



Commenting Code

COMP16321 – Introduction to Programming 1

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“Good Code is Self-Documenting!”

Is it True?	Yes
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Does it mean you should never comment code?	No
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The Good, The Bad & The Ugly





2 Types of Comments

Documentation Comments

Clarification Comments

Documentation Comments

For those who want to consume your work but not read through all of it

```
1  /** ***  
23 var countBy = createAggregator(function(result, value, key) {  
24   if (hasOwnProperty.call(result, key)) {  
25     ++result[key];  
26   } else {  
27     baseAssignValue(result, key, 1);  
28   }  
29 });  
30
```

Clarification Comments

For anyone (including yourself) who may need to maintain, refactor or add to your code

```
/** Replaces with spaces * the braces in cases * where braces in places * cause stasis.**/  
$str = str_replace(array("\{", "\}"), " ", $str);
```

Clarification is Code Smell.

Strive to remove clarification comments
by simplifying code

Clarification Comments Cont.

Avoid Redundant comments!

```
/*set the value of the age integer to 32*/  
int age = 32;
```

The Bad

Don't be this person!

Sometimes clarification is still needed even in good code

```
function addSetEntry(set, value) {  
  /* Don't return `set.add` because it's not chainable in IE 11. */  
  set.add(value); return set;  
}
```

The
Good

Be this person!

Clarification Comments Cont.

Be helpful to others (humor can help)

```
/**Dear maintainer: Once you are done trying to 'optimize'  
this routine, and have realized what a terrible mistake  
that was, please increment the following counter as a  
Warning to the next guy:
```

```
total_hours_wasted_here = 42**/
```

The
Good(ish)

Could save others a lot
of wasted time

Clarification Comments Cont.

Seems harmless enough

```
/*This code sucks, you know it and I know it.  
Move on and call me an idiot later.*/
```



The
Ugly

Just plain mean

```
/* Class used to workaround Gareth being a f*****g idiot*/
```

The Big Picture of Being a Programmer

