

OBJECTIVE-C  
BEST PRACTICES  
IN A TEAM ENVIRONMENT

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Presented at JaxMUG March 2013

# GOALS

- Introduce / review Objective-C core features
- Review recent additions to Objective-C
- Discuss and propose Objective-C Styling that will lead to better collaboration among team

# TOPICS

- Objective-C History
- Objective-C Primer and Recent Features
- Objective-C Styling Best Practices
- Xcode Configuration
- Summary

# INTRO

- Rolin Nelson
- Software Engineer with 23 years of overall experience
- Performed Middleware integration prior to mobile
- 5 years of mobile experience
- Developed native and hybrid iOS apps
- Developed in a large environment

# HISTORY OF OBJECTIVE-C

- Created by Brad Cox and Tom Love in the early 1980s
- Backward compatible to C
- In 1988, the NeXT company licensed Objective-C
- NeXT developed the AppKit (NSTextField, NSView, NS...)
- And the Foundation Kit (NSObject, NSString, etc.) libraries
- The GCC compiler was used to compile

# HISTORY OF OBJECTIVE-C

- Licensing limitations did not allow sharing of enhancements
- A GNU project was started to work on a free implementation
- The new implementation of Cocoa(GNUStep) was based on the OpenStep standard
- Shortly after acquiring NeXT (in 1996), Apple used OpenStep in its new Mac OS.

# HISTORY OF OBJECTIVE-C

- In 2007, in Mac OS X 10.5 a 2.0 version of Objective-C was released
- Version 2.0 contain many breakthrough enhancements

# VERSION 2.0

- Garbage Collection (Only on Mac OS X)
- Syntax Enhancements
- Runtime Performance Improvements
- 64-Bit Support



# VERSION 2.0

- Properties
- Dot Syntax
- Fast Enumeration
- Optional Protocol

# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## **SYNTAX**

- Objective-C is a thin layer on top of C
- It is a strict superset of C
- You can compile any C program with an Objective-C compiler
- Objective-C derives its object-oriented syntax from the Smalltalk language
- All other syntax are identical to C

# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## **MESSAGE SENDING**

- [obj method:argument];
- The Objective-C model of object-oriented is based on message passing to object instances
- In Objective-C one doesn't simply call a method; one sends a message
- This allows the method called to be resolved at runtime (aka. Dynamic Typing)

# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## **MESSAGE SENDING**

- The side effect is message-passing has no type checking
- When a message is sent to an object, an exception will be thrown if the object does not implement a method that respond

# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## **INTERFACE IMPLEMENTATION**

- Objective-C requires the interface and implementation of class be in separate code blocks
- By convention, the interface is placed in a header file with a .h suffix
- The implementation is placed in a code file with .m suffix
- Objective-C++, the suffix is .mm

# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## INTERFACE IMPLEMENTATION

### Example of class interface file

```
@interface className : superClassName {  
    // instance variables  
}  
    // class methods  
+ classMethod1;  
+ (return_type)classMethod2;  
+ (return_type)classMethod3:(param1_type)param1_varName;  
  
    // instance methods  
- (return_type)instanceMethod1:(param1_type)param1_varName :(param2_type)param2_varName;  
- (return_type)instanceMethod2WithParameter:(param1_type)param1_varName param2_callName:  
  (param2_type)param2_varName;  
@end
```

# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## INTERFACE IMPLEMENTATION

**Example of class implementation file**

```
@implementation className
+ (return_type)classMethod
{
    // implementation
}
- (return_type)instanceMethod
{
    // implementation
}
@end
```

# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## **OBJECT INSTANTIATION**

- Objective-C objects can be created by allocating an instance and then initializing it
- Both steps are required for the object to be fully functional



# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## **OBJECT INSTANTIATION**

Example of instantiation with the default, no-parameter initializer

```
MyObject *o = [[MyObject alloc] init];
```

# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## **OBJECT INSTANTIATION**

Example of instantiation with a custom initializer

```
MyObject *o = [[MyObject alloc] initWithString:myString];
```

# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## **OBJECT INSTANTIATION**

Example of instantiation with the default, no-parameter initializer (short form)

```
MyObject *o = [MyObject new];
```

# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## OBJECT INSTANTIATION

### Example of default initializer in implementation file

```
- (id)init {
    self = [super init];
    if (self) {
        // perform initialization of object here
    }
    return self;
}
```

