppguide.html`

- ***Webkit Coding Style***

`webkit.org/code-style-guidelines`

- ***Mozilla Coding Style***

`firefox-source-docs.mozilla.org`

- ***Chromium Coding Style***

`chromium.googlesource.com`

`c++-dos-and-donts.md`

- ***Unreal Engine - Coding Standard***

`docs.unrealengine.com/en-us/Programming`

- ***μOS++***

`micro-os-plus.github.io/develop/coding-style`

`micro-os-plus.github.io/develop/naming-conventions`

- ***High Integrity C++ Coding Standard***

`www.perforce.com/resources`

- ***CERT C++ Secure Coding***

`wiki.sei.cmu.edu`

More comprehensive code guidelines

- **C++ Guidelines**

`isocpp.github.io/CppCoreGuidelines/CppCoreGuidelines`

Critical system coding standards

- **Misra - Coding Standard**

`www.misra.org.uk`

- **Autosar - Coding Standard**

`www.misra.org.uk`

- **Joint Strike Fighter Air Vehicle**

`www.perforce.com/blog/qac/jsf-coding-standard-cpp`

※ → **Important!**

Highlight potential code issues such as bugs, inefficiency, and can compromise readability. Should not be ignored

* → **Useful**

It is not fundamental but it emphasizes good practices. Should be followed if possible

■ → **Minor / Obvious**

Style choice or not very common issue

`#include`

※ Every includes must be self-contained

- include every header you need directly
- the project must compile with any include order
- do not rely on recursive `#include`

LLVM, GOOGLE, UNREAL, μ OS++, CORE

*** Include as less as possible, especially in header files**

- do not include unneeded headers
- minimize dependencies
- minimize code in headers (e.g. use forward declarations)
- it is not in contrast with the previous rule

LLVM, GOOGLE, CHROMIUM, UNREAL, HIC, μ OS++

Order of #include

LLVM, WEBKIT, CORE

(1) Main Module Header (it is only one)

- space

(2) Local project includes (in alphabetical order)

- space

(3) System includes (in alphabetical order)

Note: (2) and (3) can be inverted

GOOGLE

System includes are self-contained, local includes might not

Project includes LLVM, GOOGLE, WEBKIT, HIC, CORE

- * Use `"` syntax
- * Should be absolute paths from the project include root
e.g. `#include "directory1/header.hpp"`

System includes LLVM, GOOGLE, WEBKIT, HIC

- * Use `<>` syntax
e.g. `#include <iostream>`

- `include guard` vs. `#pragma once`
 - Use `include guard` if portability is a strong requirement
LLVM, GOOGLE, CHROMIUM, CORE
WEBKIT, UNREAL
 - `#pragma once` otherwise
- `#include` preprocessor should be placed immediately after the header comment and include guard
LLVM

Forward declarations vs. `#includes`

- *Prefer forward declaration*: reduce compile time, less dependency
CHROMIUM
- *Prefer `#include`*: safer
GOOGLE

* Use C++ headers instead of C headers:

`<cassert>` instead of `<assert.h>`

`<cmath>` instead of `<math.h>`, etc.

▪ Report at least one function used for each include

`<iostream>` `// std::cout, std::cin`

Example:

```
#include "MyClass.hpp"           // MyClass
                                [ blank line ]
#include "my_dir/my_headerA.hpp" // npA::ClassA, npB::f2()
#include "my_dir/my_headerB.hpp" // np::g()
                                [ blank line ]
#include <iostream>               // std::cout
#include <cmath>                  // std::fabs()
#include <vector>                 // std::vector
```

Macro and Preprocessing

- ※ **Avoid defining macros**, especially in headers GOOGLE
 - Do not use macro for enumerators, constants, and functions WEBKIT, GOOGLE
- ※ **Use a prefix for all macros** related to the project GOOGLE, UNREAL
`MYPROJECT_MACRO`
- ※ `#undef` **macros wherever possible** GOOGLE
 - Even in the source files if *unity build* is used

※ Always use curly brackets for multilines macro

```
#define MACRO \
{\
    line1; \
    line2; \
}
```

※ Always put macros after `#include`

HIC

- Put macros outside namespaces

Style:

- Close `#endif` with the respective condition of the first `#if`

```
#if defined(MACRO)  
    ...  
#endif // defined(MACRO)
```

- The hash mark that starts a preprocessor directive should always be at the beginning of the line

GOOGLE

```
#if defined(MACRO)  
#    define MACRO2  
#endif
```

- Place the `\` rightmost for multilines macro

```
#define MACRO2                                \  
    macro_def...
```

