

Maxim Valcke

@_iwan_refmt



Refmt

Practical Interpretation of Code Formatting

Code formatting is hot 🔥

- Gofmt
- Prettier (js, markdown, css...)
- Rustfmt
- Elm-format
- ...

Code formatter?

- Compiler?
- Linter?
- Code indenter?
- Magical shortcut in your editor?
- AI?

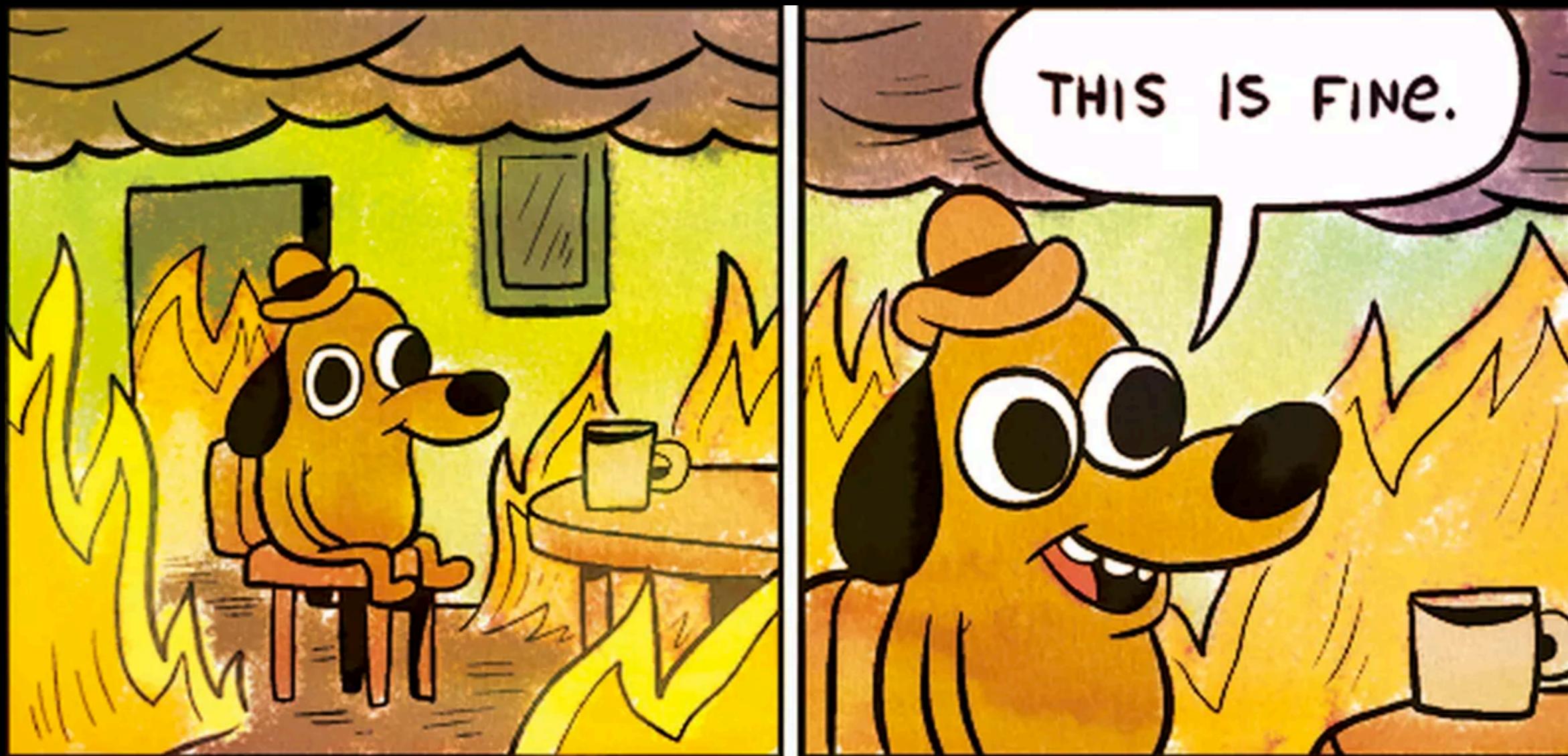
Code formatter



```
1 let
2   add
3   =
4   (a, b)    =>
5
6   a
7 +
8   b;
```

```
let add = (a, b) => a + b;
```

What if it's just hype?



What if it's just hype?

- Look at what the best in the world are doing
- Be very curious about the basics
- What is the desired effect? What is the actual effect?

Programming 101

Programming 101

- we create programs to direct processes
- Programming languages
 - > a way of getting a computer to perform things
 - > medium for expressing ideas
- control the complexity of large software systems
- solving problems

What I think I look like



What I actually look like



Solving problems

**Whitespace
Indentation
Braces
Parens
...**

Which things are worth fretting about?