### Example of custom initializer in implementation file

```
- (id)initWithString:(NSString *)aString {
    self = [super init];
    if (self) {
        // perform initialization of object here
        self.title = aString;
    }
    return self;
}
```

# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## **PROTOCOL**

- Multiple inheritance of specification
- Very similar to an interface in Java and C#
- Protocols can include both instance/class methods
- Protocols can include properties
- Informal/Formal Protocol

# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## PROTOCOL

### Example of protocol declaration

```
@protocol ABCDataSource <NSObject>
- (NSUInteger)numberOfSegments;
- (NSString *)titleForSegmentAtIndex:(NSUInteger)segmentIndex;
@end
```

### Example of protocol adoption

```
@interface MyClass : NSObject <ABCDataSource>
...
@end
```

```
@interface MyClass : NSObject <ABCDataSource, AnotherProtocol>
...
@end
```

# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## **DYNAMIC TYPING**

- An object can be sent a message that is not specified in its interface
- This flexibility allows an object to capture/forward messages
- This pattern is known as message forwarding or delegation

# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## DYNAMIC TYPING

### Examples of dynamic typing

*Foo may be of any class.*

```
- (void)setMyValue:(id)foo;
```

*Foo may be an instance of any class that conforms to the NSCopying protocol.*

```
- (void)setMyValue:(id<NSCopying>)foo;
```

*Foo must be an instance of the NSNumber class.*

```
- (void)setMyValue:(NSNumber *)foo;
```

*Foo must be an instance of the NSNumber class and must conform to the NSCopying protocol*

```
- (void)setMyValue:(NSNumber<NSCopying> *)foo;
```



# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## DYNAMIC TYPING

```
@interface MyClass : NSObject <SomeProtocol>
...

- (void)setMyValue:(id)foo
{
    if ([foo isKindOfClass:[NSNumber class]]) {
        // handle
    }
    else if ([foo isKindOfClass:[NSString class]]) {
        // handle
    }
}

...

@end
```

# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## **FORWARDING**

- Objective-C permits the sending of any message to an object
- A runtime error *doesNotRecognizeSelector:* will be generated when an object receives an unrecognized message
- Objects may override the default behavior by implementing the *forwardInvocation:* method in NSObject.

# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## FORWARDING

```
@implementation MyClass : NSObject <SomeProtocol>
...
- (void)forwardInvocation:(NSInvocation)invocation
{
    SEL aSelector = [invocation selector]
    if ([otherObject respondsToSelector:aSelector]) {
        [invocation invokeWithTarget:otherObject];
    }
    else {
        [super forwardInvocation:invocation];
    }
}
...
@end
```

# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## **CATEGORIES**

- Objective-C was designed with the ability to maintain large code base
- Categories allow large code base to be broken into smaller pieces, known as Categories
- The methods within a category are added to a class at run-time

# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## **CATEGORIES**

- Categories permit the programmer to add methods to an existing class
- The added methods are indistinguishable from the existing methods
- The added methods have full access to instance and private variables
- Categories can even override existing methods. (Bug fixes)

# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## CATEGORIES

### Example of category declaration

...

```
@interface ExistingClass (MyAdditions)
- (NSUInteger)nameOfNewMethodAdded;
@end
```

### Example of category implementation

```
@implementation ExistingClass (MyAdditions)
...
- (NSUInteger)nameOfNewMethodAdded {
    NSUInteger someValue
    ...
    return someValue + existingValue;
}

@end
```

# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## **GARBAGE COLLECTION**

- Garbage Collection was added to Objective-C in Mac OS X 10.5 (Leopard)
- It was deprecated in Mac OS X 10.8 in favor of ARC (Automatic Reference Counting)
- It never existed in iOS, due to the performance

# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## **PROPERTIES**

- Properties are public instance variables
- Properties may be defined with storage modifiers
- In non-ARC environment, modifiers (assign, copy or retain)
- In ARC environment, modifiers (weak or strong) instead of retain



# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## **PROPERTIES**

- Additionally, properties may declare “readonly”
- Properties may be declared with “nonatomic”
- Nonatomic removes the wrapping lock used to access the variable value (faster without lock)
- The lock does not guarantee ordering (only fully set or read values)
- Default access is “atomic”

# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## PROPERTIES

```
@interface Person : NSObject {  
  
@public  
    NSString *name;  
@private  
    int age;  
}  
  
@property(copy) NSString *name;  
@property(readonly) int age;  
  
- (id)initWithAge:(int)age;  
  
@end
```

# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## PROPERTIES

```
@implementation Person
@synthesize name=_name;

- (id)initWithAge:(int)initAge {
    self = [super init];
    if (self) {
        age = initAge; // NOTE: direct instance variable assignment, not property setter
    }
    return self;
}

- (int)age {
    return age;
}

@end
```

# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## PROPERTIES AUTOSYNTHESIS

- When using Xcode 4.4 or newer with clang 3.1 (Apple LLVM compiler 4.0)
- Properties are implicitly synthesized unless explicitly declared

```
...  
@property(copy) NSString *name;  
...  
  
@implementation Person  
@synthesize name=_name; // This line is no longer necessary  
...  
  
@end
```

# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## PROPERTIES AUTOSYNTHESIS

- Auto synthesis is not performed for properties defined in a protocol

```
...  
@protocol someProtocol <NSObject>  
@property (nonatomic, strong) NSString *name;  
@end  
...
```

# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## **PROPERTIES**

- The `@dynamic` keyword may be used to delay the addition of the setter/getter or autosynthesis
- Backing instance variables are created by the property variables without ever being declared in the class interface
- Very useful from private properties

# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## **FAST ENUMERATION**

- Instead of using the `NSEnumeration` class or indexes use fast enumeration
- Fast enumeration provides better performance
- It does pointer arithmetic to traverse a collection

# OBJECTIVE-C PRIMER

## FAST ENUMERATION

```
...

// Using NSEnumerator
NSEnumerator *enumerator = [thePeople objectEnumerator];
Person *p;

while ((p = [enumerator nextObject]) != nil) {
    NSLog(@"%@ is %i years old.", [p name], [p age]);
}

// Using indexes
for (int i = 0; i < [thePeople count]; i++) {
    Person *p = [thePeople objectAtIndex:i];
    NSLog(@"%@ is %i years old.", [p name], [p age]);
}

// Using fast enumeration
for (Person *p in thePeople) {
    NSLog(@"%@ is %i years old.", [p name], [p age]);
}

...
```



# LATEST OBJECTIVE-C FEATURES

## **FEATURES**

- ARC - Automatic Reference Counting
- Literal Object Creation
- Subscripting Collections

# LATEST OBJECTIVE-C FEATURES

## **ARC - AUTOMATIC REFERENCE COUNTING**

- Code to maintain reference counts are inserted in the appropriate places during compilation time
- More efficient than garbage collection since a separate thread is not required to manage the retain counts.

# LATEST OBJECTIVE-C FEATURES

## LITERAL OBJECT CREATION

- Previously, only string objects could be created literally
- `NSString *aString = @"This is a new string";`
- Now, arrays, dictionaries and numbers can be created
- `NSArray *anArray = @[anObject];`
- `NSDictionary *aDictionary = @{@"key": anObject};`
- `NSNumber *aNumber = @(anInt);`

# LATEST OBJECTIVE-C FEATURES

## SUBSCRIPTING COLLECTIONS

```
...  
  
// Example without subscripting:  
  
id object1 = [someArray objectAtIndex:0];  
id object2 = [someDictionary objectForKey:@"key"];  
[someMutableArray replaceObjectAtIndex:0 withObject:object3];  
[someMutableDictionary setObject:object4 forKey:@"key"];  
  
// Example with subscripting:  
  
id object1 = someArray[0];  
id object2 = someDictionary[@"key"];  
someMutableArray[0] = object3;  
someMutableDictionary[@"key"] = object4;  
  
...
```

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## **GOALS**

- NOT to present an ideal style representation
- A style that will make it easy to refactor
- Other members are able to modify each others code
- Make it easy for team members to code review others code
- Team members should agree and compromise on styles
- A plan and document should be made going forward

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## **SKEPTICAL**

- Most programmers respond very negatively to this idea
- They believe this is a complete waste of time
- They are too busy
- Besides, who will pay for the additional cost?
- Code already exist, and it is not broken, why should I rework?

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## **WHY**

- In a large organization where multiple developer may modify the same source file to code different fixes, style is very important
- Existing sources files should be lazily updated
- That is, source should only be brought to standard if modified during code fix
- If some sort of code merging(manual or auto) procedure is used, it will be simpler if the style was standardized
- In the long run, this will save cost with cleaner code

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## SPACING

- When a keyword is preceded by an opening parenthesis, there should be a space between the keyword and parenthesis.
- When a non-keyword is preceded by an opening parenthesis, there should NOT be a space between the keyword and parenthesis.

