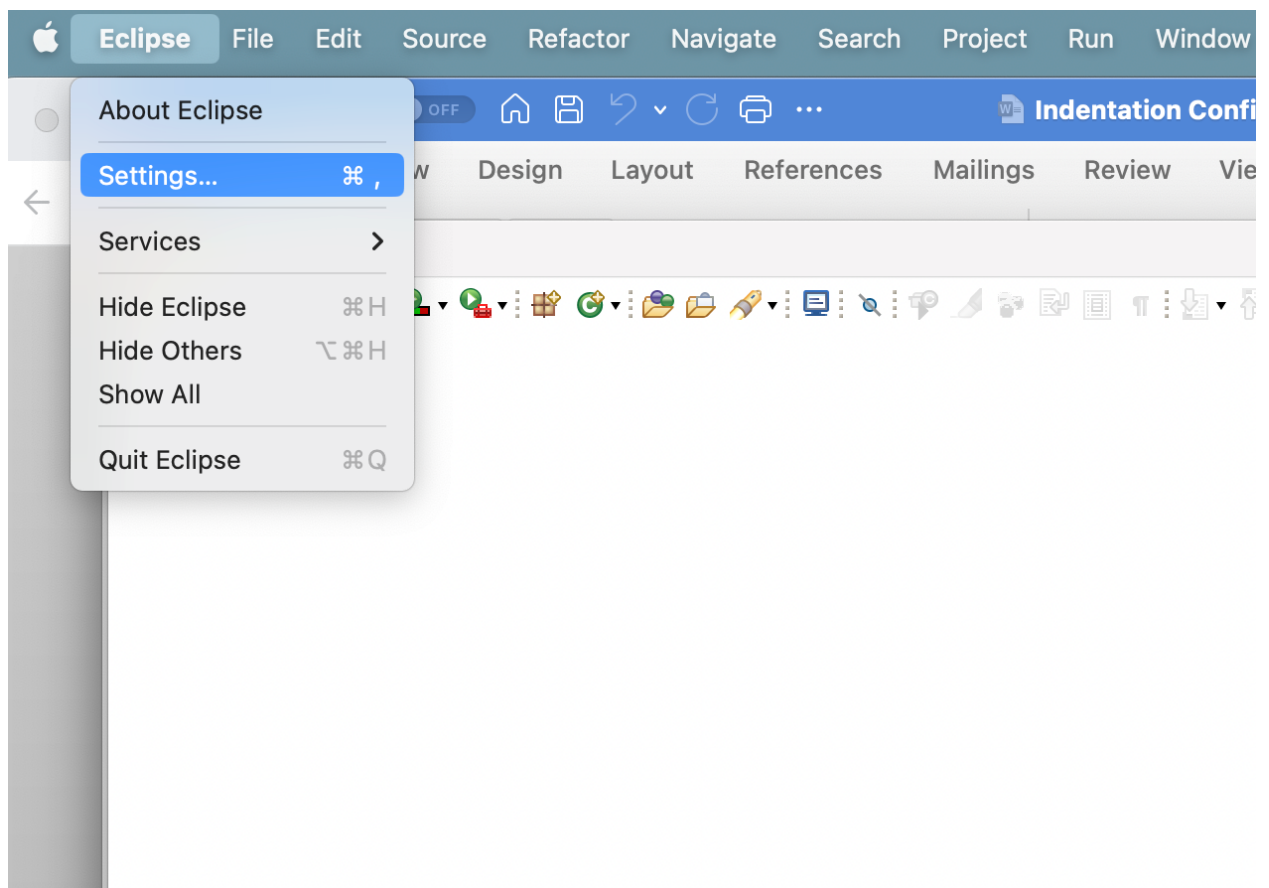The Java Code Conventions say that four spaces should be used as the unit of indentation (https://www.oracle.com/java/technologies/javase/codeconventions-indentation.html).
