

Objective C static code analysis: "else" statements should be clearly matched with an "if"

1-2 minutes

The dangling `e l s e` problem appears when nested `i f / e l s e` statements are written without curly braces. In this case, `e l s e` is associated with the nearest `i f` but that is not always obvious and sometimes the indentation can also be misleading.

This rules reports `e l s e` statements that are difficult to understand, because they are inside nested `i f` statements without curly braces.

Adding curly braces can generally make the code clearer (see rule `{rule:cpp:S121}`), and in this situation of dangling `e l s e`, it really clarifies the intention of the code.

Noncompliant Code Example

```
if (a)
  if (b)
    d++;
else    // Noncompliant, is the "else" associated with "if(a)" or "if
(b)"? (the answer is "if(b)")
  e++;
```

Compliant Solution

```
if (a) {
  if (b) {
    d++;
  }
} else { // Compliant, there is no doubt the "else" is associated with
"if(a)"
  e++;
}
```

See

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dangling_else

Available In: