

Code Style

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Lecture #22 out of 24
80 minutes

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BRIAN KERNIGHAN

“The harder it is for people to grasp the intent of any given section, the longer it will be before the program becomes operational. Trying to outsmart a compiler defeats much of the purpose of using one. Write clearly — don’t sacrifice clarity for ‘efficiency.’”

— Brian W. Kernighan and Phillip James Plauger. *The Elements of Programming Style*. McGraw-Hill, Inc., 1974

Which One Is Better?

```
1 int f(int n)
2 {
3     if (n == 1 || n < 2)
4         return 1;
5     int r = f (n-1);
6     int r2 = f(n - 2);
7     return r +r2;
8 }
```

```
1 int fibonacci(int n) {
2     if (n <= 2) {
3         return 1;
4     }
5     return fibonacci(n - 1)
6         + fibonacci(n - 2);
7 }
```



HENRY LEDGARD

“An individual’s body language helps clarify the spoken word. In a similar sense, the programmer relies on white space—what is not said directly—in the code to communicate logic, intent, and understanding.”

— Robert Green and Henry Ledgard. Coding Guidelines: Finding the Art in the Science. *Communications of the ACM*, 54(12):57–63, 2011

Figure 9. Examples of K&R, ANSI, and Whitesmiths coding styles.

<pre>if (expression) { statements }</pre>	<pre>if (expression) { statements }</pre>	<pre>if (expression) { statements }</pre>
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Source: Robert Green and Henry Ledgard. Coding Guidelines: Finding the Art in the Science. *Communications of the ACM*, 54(12):57–63, 2011

My Favorite Style Checkers

- Qulice for Java (Checkstyle + PMD)
- ESLint for JavaScript
- Clang-Tidy for C++
- Pylint for Python
- Rubocop for Ruby
- PHP_CodeSniffer for PHP
- rustfmt for Rust

References

Robert Green and Henry Ledgard. Coding Guidelines: Finding the Art in the Science.

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Brian W. Kernighan and Phillip James Plauger. *The Elements of Programming Style*. McGraw-Hill, Inc., 1974.