- Prefer `#if defined(MACRO)` instead of `#ifdef MACRO`

namespace

- ※ **Avoid** `using namespace` -directives at global scope
LLVM, GOOGLE, WEBKIT, UNREAL, HIC, μ OS++
- * **Limit** `using namespace` -directives at local scope and prefer explicit namespace specification
GOOGLE, WEBKIT, UNREAL
- ※ **Always place code in a namespace** to avoid *global namespace pollution*
GOOGLE, WEBKIT
- * **Avoid *anonymous* namespaces in headers** GOOGLE, CERT
- anonymous namespace vs. static
 - Prefer *anonymous* namespaces instead of static variables/functions
GOOGLE, CORE
 - Use *anonymous* namespaces only for inline class declaration, static otherwise
LLVM, STATIC^{30/68}

Style guidelines:

- The content of namespaces is not indented

LLVM, GOOGLE, WEBKIT

- Close namespace declarations

```
} // namespace <namespace_identifier>
```

LLVM

```
} // namespace (for anonymous namespaces)
```

GOOGLE

Anonymous namespaces and source files:

- Items local to a source file (e.g. .cpp) file should be wrapped in an anonymous namespace. While some such items are already file-scope by default in C++, not all are; also, shared objects on Linux builds export all symbols, so anonymous namespaces (which restrict these symbols to the compilation unit) improve function call cost and reduce the size of entry point tables

CHROMIUM, CORE, HIC31/68

Variables

- ※ Place a variables in the *narrowest scope* possible, and *always initialize variables in the declaration*

GOOGLE, ISOCPP, MOZILLA, HIC, *muOS*, CERT

- * Avoid static (non-const) global variables

LLVM, GOOGLE, CORE, HIC

- Use assignment syntax `=` when performing “simple” initialization CHROMIUM
- Declaration of pointer/reference variables or arguments may be placed with the asterisk/ampersand *adjacent* to either the *type* or to the variable *name* for all in the same way GOOGLE
 - `char* c;` WEBKIT, MOZILLA, CHROMIUM, UNREAL
 - `char *c;`
 - `char * c;`

- ※ **Use fixed-width integer type** (e.g. `int64_t`, `int8_t`, etc.). Exception: `int` and `unsigned` [GOOGLE](#), [UNREAL](#)
- * `size_t` vs. `int64_t`
 - Use `size_t` for object and allocation sizes, object counts, array and pointer offsets, vector indices, and so on. (integer overflow behavior for signed types is undefined) [CHROMIUM](#)
 - Use `int64_t` instead of `size_t` for object counts and loop indices [GOOGLE](#)
- Use brace initialization to convert (constant) arithmetic types (narrowing) e.g. `int64_t{x}` [GOOGLE](#)
- * Use `true`, `false` for boolean variables instead numeric values `0`, `1` [WEBKIT](#)

- ※ Do not shift `<<` signed operands HIC, CORE, μ OS
- ※ Do not directly compare floating point `==`, `<`, etc. HIC
- ※ Use signed types for arithmetic CORE

Style:

- Use floating-point literals to highlight floating-point data types, e.g. `30.0f` WEBKIT (opposite)
- Avoid redundant type, e.g. `unsigned int`, `signed int` WEBKIT

Functions

* **Limit overloaded functions.** Prefer default arguments
GOOGLE, CORE

* **Split up large functions** into logical sub-functions for improving readability and compile time
UNREAL, GOOGLE, CORE

▪ Use `inline` only for small functions (e.g. < 10 lines)
GOOGLE, HIC

* **Never return pointers for new objects.** Use `std::unique_ptr` instead
CHROMIUM, CORE

```
int*          f() { return new int[10]; } // wrong!!
std::unique_ptr<int> f() { return new int[10]; } // correct
```

※ **Prefer pass by-reference instead by-value** except for raw arrays and built-in types [WEBKIT](#)

* **Pass function arguments by `const` *pointer or reference*** if those arguments are not intended to be modified by the function [UNREAL](#)

▪ Do not pass **by-const-value** for built-in types, especially in the declaration (same signature of by-value)

* **Prefer returning values** rather than output parameters [GOOGLE](#)

* **Do not declare functions with an excessive number of parameters.** Use a wrapper structure instead [HIC, CORE](#)

- All parameters should be aligned if they do not fit in a single line (especially in the declaration) [GOOGLE](#)

```
void f(int      a,  
      const int* b);
```

