

Coding Conventions Guide

JavaScript

This document highlights some of the coding conventions followed during the course of the project. Developers should attempt to maintain these before merging new code. The conventions are listed below:

- JavaScript code should be stored in .js files or embedded in HTML files.
- Where appropriate blank lines should be used to improve the layout and readability.
- Binary operators should be separated from their operands by a single whitespace on either side except for a period and left parenthesis and left bracket.
- Every comma must precede a space or end of line.
- Every semicolon at the end of a statement should precede an end of line.
- Every semicolon in a for loop control statement should be followed by a whitespace character.
- Every statement should be indentation. The most left indentation level is at the left margin. All indentation should increase by 4 spaces rather than tabs.
- All left braces, left brackets, left parenthesis should have its matching closing token on the line which restores the previous indentation or follows the JSLint placement scheme.
- Long lines should be shortened and minimised. When a statement does not fit nicely on a single line, one should attempt to break it up into shorter lines.
- Tabs and spaces should not be mixed. We will use spaces for this project.
- Do not be overly generous with comments nor too sparse. The comments should be well-written and clear.
- Keep comments up-to-date.
- No random commented out code.
- All variables should be declared before used. JavaScript does not require this because of variable hoisting, but doing so increases readability.
- All functions should be declared before they are used for similar reasons as above.

Blank spaces should be used in the following circumstances:

- A whitespace space should not be present between a function value and the left parenthesis.
- The word function is always followed by a single space.
- No space should separate a unary operator and its operand except when the operator is a word such as **typeof**.

HTML

- HTML files should have a .html extension.
- A consistent use of style, should be implemented for consistency in the HTML.
- Always declare the document type as the first line in your document:
e.g. `<!DOCTYPE html>`
- Use lowercase element and attribute names because:
 - Mixing uppercase and lowercase names is bad
 - Developers normally use lowercase names
 - Lowercase look cleaner
 - Lowercase are easier to writee.g. `<section>`
`<p>This is a paragraph.</p>`
`</section>`
e.g. `<div class="menu">`
- Close all HTML element
e.g. `<section>`
`<p>This is a paragraph.</p>`
`<p>This is another paragraph.</p>`
`</section>`
- Do not put spaces in between equals signs
e.g. `<link rel="stylesheet" href="styles.css">`
- Avoid long code lines, it is hard to read
- Do not add blank lines for no reason
- Only add blank lines to improve the readability of the code