What is the desired effect?

- **Write** distraction free
- Programs are made for humans to **read**
(and only incidentally for machines to execute)
- **Automate** syntax related changes

What is the actual effect?

Refmt in production

Distraction free writing

```
/* TODO: other types of newlines */
let newline = "\n";

let

findNewlines =s=>{let arr: array(int) = [|]; let i = ref(0);while (i^ > (-1)){i :=
  Js
    .String
  .indexOffFrom(
    s,
    i^ + 1

  ,
  newline);

if (i^ > (-1)) {ignore(
  Js.Array.push
  (i^, arr)); };
};

arr; };
```

Distraction free writing

```
1 /* TODO: other types of newlines */
2 let newline = "\n";
3
4 let findNewlines = s => {
5     let arr: array(int) = [];
6     let i = ref(0);
7
8     while (i^ > (-1)) {
9         i := Js.String.indexOfFrom(s, i^ + 1, newline);
10
11        if (i^ > (-1)) {
12            ignore(Js.Array.push(i^, arr));
13        };
14    };
15
16    arr;
17};
```

Painless reading

```
compiler##hooks##afterEmit##tapAsync(  
  "UnsafeAssets",  
  (compilation, next) => {  
  
  let c = config(compilation);  
  
  compilation |> Plugin.buildAssets |> Js.Json.stringify |> Node.Fs.writeFileAsUtf8Sync(_, c##path);  
  
  next();  
});
```

Painless reading

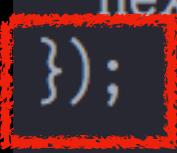
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compiler##hooks##afterEmit##tapAsync("UnsafeAssets", (compilation, next) => {
  let c = config(compilation);

  compilation
    |> Plugin.buildAssets
    |> Js.Json.stringify
    |> Node.Fs.writeFileAsUtf8Sync(_, c##path);

  next();
});
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Painless reading

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Painless reading

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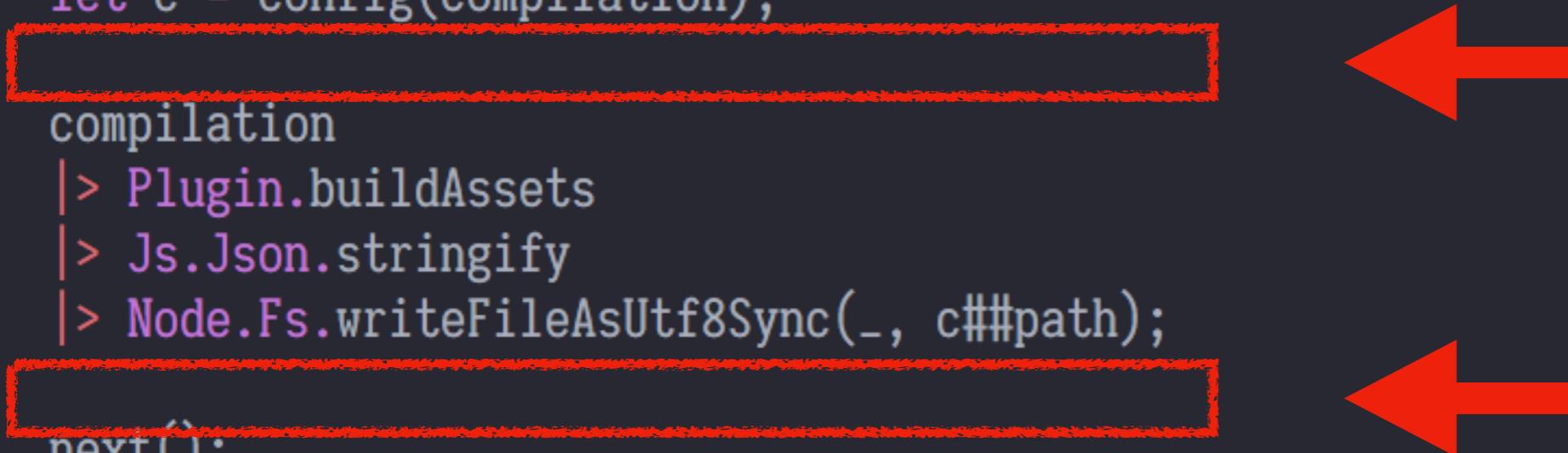
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Painless reading

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    |> Node.Fs.writeFileSync(_, c##path);
  next();
});
```



Boring maintenance

Automate arbitrary syntax changes

```
/* old syntax */  
let add a b => a + b;  
  
/* current syntax */  
let add = (a, b) => a + b;
```

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What's next?