- Parameter names should be the same for declaration and definition [CLANG-TIDY](#)
- Do not use `inline` when declaring a function (only in the definition) [LLVM](#)
- Do not separate declaration and definition for template and inline functions [GOOGLE](#)

Structs and Classes

- * Use a `struct` only for passive objects that carry data; everything else is a `class` GOOGLE
- ✱ Objects are fully initialized by constructor call GOOGLE, WEBKIT, CORE
- * Prefer in-class initializers to member initializers CORE
 - Use delegating constructors to represent common actions for all constructors of a class CORE
 - Initialize member variables in the order of member declaration CORE, HIC

- * **Do not define implicit conversions.** Use the `explicit` keyword for conversion operators and constructors

GOOGLE, CORE

- Prefer `= default` constructors over user-defined / implicit default constructors MOZILLA, CHROMIUM, CORE, HIC
- Use `= delete` to mark deleted functions CORE, HIC
- Mark destructors `noexcept` CORE
- Use braced initializer lists for aggregate types `A{1, 2};` LLVM, GOOGLE
- Do not use braced initializer lists `{}` for constructors. It can be confused with `std::initializer_list` object LLVM

- ※ Avoid virtual method calls in constructors

GOOGLE, CORE, CERT

- ※ Default arguments are allowed only on *non-virtual* functions

GOOGLE, CORE, HIC

- ※ *Multiple inheritance* and *virtual inheritance* are discouraged

GOOGLE, CHROMIUM

- ※ Prefer *composition* over *inheritance*

GOOGLE

- ※ A polymorphic class should suppress copying

CORE

- ※ A class with a *virtual function* should have a *virtual or protected destructor* (e.g. interfaces and abstract classes)

CORE^{40/68}

※ Declare class data members in special way*. Examples:

- Trailing underscore (e.g. `member_var_`)

GOOGLE, μ OS, CHROMIUM

- Leading underscore (e.g. `_member_var`)

.NET

- Public members (e.g. `m_member_var`)

WEBKIT

- Class inheritance declarations order:

`public`, `protected`, `private`

GOOGLE, μ OS

- First data members, then function members
- If possible, **avoid** `this->` keyword

*

- It helps to keep track of class variables and local function variables
- The first character is helpful in filtering through the list of available variables 41/68

```
struct A {           // passive data structure
    int    x;
    float  y;
};

class B {
public:
    B();
    void public_function();

protected:
    int    _a;                // in general, it is not public in
                              // derived classes
    void _protected_function(); // "protected_function()" is not wrong
                              // it may be public in derived classes

private:
    int    _x;
    float  _y;

    void _private_function();
};
```

- In the constructor, each member should be indented on a separate line, e.g. [WEBKIT](#), [MOZILLA](#)

```
A::A(int x1, int y1, int z1) :  
    x(x1),  
    y(y1),  
    z(z1) {
```

Control Flow

※ **Avoid redundant control flow** (see next slide)

- Do not use `else` after a `return / break`

LLVM, MOZILLA, CHROMIUM, WEBKIT

- Avoid `return true/return false` pattern
- Merge multiple conditional statements

* **Prefer `switch` to multiple `if`-statement**

CORE

- Avoid `do-while` loop

CORE

- Avoid `goto`

μOS, CORE

- Do not use default labels in fully covered switches over enumerations

LLVM

```
if (condition) {    // wrong!!
    < code1 >
    return;
}
else // <-- redundant
    < code2 >
//-----
if (condition) {    // Corret
    < code1 >
    return;
}
< code2 >
```

```
if (condition)    // wrong!!
    return true;
else
    return false;
//-----
return condition; // Corret
```

- Use *early exits* (`continue` , `break` , `return`) to simplify the code

LLVM

```
for (<condition1>) {    // wrong!!
    if (<condition3>)
        ...
}
//-----
for (<condition1>) {    // Correct
    if (!<condition3>)
        continue;
    ...
}
```

- Turn predicate loops into predicate functions

LLVM

```
for (<loop_condition1>) { // should be
    if (<condition2>) {    // an external
        var = ...        // function
        break;           //
    }                    //
}                        //
```


- ※ Tests for `null/non-null`, and `zero/non-zero` should all be done with equality comparisons CORE, WEBKIT
(opposite) MOZILLA

```
if (!ptr)           // wrong!!  
    return;  
if (!count)         // wrong!!  
    return;
```

```
if (ptr == nullptr) // correct  
    return;  
if (count == 0)     // correct  
    return;
```

- ※ Prefer `(ptr == nullptr)` and `x > 0` over `(nullptr == ptr)` and `0 < x` CHROMIUM

