

Coding Style Guide & Naming Convention

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to establish a baseline coding convention to ease the problems associated with multiple people working on a project. This isn't to say this document is the word of God handed down from on High, but if we all at least loosely follow it, it should make it easier to both read and review each others code.

Naming Conventions

- 1) Variable names should be descriptive and short.
- 2) Multiple word variable names should be spaced with an underscore character instead of capitalization. (e.g. table cell == `$table_cell`)
- 3) Variables should be all lower-case.
- 4) Don't use Hungarian notation, PHP is about the least-strict typed language ever so it's worthless.
- 5) Class names should be capitalized.
- 6) Function names should be short and descriptive.
- 7) Multiple word function names should start with the first word as all lower-case and then capitalize the first letter of subsequent words.

Coding style

- 1) Whitespace == GOOD!
- 2) Try to keep lines around 80 characters long so we can edit them from the terminal without crazy wrapping or line breaks
- 3) Start indented lines with tabs instead of spaces.
- 4) Indent any new code level.
- 5) All class includes and defines should be at the top of the file.
- 6) Comments are helpful, but don't put one for every statement, just the cryptic stuff.
- 7) Use the `'` character to enclose strings instead of the `"` character. Both are recognized by PHP as strings, but using the `'` makes it much, MUCH easier to put HTML code into strings, since you don't have to escape every attribute.

Example

```
<?php
include('class/Page.php');

class Foobar {
    public __construct($neat = FALSE) {
        if (!$neat)
            $this->neat = 'To be or not to be!';
        else
            $this->neat = $neat;
    }

    public function printNeat() {
        print($this->neat);
    }

    private $neat;
};

try {
    $foobar = new Foobar();

    $foobar->printNeat();
} catch () { }

?>
```