

Standard guidelines on FileMaker development:

Naming Conventions for FileMaker:

Three types of naming conventions are there in general programming standard.

- ⤴ Camel Case = contactFirstName
- ⤴ Pascal Case = ContactFirstName
- ⤴ Underscore format = contact_first_name

Developer can choose any on the 3 styles consistently in the application.

Usually Pascal Casing is mostly followed in FileMaker development for naming any object.

- 1) The object name should contain only alphabets, numbers (0 – 9), underscore characters.
- 2) The name should not begin with a number.
- 3) Should NOT contain spaces.
- 4) Should NOT contain periods other than the single period used for the extension.
- 5) Should consistently use singular or plural names.
- 6) Should NOT use any FileMaker Reserved Words
- 7) Should NOT use any SQL Reserved words.
- 8) Cannot exceed 100 characters in length
- 9) Use Pascal Case for naming the FileMaker objects. It may vary as per client requirement.

1. **Pascal casing should be used for Database, Table and Field naming.** In few cases the database names are client specific.

2. Field Naming:

In the database the table definition i.e the fields should be by default sorted by field name.

Below are few standards to be followed while naming the fields:

a) Key field naming:

- All the key fields should be prefixed with the letter “k”.
- Use triple underscores before a primary key field name. e.g __kp_<Field Name>
- Use double underscores before a foreign key field name. e.g __kf_<Field Name>
- Use single underscores before an alternate key field name. e.g _ka_<Field Name>

b) Global fields name should start with the character “g”. e.g g<Field Type>_<Field Name>

c) Utility field names should be prefixed with “z” and Developer Utility field should be suffixed as “zz”. e.g z_<Field Name>, zz_<Field Name>

d) Calculation field name should suffix or prefix the phrase “c<Calculation Return Type>” to the field name.

e.g ct_<Field Name> or
<Field Name>_ct

e) Summary fields should be prefixed with the character “s_”

f) Below are the abbreviations used for different Field Types:

n = Number
t = Text
d = Date
i = Time
m = TimeStamp
r = Container
s = Summary
p = Repetition

It is a good practice to use these abbreviations in the Field Names to denote their data type.

e.g

FirstName_xt

__kp_Id_xn

g_QuickFind_xt

zz_CreationDate_xd

3. Anchor Buoy's convention should be followed to name the Table Occurrences in the Relationship Graph.

4. Layouts should be named as

<Description of the layout>_<Table Occurrence Name>

e.g

List_CON

Detail_CON

NewContactEntry_CON

Blank_CON

Dev_CON

Web_CON

AllFields_CON

Here CON is the abbreviation of Contacts table used in the Relationship graph.

This may vary from client to client.

5. Custom Function Naming

- **Public Custom Functions** - CustomFunctionName_CFpub(parameterOne, parameterTwo)

- **Private Custom Functions** - CustomFunctionName_CFpvt(parameterOne, parameterTwo)

- **Custom Function Parameters** - camelCase

- **Function Headers**

1.Author Name

2.Created On

3.Function Name

4.Description

5.Function Parameters

6.Return Type

6. Script

- **Script Grouping** – Scripts should be grouped in folders and sub folders based on the modules they are used in.

- **Script Naming** - <Anchor TO Name / Type of script>_ScriptName. <Type of script> can be [UTL], [BTN], [TRG], etc. based on the purpose or type of script. If the script is attached to any button then prefix [BTN]_ before the script name. Similarly for utility scripts prefix [UTL], for scripts used at triggers name it as [TRG]_, [SUB]_ for sub scripts etc.

- **Script Header**

- 1.Script Name
- 2.Created On
- 3.Purpose
- 4.Declared Variables
- 5.Referenced Variables (Global Variables)
- 6.Parameters – List any parameters required for the script
- 7.Subscripts Used
- 8.Calling Scripts -

- **Variables Naming** (Local and Global) - camelCase

- **Inline Comments**

7. Calculation window

- Use calculation block header commenting in the calculation window of a calculation field.
- Use Inline commenting inside the calculations for complex Case () and If () statements.

8. Value Lists Naming

Use below suffixes while naming value list.

c = Custom Value

x = Value list from another file

d = Value list from field, including all values (for Dynamic)

r = Value list from field, including related values (for Related)

Such as: ValuListName_c