- Do not compare to `true/false`, e.g. `if (x == true)`

※ Do not mix `signed` and `unsigned` types HIC

▪ Prefer signed integer (better 64-bit) for loop indices CORE

▪ Prefer `enum` to `bool` on function parameters

▪ Prefer `empty()` method over `size()` to check if a container has no items MOZILLA

▪ Ensure that all statements are reachable HIC

* Avoid *RTTI* (`dynamic_cast`) or *exceptions* if possible

LLVM, GOOGLE, MOZILLA

※ The `if` and `else` keywords belong on separate lines

```
if (c1) <statement1>; else <statement2> // wrong!!
```

GOOGLE, WEBKIT

- Multi-lines statements and complex conditions require curly braces

GOOGLE

- Curly braces are not required for single-line statements (but allowed) (`for`, `while`, `if`)

GOOGLE, WEBKIT

```
if (c1) { // not mandatory  
    <statement>  
}
```

- Boolean expression longer than the standard line length requires to be consistent in how you break up the lines

GOOGLE

Modern C++ Features

Use modern C++ features wherever possible

- * `static_cast` `reinterpret_cast` instead of *old style cast*
`(type)` GOOGLE, μ OS, HIC
- * Do not define implicit conversions. Use the `explicit` keyword for conversion operators and constructors
GOOGLE, μ OS

- ※ Use `constexpr` instead of *macro* GOOGLE, WEBKIT
- ※ Use `using` instead `typedef`
- ※ Prefer `enum class` instead of plain `enum` UNREAL, μ OS
- ※ `static_assert` compile-time assertion UNREAL, HIC
- ※ `lambda` expression UNREAL
- ※ `move` semantic UNREAL
- ※ `nullptr` instead of `0` or `NULL`
LLVM, GOOGLE, UNREAL, WEBKIT, MOZILLA, HIC, μ OS

- ✱ Use *range-for* loops whatever possible

LLVM, WEBKIT, UNREAL, CORE

- ✱ Use `auto` to avoid type names that are noisy, obvious, or unimportant

```
auto array = new int[10];
```

```
auto var = static_cast<int>(var);
```

lambda, iterators, template expression

LLVM, GOOGLE

UNREAL (only)

- ✱ Use `[[deprecated]]` / `[[noreturn]]` / `[[nodiscard]]` to indicate deprecated functions / that do not return / result should not be discarded

- Avoid `throw()` expression. Use `noexcept` instead

HIC

※ Use always `override/final` function member keyword
WEBKIT, MOZILLA, UNREAL, CHROMIUM, HIC

* Use braced *direct-list-initialization* or *copy-initialization* for setting default data member value. Avoid initialization in constructors if possible
UNREAL

```
struct A {  
    int x = 3;    // copy-initialization  
    int x { 3 }; // direct-list-initialization (best option)  
};
```

- Use `= default` constructors
- Use `= delete` to mark deleted functions
- Prefer *uniform initialization* when it cannot be confused with `std::initializer_list`

Maintainability

- ※ Write all code in English
- ※ Avoid complicated template programming [GOOGLE](#)
- ※ Use the `assert` to document preconditions and assumptions [LLVM](#)
- ※ Use symbolic names instead of literal values in code [HIC](#)
- ※ Do not overload operators with special semantics `&&` [HIC](#)

Readability

- Prefer consecutive alignment

```
int          var1 = ...  
long long int var2 = ...
```

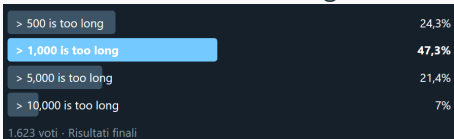
- * **Write self-documenting code**, e.g. $(x + y - 1) / y \rightarrow$

```
ceil_div(x, y)
```

UNREAL

- Minimize the number of empty rows
- Do not use more than one empty line
- Do not write excessive long file

GOOGLE



- Use always the same style for braces

- Same line

WEBKIT (func. only), MOZILLA

- Its own line

UNREAL, WEBKIT (function)

MOZILLA (Class)

```
int main() {  
    code  
}
```

```
int main  
{  
    code  
}
```

※ Use always the same indentation style

- tab → 2 spaces GOOGLE, MOZILLA, HIC, μ OS
- tab → 4 spaces LLVM, WEBKIT, HIC, μ OS
- tab = 4 spaces UNREAL

※ Separate commands, operators, etc., by a space

LLVM, GOOGLE, WEBKIT

```
if(a*b<10&& c)           // wrong!!  
if (a * c < 10 && c)      // correct
```

