Great names matter!

"The proper use of comments is to compensate for our failure to express ourself in code"

[„Clean Code: A Handbook of Agile Software Craftsmanship" Robert C. Martin]

Why is naming important?

Names...

- communicate to the reader
- transport concepts
- transport intents
- describe the context
- are first class software documentation

We spend more time reading code than writing it!

Effects of bad naming

Bad names...

- trigger more bad names
- cause misinformation
- cause bad software design
- slow down development process
- cause frustration
- are a significant source of bugs

Bad names are a code smell in their own right!

A word of caution: names are individual and to a certain extent a matter of personal preferences

Who said my code stinks?!?

So tread carefully when refactoring and be empathetic!

["Asterix und der Avernerschild", Albert Uderzo/René Goscinny , Stuttgart 1972]

Best practices

Do...

- use the language conventions
- stick to consistent notation
- always let names reveal a concept/intention
- use names of the domain
- use one name per concept
- give meaningful names according to the context
- ...

Don'ts

Do not...

- abbreviate
- use meaningless names
- use eccessively long names
- use redundant information
- use similar names for different things
- try to be funny, poetic or otherwise creative
- ...

Conclusion

Naming…

- is very important
- is a process
- is an integral part of refactoring
- is NOT a piece of cake

Thank you for your attention!

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