

Weekly Reflection

Language: FORTRAN

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Reflection

When it comes to writability, it seems to be annoying at times since a line has a fixed size of code (in terms of characters) that we can type. If it exceeds the limit, the cursor automatically jumps to the next line and if we are ignorant of such a case, the code would probably be error prone. But this scenario would create a much legible (readable) code at the end of the day even though it is annoying from the perspective of writing.

Also maintaining an indentation and starting with the 6th column throughout the code decreases writability aspect of the code since most of the time we are not used to start the code with an indentation. So, it has the possibility to prone errors more often when we accidentally forget to indent and start coding. But this complies with the readability of the code.

Fortran is not case sensitive. Which means that "X" and "x" are the same. This would help out programmers to write it easily without being bothered about the cases. But the issue arises when trying to read the code. If a newbie tries to understand a code without knowing that Fortran not case sensitive, he/she might misinterpret as "X" and "x" are not equal.

All in all, readability and writability seems to be inversely proportional.

Fortran doesn't seem to comply with reliability of the code since it does not have Exception Handling. But in later stages, a similar functionality came out to handle exceptions. However, it prompts syntax errors at the compile time.

However, Fortran has its own pros and cons which would sometimes be beneficial or annoying.

Weekly Question - Answer

The languages that I've used recently seems to be easier to learn and code since they can be understood easily. After being used to those, Fortran seems to be far behind with the syntaxes and coding standards. Basically, Fortran does not adhere Object Oriented concepts, so it looks more cluttered from the perspective of the code. Moreover, when it comes to the syntaxes and keywords, recent languages look more meaningful and the orientation of the code is clearly visible. For an instance, '<', '>', '==', '!=', symbols can be used in languages nowadays. But in Fortran, '.GT.', '.LT.', '.EQ.' kind of signs are used to denote those operators which I find it more difficult to read and understand unless I refer a tutorial on what it means in Fortran. All in all, languages I used recently are way better than Fortran based on my experiences.