※ Limit line length (width) to be at most **80 characters** long (or 120) → help code view on a terminal

LLVM, GOOGLE, MOZILLA, μ OS

Maintainability

※ Do not use `reinterpret_cast` or `union` for type punning CORE, HIC

- Address compiler warnings. Compiler warning messages mean something is wrong UNREAL

- Ensure ISO C++ compliant code and avoid non-standard extension, deprecated features, or asm declarations, e.g. `register`, `__attribute__` HIC

- Prefer `sizeof(variable/value)` instead of `sizeof(type)` GOOGLE

- Enforce const-correctness UNREAL

Naming and Formatting

General rule:

- ✧ **Use full words**, except in the rare case where an abbreviation would be more canonical and easier to understand `WEBKIT`
- Avoid short and very long names

Style Conventions

Camel style Uppercase first word letter (sometimes called *Pascal style* or *Capital case*) (less readable, shorter names)

```
CamelStyle
```

Snake style Lower case words separated by single underscore (good readability, longer names)

```
snake_style
```

Macro style Upper case words separated by single underscore (sometimes called *Screaming style*) (good readability, longer names)

```
MACRO_STYLE
```

Variable Variable names should be nouns

- Camel style e.g. `MyVar` LLVM, UNREAL
- Snake style e.g. `my_var` GOOGLE, μ OS

Constant

- Camel style + k prefix,
e.g. `kConstantVar` GOOGLE, MOZILLA
- Macro style e.g. `CONSTANT_VAR` WEBKIT, OPENSTACK

Enum

- Camel style + k
e.g. `enum MyEnum { kEnumVar1, kEnumVar2 }` GOOGLE
- Camel style
e.g. `enum MyEnum { EnumVar1, EnumVar2 }` LLVM, WEBKIT

- Namespace**
- Snake style, e.g. `my_namespace` GOOGLE, LLVM
 - Camel style, e.g. `MyNamespace` WEBKIT

Typename Should be nouns

- Camel style (including classes, structs, enums, typedefs, etc.)
e.g. `HelloWorldClass` LLVM, GOOGLE, WEBKIT
- Snake style μ OS (class)

Functions

- * **Should be descriptive verb** (as they represent actions)

WebKit

- * **Functions that return boolean values should start with boolean verbs**, like `is`, `has`, `should`, `does`

µOS

- Use `set` prefix for modifier methods
- Do not use `get` for observer (`const`) methods without parameters

WebKit

WebKit

- **Style:**

- Lowercase Camel style, e.g. `myFunc()`

LLVM

- Uppercase Camel style for standard functions
e.g. `MyFunc()`

GOOGLE, MOZILLA, UNREAL

- Snake style for cheap functions
e.g. `my_func()`

GOOGLE, STD

Macro Macro style
e.g. MY_MACRO

GOOGLE

File

- Snake style (my_file)
- Camel style (MyFile)

GOOGLE

LLVM

※ Do not use reserved names

CERT

- double underscore followed by any character `--var`
 - single underscore followed by uppercase `_VAR`
-
- Use common loop variable names
 - `i, j, k, l` used in order
 - `it` for iterators

- Never put trailing white space or tabs at the end of a line
GOOGLE, MOZILLA
- Declare each identifier on a separate line in a separate declaration
HIC
- Only one space between statement and comment
WEBKIT

- ✖ **Use the same line ending** (e.g. `'\n'`) for all files
MOZILLA, CHROMIUM
- * **Do not use UTF characters for portability**, prefer ASCII
- * If UTF is needed, **prefer UTF-8 encoding for portability**
CHROMIUM
- **Close files with a blank line**
MOZILLA, UNREAL

Code Documentation

- * Any file start with a license

LLVM, UNREAL

- * Each file should include

- `@author` name, surname, affiliation, email
- `@version`
- `@date` e.g. year and month
- `@file` the purpose of the file

in both header and source files

- Document methods/classes/namespaces only in header files
- Include `@param[in]` , `@param[out]` , `@param[in,out]` , `@return` tags
- Document ranges, impossible values, status/return values meaning

- Use always the same style of comment
- Be aware of the comment style, e.g.

- Multiple lines

```
/**  
 * comment1  
 * comment2  
 */
```

- single line

```
/// comment
```

- Prefer `///` comment instead of `/* */` → allow string-search tools like `grep` to identify valid code lines [HiC](#), [μOS](#)

- Use anchors for indicating special issues: `TODO`, `FIXME`, `BUG`,
etc. [WebKit](#), [Chromium](#)^{69/68}