

Communication in Layout and Style

Guided Notes

Instructions:

Fill in the missing blanks in the notes as you watch the course videos for this learning module.

Importance of Layout & Style

Code complexity can be managed with layout and style:

- brings focus by eliminating distractions.
- makes low-level tasks more predictable.
- allows ideas to be communicated more concisely.

Coding conventions can also protect against known hazards and compensate for language weaknesses.

Agree to coding conventions before coding.

Layout Fundamentals

Clear and consistent layout communicates volumes about the code's logical structure. Good layouts improve readability and withstand modifications.

White space includes spacing between characters, blank lines, and indentation.

- Use spaces between parameters, array references, and operations to improve readability.
- Use blank lines to group and separate statements into conceptual blocks.
- Use indentation of 2-4 spaces to show the code's logical structure.

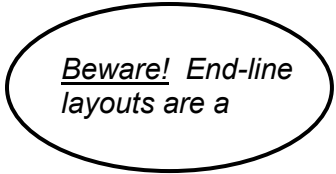
Braces show the code's command groups, even include the optional ones!

Parentheses resolve the order of operations, even include the optional ones!

Layout Specifics

For control structures:

- Loop statements should only contain **control** operations.
- **Split** complicated expressions on multiple lines.
- Use if-elseif-else form.



Beware! End-line layouts are a

For individual statements:

- Use **spaces** to make logical expressions, array references, and routine arguments readable.
- Only have **one** statement per **line**.
- Declare variables on **separate** lines and **close** their first use. Order them reasonably.

For comments:

- Indent comments with the corresponding code.
- Put a **blank line** before comments to help them stand out.

Things to Avoid

Clever code is **confusing** code! Break up expressions and beware of the “?” operator.

Stay away from **hard-coded** numbers, use variables/constants with good **names** instead.

State conditional tests **positively**.

Summary

Summarize your notes in 2-4 sentences. Identify the key points and the main take-away message.

A code's layout and style can contribute greatly to its readability! There are many features that should be decided upon with your team before beginning to code. Elements such as spacing, blank lines, and indentation should be considered in every style guide, but there are many ways in which this can be implemented. We should be open-minded in forming a style guide, knowing that team consistency is the most important thing!