

About.com Delphi Programming

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Delphi Identifier Naming Conventions

How to name all those variables and components you use in your daily Delphi programming.

The name of an identifier (variable, component, ...) plays a fundamental role in (Delphi) programming.

The Hungarian naming convention is quite useful — it's one technique among many that helps programmers produce better code faster. Since most of the API headers and documentation Microsoft has published over the last years have used Hungarian notation names for identifiers, many programmers have adopted one variation or another of this scheme for naming their identifiers.

In Delphi, using Hungarian notation, variable names begin with one or more lowercase letters that denote the variable type, thus providing an inherent identification. For example, the prefix `h` is used to identify a handle, as in `hWnd` or `hDlg`, referring to window and dialog box handles, respectively.

All components should be given descriptive names. No components should be left with their default names assigned by Delphi (Class name without the `T` letter plus a number). Components are to have a lowercase prefix to designate their type.

The following table defines some of suggested Delphi object name prefixes:

Category: in Types and classes

Object	Prefix	Example
Exception	E	EMyError = Class(Exception)
Classes and Types	T	TMyClass = Class(TObject)
Fields in classes	f	fVisible
Events	On	OnMouseDown

Category: Variables

Type	Prefix	Example
string	s	sSurName
Boolean	b	bIsThisOK
Integer	i	iBirthYear
Pointer	p	pMePointer
DateTime	dt	dtBirthday
Currency	cur	curSalary

Category: Components

Type	Prefix	Example
Form	frm	frmMain
Button	btn	btnOK

Label	lbl	lblName
Edit	ed	edPassword
ComboBox	cbo	cboFont
ListBox	lb	lbFiles
Table	tbl	tblMaster
Query	qry	qrySumChild
DataBase	db	dbDataBase
PaintBox	pb	pbMyPicture
MediaPlayer	mp	mpMP3Player
OpenDialog	OpenDialog	OpenDialog

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