Recommended	Not Recommended
<code>if (YES)</code>	<code>if(YES)</code>
<code>myFunc (</code>	<code>myFunc (</code>



# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## **SPACING**

- Use 2 newlines between major definitions (i.e. classes, protocols).
- Use a newline between code paragraphs (i.e. methods).
- Use 4 spaces instead of tabs for indentation.
- No whitespace after colons and before expressions for method parameters.
- Place a single space after `//` for comments (Not required for commenting out code).

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## SPACING

- No space before comma, however, leave one space after a comma.
- For pointer types, always put a space between the type and the asterisk.
- When type casting, put a space after the closing parenthesis.

```
NSString *foo = @"Hello";  
NSString *abc = (NSString *) [obj func];}
```

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## CURLY BRACES

- Opening curly braces should always be presented on the same line as the construct to which they belong -- NOT wrapped underneath.

Recommended	Not Recommended
<pre>if (YES) {     [obj func]; }</pre>	<pre>if (YES) {     [obj func]; }</pre>

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## IF/ELSE BLOCKS

- If statements should always use curly braces to enclose their contents, even when there is only a single statement.
- If statements should always be written using multiple lines, even when there is only a single enclosed statement.
- Similar rules applies for while, do..while and for loops.

Recommended	Not Recommended
<pre>if (YES) {     [obj func]; }</pre>	<pre>if (YES)     [obj func];</pre>
	<pre>if (YES) [obj func];</pre>

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## IF/ELSE BLOCKS

- A single space should always be placed between the “if” keyword and the opening parenthesis.
- A single space should always be placed between the closing parenthesis and the opening curly brace.

Recommended

```
if (YES) {  
    [obj func];  
}
```

Not Recommended

```
if (YES){  
    [obj func];  
}
```

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## IF/ELSE BLOCKS

- No space between the opening/closing parentheses and the conditional expression.

Recommended

```
if (YES) {  
    [obj func];  
}
```

Not Recommended

```
if ( YES ) {  
    [obj func];  
}
```

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## IF/ELSE BLOCKS

- More complex if..else block should be formatted as follows.

Recommended	Not Recommended
<pre>if ([obj isThisTrue:1]) {     [obj func1]; } else if ([obj isThisTrue:2]) {     [obj func2]; } else {     [obj func3]; }</pre>	<pre>if ([obj isThisTrue:1]) {     [obj func1]; } else if ([obj isThisTrue:2]) {     [obj func2]; } else {     [obj func3]; }</pre>

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## **IF/ELSE BLOCKS COMMENTS**

- Comments for an if-statement as a whole should be placed directly above the if part.
- Comments for each condition should be placed at the top of the respective code blocks.
- Include a blank line if the comment does not apply exclusively to the first code paragraph within the block.



# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## **IF/ELSE BLOCKS COMMENTS**

- Comments for an if-statement as a whole should be placed directly above the if part.
- Comments for each condition should be placed at the top of the respective code blocks.
- Include a blank line if the comment does not apply exclusively to the first code paragraph within the block.

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## IF/ELSE BLOCKS COMMENTS

```
...  
  
// Routing to the correct handler.  
if (input == kKeyboard) {  
    // If the input is the keyboard, do something.  
  
    [obj func1];  
}  
else if (input == kMouse) {  
    // If the input is the mouse, do something else.  
  
    [obj func2];  
}  
else {  
    // If the input is something else, log error.  
  
    NSLog(@"Error!");  
}  
  
...
```

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## **WRAPPING LONG LINES**

- Line lengths should have a hard limit of 120 characters
- When wrapping, try to keep the most specific things grouped into single lines.
- Nest wrapping sections if necessary.
- If possible, align parameters on colon.
- Otherwise, align on the left edge of the parameters.

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## WRAPPING LONG LINES

- If possible, align parameters on colon.

...

```
[thisIsMyVeryDescriptiveInstanceName thisIsAFunc:@"one"  
                                     two:@"two"  
                                     three:@"three"];
```

...

