

Internal Documentation Guidelines

Internal documentation consists of comments included in the program, use of meaningful identifiers, and consistent and proper use of indentation and spacing. This type of documentation helps to follow the structure and meaning of the code.

1. **Each class (including the class containing main) should begin with an introductory comment of the following form:**

```
*****  
*  
* Class Name:  
* Class description: A brief description of what the class does  
*  
*****  
*/
```

An alternative way is to use Javadoc format.

2. **Each instance variable should include a brief description in the following form:**

```
type var1/object1;      //Brief description  
type var2/object2;      //Brief description  
...  
type varn/objectn;      //Brief description
```

3. **Each method doing non trivial work (including the constructor) should begin with a comment of the following form:**

```
*****  
*  
* Method name:  
* Description of the Method: A description of what the method does.  
*  
* Calling arguments: A list of the calling arguments, their types, and  
* brief explanations of what they do.  
*  
* Return value: its type, and a brief explanation of what it does.  
*  
* Required Files: A list of required files needed by the method,  
* indicating if the method expects files to be already opened (only if  
* files are used)  
*  
* List of Checked Exceptions and an indication of when each exception  
* is thrown.  
*  
*****,/
```

An alternative way is to use Javadoc format.

You must adapt the detail of documentation to the complexity of the method.

4. There should be a comment next to each local variable declaration in the method, unless the identifier sufficiently conveys the intended use of the declaration.
5. Obscure or complicated sections of code should be *preceded* by a comment explaining the intent of the code.