

# Coding Conventions

Due to this being a collaborative software project among new developers, it's important to make sure that the code you write is clean and usable by others. We predominantly use two languages in this project, C++ and Python. Below are a list of coding conventions for each respective language in the project. There may be exceptions to these rules, but otherwise they should be followed. A code linter will be created to ensure that code conforms to these standards.

## All Languages

### Indentation

Spaces shall be used for indentation, no tabs.

**Rational:** mixing tabs and spaces can cause major bugs in Python, and can create ugly formatted code in all other languages, so consistency is important. Although I prefer all tabs in Python, spaces makes more sense for other languages.

### Line Length

The maximum length of a line shall be 80 characters

**Rational:** this results in code that is readable on most screens without wrapping lines

### Trailing Spaces

Trailing whitespace at the end of a line is not allowed. **Rational:** most text editors will actually automatically chop the trailing whitespace when you open a file. If people aren't paying attention, this can result in them committing a file where they made no functional changes other than to cut the whitespace, resulting in a confusing source control history. In addition, it's just a cleanliness thing.

## C++

running

```
astyle -A1 -N -n <file name>
```

on your C++ files should clean them up nicely.

## Python

From:

<http://robosub-old.eecs.wsu.edu/wiki/> - **Palouse RoboSub Technical Documentation**

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