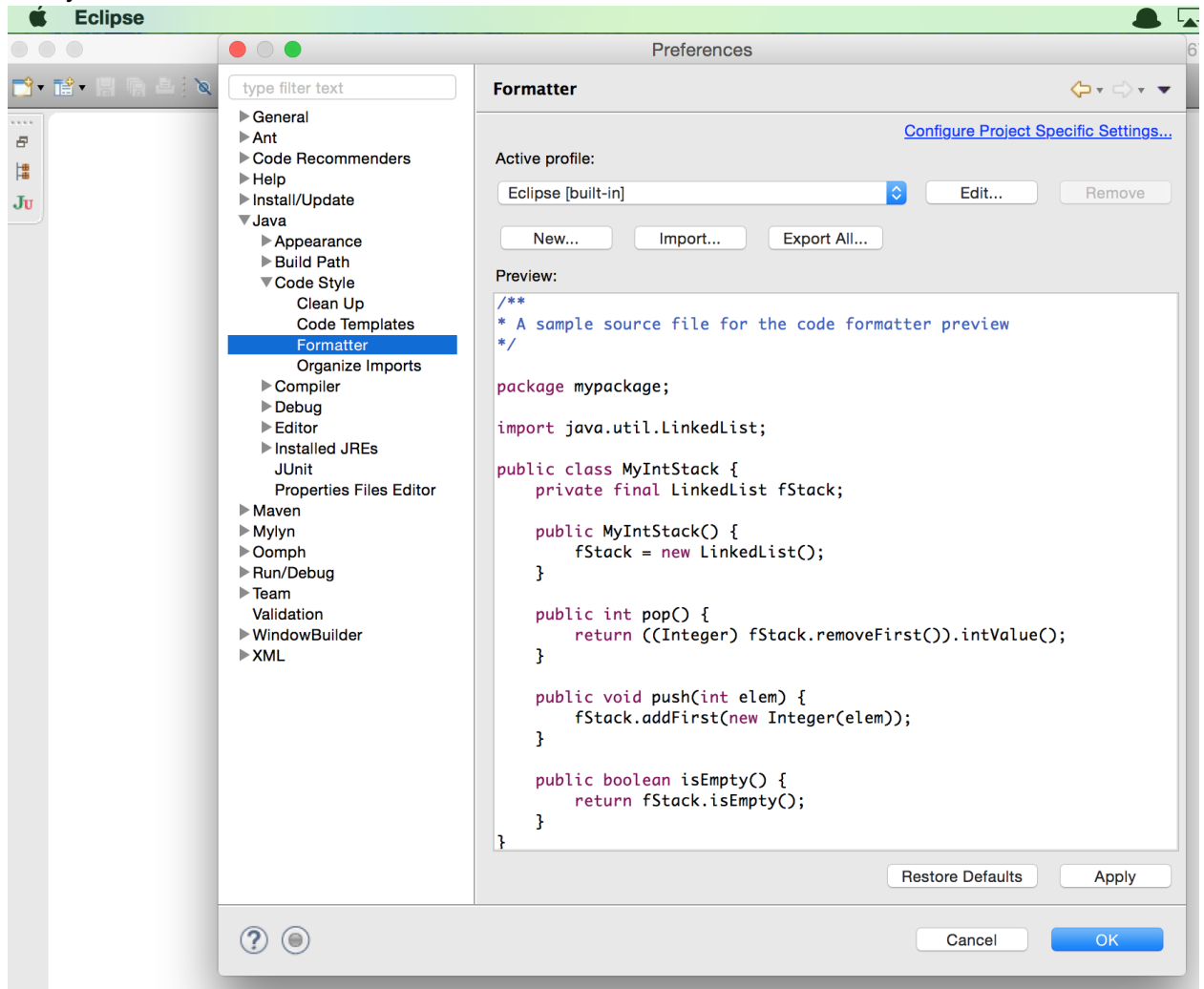
However, the default setting for indentation in Eclipse uses tabs instead of spaces. This document is to show how to change the configuration in Eclipse to use spaces as the unit of indentation. The coding style test in Autolab will be checking if your code uses spaces. Thus, you need to make sure to configure your Eclipse accordingly following the steps below.
