

docoll Ruby coding standards

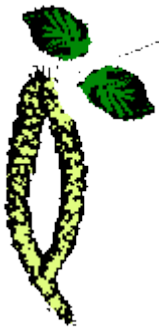


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1 Introduction

This document defines the coding and file name standards used in the Ruby scripts in the docoll system.

1.1 Related documentation

- "docoll collating and indexing scripts developer's guide"

2 Coding style and standards

Largely inspired by: <http://www.pathf.com/blogs/ruby-and-rails-style-guide/>

2.1 Order of sections

1. shebang line
2. header block with author's name, Perforce Id tag and a brief description of what the program or library is for.
3. require statements
4. include statements
5. class and module definitions
6. main program section
7. testing code

2.1.1 Shebang line

Don't use `env` (found was unable to use `-w` with it and it makes the version of ruby dependent on the value of the `PATH` environment variable).

Do use `-wEUTF-8:UTF-8`

2.1.2 require statements

require English (to ensure greater readability)

2.2 Blank lines

Two blank lines between each class and module definition. A single blank line between each method definition

2.3 Block style

do-end preferred over `{ }` except for single line blocks.

2.4 Conditionals

Use "if" rather than the ternary operator.

"if": omit "then" except for one-liners.

Don't use "if as modifier"s.

Don't use "unless".

In case statements, use one-liner "when"s when following code is short.

2.5 Continuation lines

Use \ at end of line even when it is not required (for clarity)

2.6 Exceptions

Consider subclassing one of the base exception classes.

Use "ensure".

2.7 External commands

Use Ruby libraries instead, whenever practicable.

2.8 Indentation

Multiples of two, no tabs.

case-when-else-end: whens and else indented, intermediate lines indented further.

begin-rescue-end and def-rescue-end: same indentation for each, intermediate lines indented further.

private and protected: no extra indentation for following lines.

2.9 Initialisation statements

One per line (that is not like "I = j = 0").

Do not use { ... } for initialising hashes' use Hash.new and then array-like assignment.

2.10 Line length

80 columns maximum.

2.11 Method parameter lists

Do not omit parentheses.

2.12 Method protection

Use private or protected, as appropriate

2.13 Names

Class names: CamelCase (same as module names); nouns

Constant names: upper-case characters and underscores; nouns.

Method names: lower-case characters and underscores; verbs.

Module names: CamelCase (same as class names).

Variable names:

- Local: begin with [a-z_]. All lower case, words separated by _. Single character for counters and iterators.
- Global: begin with \$ (language feature).
- Class: begin with @ (language feature).

2.14 Operators

Use && instead of "and", || instead of "or" and ! instead of "not" because the lower precedence of "and", "or" and "not" can result in subtle bugs.

2.15 Whitespace

Token(s)	Whitespace
=	space both sides except when assigning default values in method argument lists.
(and)	space both sides except when "(" encloses a method's argument list in which case no space before
,	no space before, one space after

3 Files

File names: Class definition file names in CamelCase, others all lower case, with words separated by _. Both ending with .rb

Permissions: minimum required, that is read and execute for files that are executed directly and read only for those that are accessed via Ruby include statements.

4 Appendix – GNU Free Documentation License

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