What is a High-Quality Programming Code?

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What indeed? And according to whom? I am pretty sure that everybody in the programming community has their own idea what is high-quality code. The best part – their ideas are not necessarily the same. Questions like: "Where do we put '}' ", or "Where do we write the 'else' statement", are still not answered. There are conventions, good practices, but this does not prevent, for example, the Indian programmers to write their code exactly the opposite to them. There was one funny quote related to quality code: "The only valid measurement of code quality is number of "wtf"-s per minute from the reader, reviewer or QA ".

For me, high quality code is such code that is self-explanatory. If I can read and understand its purpose without the need of reading comments, the code is good. Unfortunately this is not easily achieved. Why?   Because we all think in different ways. If something is really clear, obvious and understandable for me, this doesn't mean that for someone else it won't be like magic black box - something goes in, something happens and something comes out. I think here is the key to writing high quality code- try to write it in such way, that not only you, but others can understand it as well. How to do that? By following the good practices, making it well formatted, using proper naming, using simple code structure (don't make it unnecessarily complicate, just to show that you can do so), using straightforward logic- if the code is chaotic, randomly jumping from one part, to another it is way much harder to follow the logic.

As we have been told on the lectures: "Writing high-quality programming code is what separates good programmer from coders". In today's industry all projects are run from teams of people, who are working every day side by side, using common repository and common code. It will harm the productivity of the team if they have to lose time in order to understand what exactly was the purpose of given piece of code written by somebody who is not following the good practices and conventions. And just for the purpose of this article let's imagine that everybody from the team is writing bad code. What will happen? Productivity- none, results-none, profits – none, on other side stress- high, satisfaction from the job well done – none, desire to work - none. As you can imagine this is not a good model for successful team/project/company.

Writing high quality code is one of the "must" for everyone who wants to be part of the programming word. Writing in such way is good not only for us, but for everybody who is and will be part of the project. Realizing that every single row of code matters is crucial, writing it in a way, that even after 20-30 years from now it is still understandable and meaningful, makes from people not only coders, but programmers.