

POI Resoluton

Resolution 001 - Minimal Coding Standards

by Andrew C. Oliver

1. Resolution 001 - Minimal Coding Standards

1.1. Majority Position

As the POI project has grown the "styles" used have become more varied, some see this as a bad thing, but in reality it can be a good thing. Each can learn from the different styles by working with different code. That being said there are some universal "good quality" guidelines that must be adopted on a project of any proportions.

Marc Johnson Authored the following resolution:

On Tue, 2002-01-08 at 22:23, Marc Johnson wrote: Standards are wonderful; everyone should have a set. Here's what I propose for coding standards for POI WRT comments (should I feel the need, I'll post more of these little gems):

1. All classes and interfaces **MUST** have, right at the beginning, the POI License (see poi/doc/LICENSE).
2. All classes and interfaces **MUST** include class javadoc. Conventionally, this goes after the package and imports, and before the start of the class or interface. The class javadoc **MUST** have at least one @author tag
3. All methods that are accessible outside the class **MUST** have javadoc comments. In other words, if it isn't private, it **MUST** have javadoc comments. Simple getters can consist of a simple @return tag; simple setters can consist of a simple @param tag. Anything else requires some verbiage plus all the standard javadoc tags as appropriate. You **MUST** include @throws or @exception for any non-runtime exceptions, and you **SHOULD** document any runtime exceptions you expect to throw. @throws/@exception tags **SHOULD** include an explanation of why that exception would be thrown. If your method might return null, you **MUST** say so. An accompanying explanation of the circumstances for doing so would be nice.

1.2. Amendments (informal by extension and not by vote)

1.2.1. License

As opposed to the formerly used POI License which was based on the Apache Public License, now that POI is part of Jakarta, use the APL 1.1 for the header. Currently, the Apache Software Foundation requires us to use the full long version.

1.2.2. 2 cents

Tip: No laughing or joking allowed in conversations regarding coding standards. Any mail on coding standards will be treated very seriously, and sent here with a RTFM.

1.3. Dissent

The motion was passed unanimously with no negative or neutral votes.

1.4. Comments

Andy didn't feel like going through his mail and sucking out the comments.. If there is anything you feel should be added here do it yourself ;-).