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## WRAPPING LONG LINES

- Aligning on the left edge of the parameters.

```
...  
  
[shortVar thisIsAFunc:@"one"  
    longerSecondParamThatMakesColonAlignmentImpractical:@"two"  
    three:@"three"];  
  
...
```

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## WRAPPING LONG LINES

- Wrap by indenting 4 spaces because of longer parameter.

```
...  
  
[thisIsMyVeryDescriptiveInstanceName  
  thisIsAFunc:@"one"  
  two:@"two"  
  three:@"this three is a much longer string, wrapped differently"];  
  
...
```

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## WRAPPING LONG LINES

- Aligning on the opening parenthesis

```
...  
  
func(1 + (1.0f / 100.0f),  
     @"hello",  
     [NSString stringWithFormat:@"hello %@! this is a longer string",  
                               @"world"]);  
  
for (int index = [obj getStartingIndexOfSomething];  
     index < numItems;  
     index++) {  
    [obj func];  
}  
  
...
```

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## WRAPPING LONG LINES

- Indent with an extra 4 spaces to avoid visual ambiguity

```
...  
  
if ([obj isThisTrue] ||  
    [obj iDontThinkThisWillReturnTrueButItMight] ||  
    [obj hmmWhatWillThisDo] && [obj something]) {  
    [obj func];  
}  
  
...
```



# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## **METHODS**

- Include space between the method type (+/-) indicator and first character of the method name
- Don't put spaces after the colons for method parameters

```
...
```

```
- (void)funcThatDoesSomething:(int)value1 foo:(NSString *)value2
```

```
...
```

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## **METHODS**

- Keep methods short and specific.
- Break up longer methods or methods with multiple logical concepts.
- In general, avoid multiple return statements.
- Add a comment `// MULTIPLE RETURNS` at the top of method when multiple returns can't avoided.
- A comment is not necessary for if-statement early exit return.

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## METHODS

- if-statement early exit return

```
...  
- (float)funcDoesSomething:(int)x {  
    if (x == 0) {  
        return 0.0f;  
    }  
  
    float val = 5.0f / x;  
    NSLog(@"val: %f", val);  
    return val;  
}  
...
```

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## **CLASSES**

- Don't indent access modifiers (public, protected, private)
- List sections of access modifiers in the following order: public, protected and private.
- Use a newline between sections of different access modifiers
- Pad the properties and prototypes sections, each with a newline

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## **CLASSES**

- List properties before prototypes
- Alphabetize each section (per access level, properties and method prototypes).
- If there are other declarations (i.e. extern, static) separate them from the class declaration with 2 lines.

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## CLASSES

```
#import <UIKit/UIKit.h>

extern int zero;
extern int foo;

@interface SomeClass (NSObject) {
@protected
    int one;
    NSString *two;

@private
    int three;
}

@property (nonatomic, assign) int one;

- (void)doSomething;

@end
```

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## **CLASSES**

- Use `#pragma` mark to organize methods into related sections.
- Alphabetize methods within related sections.
- Don't override methods only to provide same code as the default implementation.

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## CLASSES

```
...  
  
// *****  
#pragma mark -  
#pragma mark UIAlertViewDelegate Methods  
  
- (void)alertView:(UIAlertView *)alertView clickedButtonAtIndex:(NSInteger)buttonIndex {  
    ...  
}
```



# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## **VARIABLES**

- Always use good variables, methods and class names.
- Don't use abbreviations or acronyms except where the represented object is very commonly known by its abbreviation (i.e. `ssn`, `fax`, `id`).

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## **TODOS**

- Use 3 levels of todos to help improve development.
- One can't tackle all issues in a large and complicated system, simultaneously.

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## **TODOS**

- Use the following for todo items that should be taken care of in the future, but are relatively low priority.

```
...  
// TODO(username): This is my thing to do.  
...
```

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## **TODOS**

- Use the following for todo items that are very important to get done soon.
- Warning messages will ensure that people are aware of these items.

...

```
#warning TODO(username): This is my very important thing to do.
```

...

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## **TODOS**

- Use the following for todo items to complete before you even build again.
- Useful when refactoring or making changes across a wide span of code.
- The build will fail, so don't checkin into source code.

```
...  
#error Label optional  
...
```

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## DEPRECATION

- Use deprecation to phase out methods you wish to remove in future releases.

```
...  
- (void)funcThatDoesSomething:(int)value1 DEPRECATED_ATTRIBUTE;  
...
```

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## **GENERAL CODING**

- Avoid conditional statement like to `x == YES`, `x == NO`, `x == nil`, etc.
- Use `x` or `!x` instead.
- Be deliberate about adding methods to classes scope.
- If in doubt, add them as `private` to keep scope as tight as possible.

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## GENERAL CODING

- Use **NSAssert** to actively enforce cases that should be programmatically impossible.
- Comment the important stuff in your code.
- **NSAsserts** can be disabled for Release by defining **NS\_BLOCK\_ASSERTIONS=1** in the “Other C Flags” compiler options.

