

Coding Checklist

Before You Begin

- CDG-1 Do you understand the design you are about to construct?
- CDG-2 Does the design provide an appropriate level of detail for coding to begin?
- CDG-3 Is the design to be implemented straightforward and feasible, or should it be revisited before attempting to construct it?
- CDG-4 Do you understand the language and technology well enough to implement the design?

General

- CDG-5 Is the code written in terms of the problem domain as much as possible rather than in terms of computer-science or programming-language structures?
- CDG-6 Is the code traceable to upstream design and requirements artifacts?
- CDG-7 Does the code have documented test cases and/or unit tests as defined by the project?
- CDG-8 Does the code adhere to CxStand_Code or other designated coding standard?
- CDG-9 Does the code adhere to designated coding styles and / or templates?
- CDG-10 Does the code compile with no warnings from the compiler?

Understandability

- CDG-11 Does the code read from top to bottom?
- CDG-12 Are implementation details hidden as much as possible?
- CDG-13 Is the code straightforward and does it avoid “cleverness”?
- CDG-14 Has tricky code been rewritten rather than commented?
- CDG-15 Do you thoroughly understand your code?
- CDG-16 Is it easy to understand?

Performance

- CDG-17 Are the affects of resource constraints on the technology and operational environment understood and within the bounds of the performance requirements?
- CDG-18 Are the affects of system load on the technology and operational environment understood and within the bounds of the performance requirements?
- CDG-19 Is the expected priority of efficient or highly optimized code clear for various areas of the system?
- CDG-20 Has profiling support been planned for areas of the code at risk for performance issues?

Assertions and Tracing

- CDG-21 Are assertions used to document assumptions?
- CDG-22 Are assertions used to aid debugging?
- CDG-23 Are tracing statements used to document events and aid debugging?
- CDG-24 Assertions are not being used to handle errors that should be handled in the code?

Error Handling

- CDG-25 Is it easy to differentiate between nominal path processing and error processing?
- CDG-26 Are error conditions handled appropriately as per the requirements and design? (i.e., the level of robustness in detecting and responding to errors matches the needs of the system: not too little and not too much).
- CDG-27 When attempting recovery from error conditions, are assumptions reasonable?

Code Changes

- CDG-28 Is the change part of a systematic change strategy?
- CDG-29 Has the change been reviewed as thoroughly as initial development would be?
- CDG-30 Does the change enhance the program's internal quality rather than degrading it?
- CDG-31 Have you improved the system's modularity by breaking routines into smaller routines, when possible?
- CDG-32 Have you improved the programming style--variable names, routine names, formatting, comments, and so on?
- CDG-33 If changes cause you to look for ways to share code, have you considered putting the shared code at a higher level as well as considered putting it at a lower level?
- CDG-34 Does this change make the next change easier?

Layout

- CDG-35 Does the program's layout show its logical structure?
- CDG-36 Is formatting done primarily to illuminate the logical structure of the code?
- CDG-37 Is the formatting scheme used consistently?
- CDG-38 Are related statements grouped together?
- CDG-39 Are blank lines used to separate code elements including functions, control sequences, related blocks of code, etc?
- CDG-40 Does the formatting scheme result in code that's easy to maintain?
- CDG-41 Does the formatting scheme improve code readability?
- CDG-42 Have relatively independent groups of statements been moved into their own routines?
- CDG-43 Are references to variables as close together as possible, both in total live time and from each reference to a variable to the next?

Individual Statements

- CDG-44 Are continuation lines indented sensibly?
- CDG-45 Are groups of related statements aligned?
- CDG-46 Are groups of unrelated statements unaligned?
- CDG-47 Does each line contain one statement?
- CDG-48 Is each statement written without side effects?
- CDG-49 Are data declarations aligned?
- CDG-50 Is there one data declaration per line?

Self-Documenting Code

Routines

- CDG-51 Does each routine's name describe exactly what it does?
- CDG-52 Does each routine perform one well-defined task?
- CDG-53 Is each routine's interface obvious and clear?

Data Names

- CDG-54 Are names of data types descriptive enough to help document data declarations?
Are they used specifically for that purpose?
- CDG-55 Are variables named well?
- CDG-56 Are variables used only for the purpose for which they're named?
- CDG-57 Are well-named enumerated types used instead of makeshift flags or boolean variables?
- CDG-58 Are named constants used instead of magic numbers or magic strings?

Data Organization

- CDG-59 Are extra variables used for clarity when needed?
- CDG-60 Are references to variables close together?
- CDG-61 Are data structures simple so that they minimize complexity?
- CDG-62 Is complicated data accessed through abstract access routines (abstract data types)?

Control

- CDG-63 Are related statements grouped together?
- CDG-64 Have relatively independent groups of statements been packaged into their own routines?
- CDG-65 Does the normal case follow the if rather than the else?
- CDG-66 Are control structures simple so that they minimize complexity?
- CDG-67 Does each loop perform one and only one function, like a well-defined routine?
- CDG-68 Is nesting minimized?
- CDG-69 Have boolean expressions been simplified by using additional boolean variables, boolean functions, and decision tables?

Dependencies

- CDG-70 Does the code make dependencies among statements obvious?
- CDG-71 Do the name and parameters of routines make dependencies obvious?
- CDG-72 Do comments describe any dependencies that would otherwise be unclear?

Good Commenting Technique

- CDG-73 Are comments up to date, clear, and correct?
- CDG-74 Can someone pick up the code and immediately start understanding it?
- CDG-75 Does the source listing contain enough information to understand the program?
- CDG-76 Do comments explain the code's intent or summarize it, rather than just repeating it? (i.e., the why rather than the how)
- CDG-77 Is the PDL-to-code process used?
- CDG-78 Is the distinction between major and minor comments clear?
- CDG-79 Are the comments indented the same as the code?
- CDG-80 Is the commenting style easy to maintain and allow for easy modification of comments?
- CDG-81 Does the code avoid endline comments?
- CDG-82 Do comments prepare the reader's mind for what is to follow?
- CDG-83 Does every comment count? (i.e., have redundant, extraneous, or self-indulgent comments been removed or improved?)
- CDG-84 Is code that works around an error or uses an undocumented feature commented?
- CDG-85 Is each control statement commented?
- CDG-86 Are the ends of long or complex control structures commented?

Data Declarations

- CDG-87 Are units on data declarations commented?
- CDG-88 Is the range of values on numeric data commented?
- CDG-89 Are coded meanings commented?
- CDG-90 Are limitations on input data commented?
- CDG-91 Are flags documented to the bit level?
- CDG-92 Has each global variable been commented where it is declared and where it is used?