The Norm

Version 3

Summary: This document describes the applicable standard (Norm) at 42. A programming standard defines a set of rules to follow when writing code. The Norm applies to all C projects within the Inner Circle by default, and to any project where it's specified.

Contents

Chapter I

Foreword

The Norm is in python and open source.
Its repository is available at https://github.com/42School/norminette.
Pull requests, suggestions and issues are welcome!

Chapter II

The Norm

II.1 Denomination

- A structure's name must start by `s_`.

- A typedef's name must start by `t_`.

- A union's name must start by `u_`.

- An enum's name must start by `e_`.

- A global's name must start by `g_`.

- Variables and functions names can only contain lowercases, digits and '_' (Unix Case).

- Files and directories names can only contain lowercases, digits and '_' (Unix Case).

- Characters that aren't part of the standard ascii table are forbidden.

- Variables, functions, and any other identifier must use snake case. No capital letters, and each word separated by an underscore.

- All identifiers (functions, macros, types, variables, etc) must be in English.

- Objects (variables, functions, macros, types, files or directories) must have the most explicit or most mnemonic names as possible.

- Global variables are forbidden, expect where it's mandatory to use them (Signal handling for one). Using a global variable in a project where it's not explicitly allowed is a norm error.

- The file must compile. A file that doesn't compile isn't expected to pass the Norm.

II.2   Formatting

- You must indent your code with 4-space tabulations. This is not the same as 4 average spaces, we're talking about real tabulations here.

- Each function must be maximum 25 lines, not counting the function's own curly brackets.

- Each line must be at most 80 columns wide, comments included. Warning : a tabulation doesn't count as a column, but as the number of spaces it represents.

- One instruction per line.

- An empty line must be empty: no spaces or tabulations.

- A line can never end with spaces or tabulations.

- You can never have two consecutive spaces.

- You need to start a new line after each curly bracket or end of control structure.

- Unless it's the end of a line, each comma or semi-colon must be followed by a space.

- Each operator or operand must be separated by one - and only one - space.

- Each C keyword must be followed by a space, except for keywords for types (such as int, char, float, etc.), as well as sizeof.

- Each variable declaration must be indented on the same column for its scope.

- The asterisks that go with pointers must be stuck to variable names.

- One single variable declaration per line.

- We cannot stick a declaration and an initialisation on the same line, except for global variables (when allowed) and static variables.

- Declarations must be at the beginning of a function, and must be separated by an empty line.

- In a function, you must place an empty line between variable declarations and the remaining of the function. No other empty lines are allowed in a function.

- Multiple assignments are strictly forbidden.

- You may add a new line after an instruction or control structure, but you'll have to add an indentation with brackets or affectation operator. Operators must be at the beginning of a line.

General example:

```c
int             g_global;
typedef struct  s_struct
{
    char    *my_string;
    int     i;
}               t_struct;
struct          s_other_struct;

int     main(void)
{
    int     i;
    char    c;

    return (void);
}
```

II.3   Functions

- A function can take 4 named parameters maximum.

- A function that doesn't take arguments must be explicitly prototyped with the word "void" as argument.

- Parameters in functions' prototypes must be named.

- Each function must be separated from the next by an empty line.

- You can't declare more than 5 variables per function.

- Return of a function has to be between parenthesis.

- Each function must have a single tabulation between its return type and its name.

```
int my_func(int arg1, char arg2, char *arg3)
{
    return (my_val);
}

int func2(void)
{
    return ;
}
```

II.4   Typedef, struct, enum and union

- Add a tabulation when declaring a struct, enum or union.

- When declaring a variable of type struct, enum or union, add a single space in the type.

- When declaring a struct, union or enum with a typedef, all indentation rules apply. You must align the typedef's name with the struct/union/enum's name.

- You must indent all structures names on the same column for their scope.

- You cannot declare a structure in a .c file.

II.5   Headers

- The things allowed in header files are : header inclusions (system or not), declarations, defines, prototypes and macros.

- All includes must be at the beginning of the file.

- You cannot include a C file.

- We'll protect headers from double inclusions. If the file is `ft_foo.h`, its bystander macro is `FT_FOO_H`.

- Unused header inclusions (.h) are forbidden.

- All header inclusions must be justified in a .c file as well as in a .h file.

```
#ifndef FT_HEADER_H
# define FT_HEADER_H
# include <stdlib.h>
# include <stdio.h>
# define FOO "bar"

int g_variable;
struct s_struct;

#endif
```

II.6   Macros and Pre-processors

- Preprocessor constants (or #define) you create must be used only for associate literal and constant values.

- All #define created to bypass the norm and/or obfuscate code are forbidden. This point must be checked by a human.

- You can use macros available in standard libraries, only if those ones are allowed in the scope of the given project.

- Multiline macros are forbidden.

- Only macros names are uppercase.

- You must indent characters following #if , #ifdef or #ifndef.

II.7   Forbidden stuff !

- You're not allowed to use :

    ○ for

    ○ do...while

    ○ switch

    ○ case

    ○ goto

- ternary operators such as '?'.

- VLAs - Variable Length Arrays.

```c
int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    int     i;
    char    string[argc]; // This is a VLA

    i = argc > 5 ? 0 : 1 // Ternary
}
```

II.8   Comments

- Comments cannot be inside functions' bodies. Comments must be at the end of a line, or on their own line

- You comments must be in English. And they must be useful.

- A comment cannot justify a "bastard" function.

II.9   Files

- You cannot include a .c file.

- You cannot have more than 5 function-definitions in a .c file.

II.10   Makefile

Makefile aren't checked by the Norm, and must be checked during evaluation by the student.

- The $(NAME), clean, fclean, re and all rules are mandatory.

- If the makefile relinks, the project will be considered non-functional.

- In the case of a multibinary project, on top of the rules we've seen, you must have a rule that compiles both binaries as well as a specific rule for each binary compiled.

- In the case of a project that calls a functions library (e.g.: `libft`), your makefile must compile this library automatically.

- All source files you need to compile your project must be explicitly named in your Makefile.