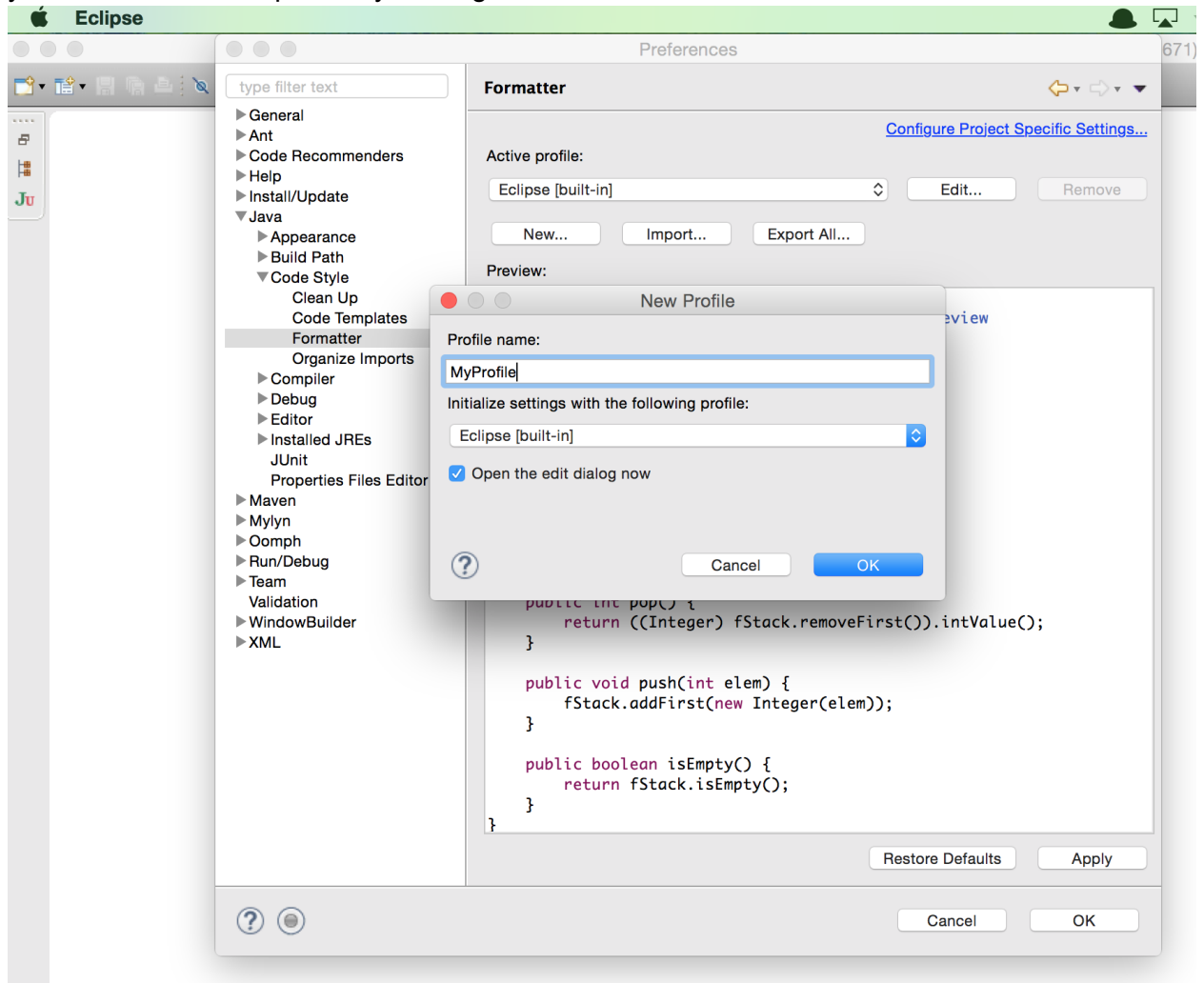
Steps

1. Have the Eclipse program open and click the Eclipse option in the top tool bar and then click Preferences.
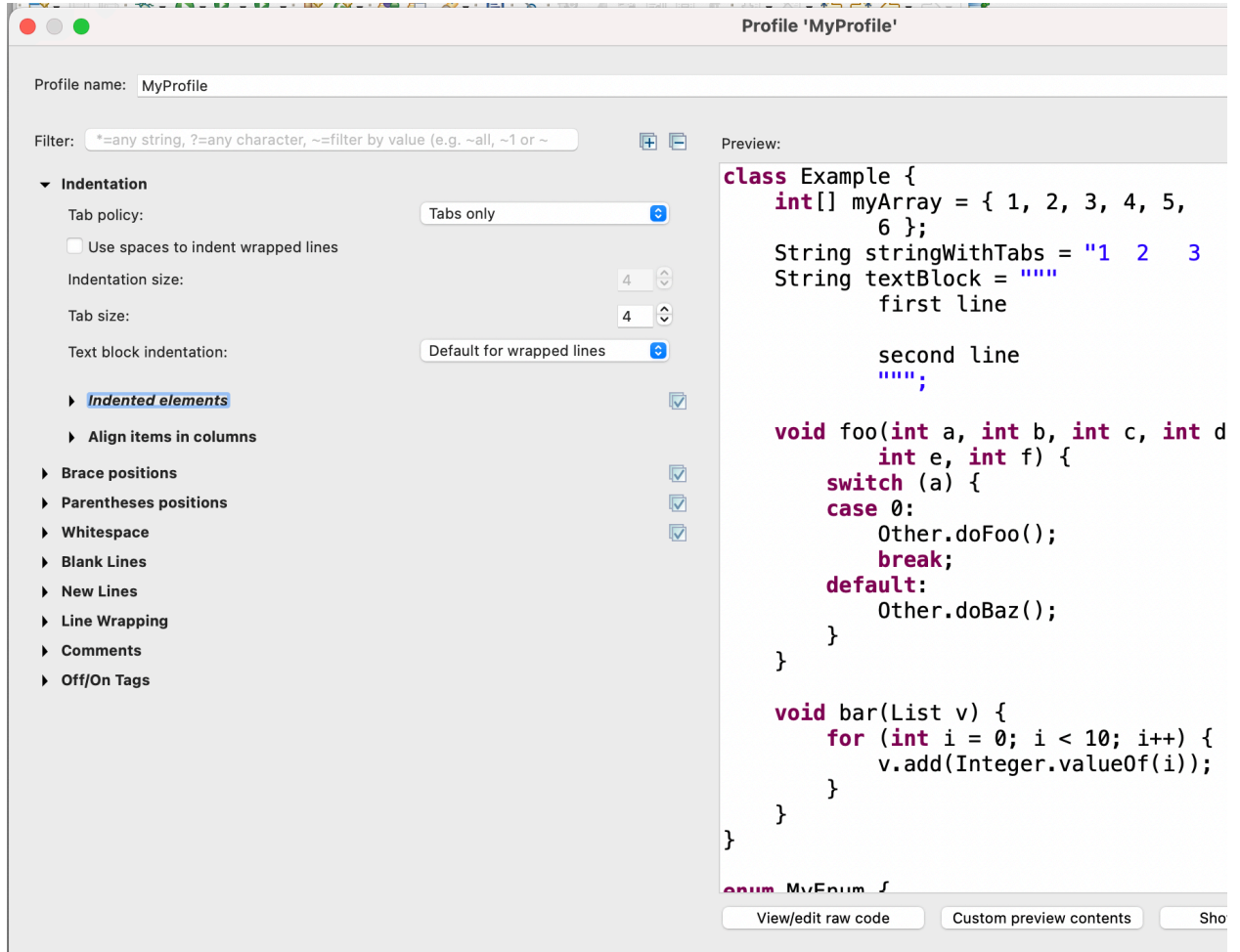
2. On the left side of the box, expand the Java option, expand the Code Style option and finally click Formatter.
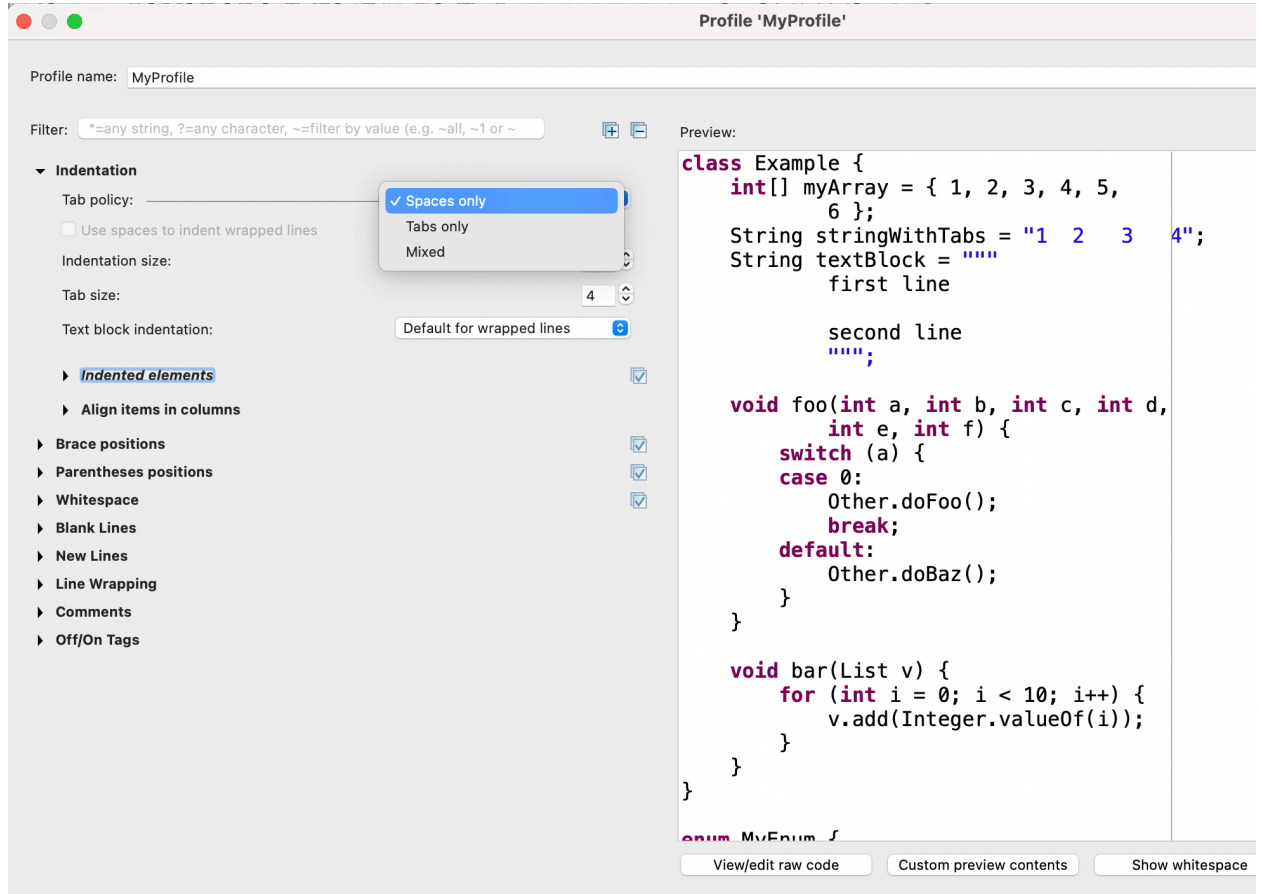
3. The active profile should be set to "Eclipse [built-in]" and you cannot edit this. Instead, you will create a new profile by clicking the "New…" button underneath.
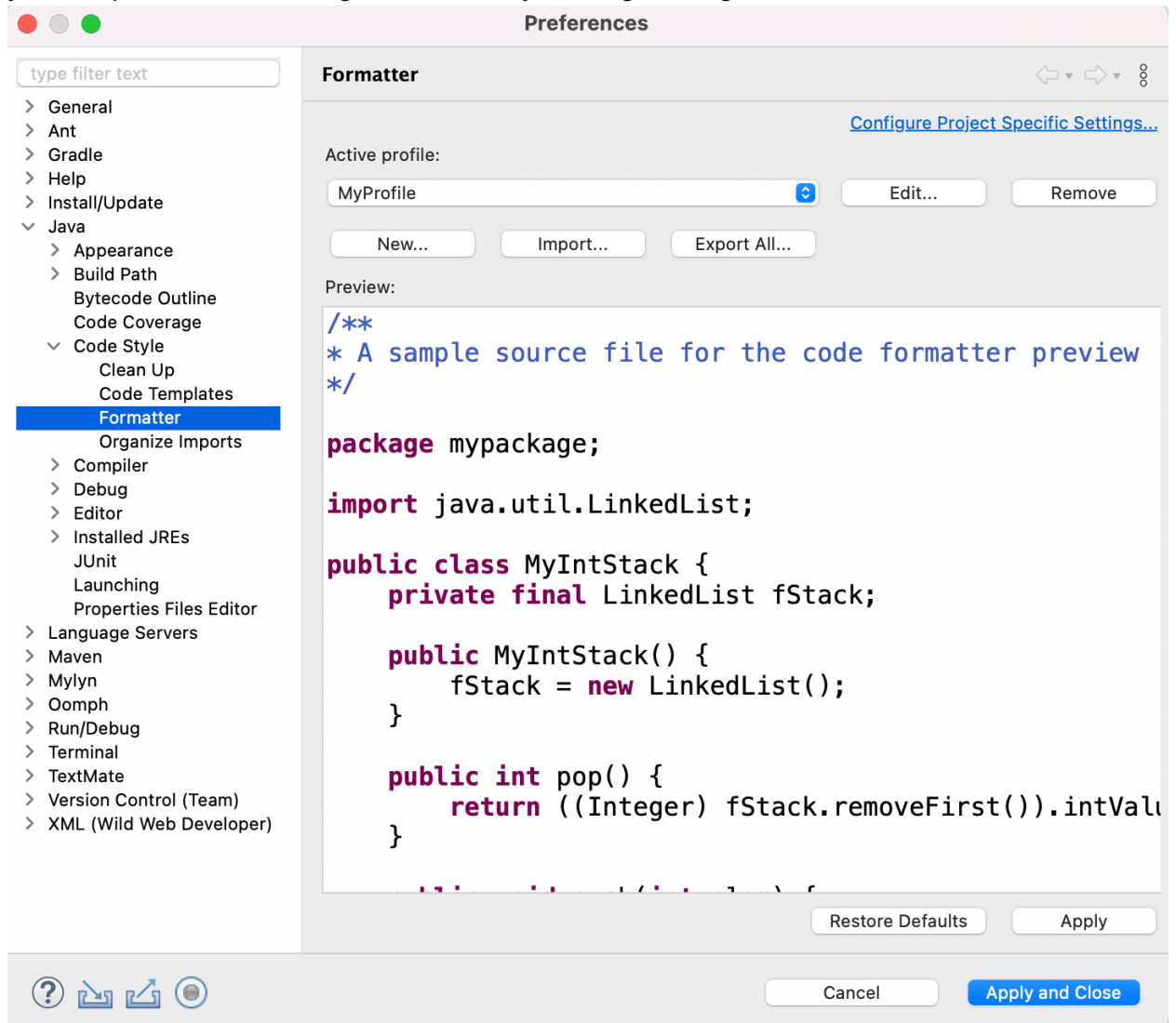
4. In the "Profile name" pick a name that is significant to you so that you can remember what that is later. The "Initialize setting with the following profile" option should have "Eclipse [built-in]" selected. And the "Open the edit dialog now" should also be selected. Now click "OK" to create your new format settings.

5. You are now presented with the Profile with the name you chose. There are many tabs in which our focus will be the "Indentation" As you can see, the default Tab policy is still "Tabs only" which is what we need to change. Among the dropdown list, you need to choose "Spaces only"

6. By default, indentation size will be set to 4 which is what you need. And, click "OK" and then "Apply and Close" button. Then, make this new profile to be selected and applied in your Eclipse formatter configuration. Now, you are good to go.

If you still have any issue, please visit an office hour. Good luck!