...

```
NSAssert(someValueIsTrue, @"Something is very wrong");
```

...



# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## **SOURCE FILES**

- .h files should only contain information vital to the public interface.
- Refrain from importing a ton of stuff in a .h header file.
- Use forward declarations as necessary (with the exception of major libraries such as UIKit and Foundation).
- An import is needed for inheritance and protocol implementations.

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## SOURCE FILES

```
#import <UIKit/UIKit.h>

#import "SomeProtocolThisClassImplements.h"

@class SomeClassINeedForAFieldDecl;
@protocol SomeProtocolAFieldImplements;

@interface MyClass : NSObject <SomeProtocolThisClassImplements> {
    SomeClassINeedForAFieldDecl *myField;
    id <SomeProtocolAFieldImplements> *anotherField;
}

@end
```

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## SOURCE FILES

- .m files should start with the private interface definition.
- Use className() construct vs className(private).
- ClassName() lets you define private properties.

```
@interface MyClass ()  
  
@property (nonatomic, retain) id myPrivateField;  
  
- (void)somePrivateMethod:(int)param;  
  
@end
```

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## **SOURCE FILES .M**

### ***Sections of .m***

1. File comments (creation date, copyright info)
2. Corresponding header import
3. Other alphabetized header imports
4. Static declarations
5. Private interface declaration
6. Implementation declaration

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## SOURCE FILES .M

```
//  
// This is a file comment with basic copyright info.  
//  
  
#import "MyClass.h"  
  
#import "AnotherClass.h"  
#import "DifferentClass.h"  
#import "YetAnotherClass.h"  
  
  
static const int kConstantDecl = 5;  
  
  
// *****  
#pragma mark -  
#pragma mark Private Declaration  
  
  
@interface MyClass ()  
  
@property (nonatomic, retain) NSString *aPrivateProperty;  
@property (nonatomic, retain) NSString *differentPrivateProperty;  
  
- (void)doesSomething;  
- (void)processesStuff;  
  
@end  
  
...
```

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## SOURCE FILES .M

```
...  
  
// *****  
#pragma mark -  
#pragma mark Implementation  
  
@implementation MyClass  
  
@synthesize aPrivateProperty;  
@synthesize differentPrivateProperty;  
  
...  
  
@end
```

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## **SOURCE FILES .M**

- Delegate and subclass method override sections should be listed under pragma marks
- Listing of pragmas may be alphabetized by the name of the protocol or class being overridden
- Pragma name should include “**Methods**” or “**Overrides**” as a suffix
- Pragma examples “**UIAlertViewDelegate Methods**” or “**UIViewController Overrides**”

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## SOURCE FILES PRAGMA

```
...  
  
// *****  
#pragma mark -  
#pragma mark UIAlertViewDelegate Methods  
  
- (void)alertView:(UIAlertView *)alertView clickedButtonAtIndex:(NSInteger)buttonIndex {  
    ...  
}  
  
// *****  
#pragma mark -  
#pragma mark UIViewController Overrides  
  
- (void)viewWillAppear:(BOOL)animated {  
    ...  
}  
  
- (void)viewWillDisappear:(BOOL)animated {  
    ...  
}  
  
...
```



# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## SOURCE FILES PRAGMA

- In large projects, pragmas allow you to have a bird's eye view of the code.

### Private Declaration

```
C @interface MyClass()  
  P aPrivateProperty  
  P differentPrivateProperty  
  M -doesSomething  
  M -processesStuff
```

### Implementation

```
C @implementation MyClass  
  P aPrivateProperty  
  P differentPrivateProperty  
UIAlertViewDelegate Methods  
  M -alertView:clickedButtonAtIndex:  
UIViewController Overrides  
  M -viewWillAppear:  
  M -viewWillDisappear:
```

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## **XCODE PREFERENCES**

- Under **Text Editing**, enable “Page guide”
- Specify between 100 and 120 as column width
- Under **Indentation**, select “Prefer indent using: Spaces”
- Specify Tab width and Indent width as 4 spaces
- Configure Syntax-aware indenting to your liking

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

## **SUMMARY**

- We've reviewed useful Objective-C features
- We've gone over some best coding practices
- We've discussed Xcode settings to assist with the standard
- We've discussed how the standard is not ideal but a compromise between the parties
- The standard should be maintained in a document

# OBJECTIVE-C STYLING

Questions ?