edX

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Help

Style Guidelines

If you were writing a paper or an article, you might consult a Style Guide to improve the clarity and understandability of your writing. The same is true for writing computer programs. To write a program that is readable and understandable, you should follow some basic style guidelines. The goal is for someone to be able to look at your code and understand it without having to ask you clarifying questions.

Here are some helpful guidelines:

1. Provide a program header. This information should appear at the top of your program as comments. It should include the purpose of the program, how the program will operate to achieve that purpose, the author of the program and the date on which it was created.

2. Start labels, opcode, operands, and comments in the same column. In other words, these should all be lined up, not offset or jagged. This makes it easier to read. The exception to this rule would be a comment, which would be preceded by a semi-colon on the left-hand side.

3. Use comments to explain what each register does. Do not just introduce Register 2 without specifying the purpose of Register 2.

4. In most instances you should provide an explanatory comment for instructions. Some instructions are self-explanatory, but for any instruction that is not immediately obvious from the instruction itself or the context, provide an explanatory comment.

5. Use meaningful symbolic names. Do not just use L1 for line 1 if it can instead be given a meaningful name. For example, if line 1 is the beginning of a Loop, call it Loop.

6. Provide comments between program sections. When dividing programs into different sections that do different things, use a comment to specify the break and introduce the new function. This will help make the program readable and it will alert the reader to the purpose of the new section.

7. Each line must fit on the page. In other words, there should be no wraparound or truncations. Long statements, especially comments, should be split into multiple lines.

At 5:01 Professor Albonesi said .PTR but meant to say PTR.

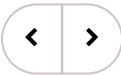## ILLUSTRATING ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE

Help

5:22 / 5:22   **1.0x**

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