

Towards an Operational Code Aesthetics

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Stephan Bergmann

Red Hat, Inc.

Code

- is created
- is modified
- must be understandable
- must be correct

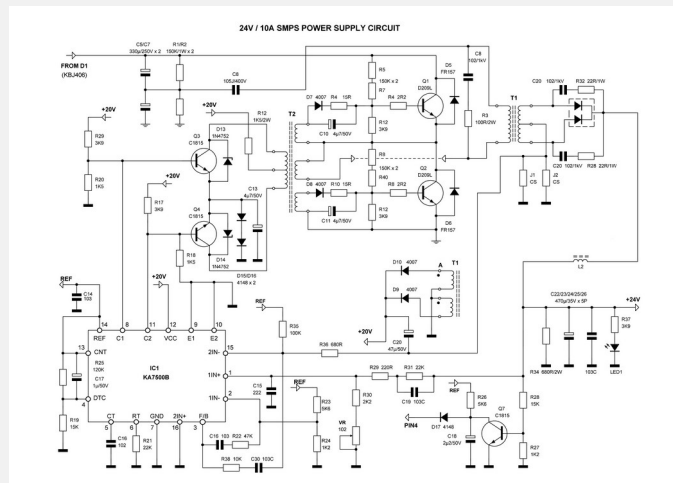
Code

- must be aesthetically pleasing

A foolish consistency is the
hobgoblin of little minds

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Aesthetics



Aesthetics, too



The Beauty of Code

- is more about how it solves a problem

```
qsort [] = []
qsort (x:xs) = qsort lt ++ [ x ] ++ qsort gt
where lt = filter ( < x ) xs
      gt = filter ( >= x ) xs
```

- is less about how it is formatted

```
qsort []      = []
qsort (x:xs) = qsort lt ++ [x] ++ qsort gt
where lt      = filter (<  x) xs
      gt      = filter (>= x) xs
```

The Beauty of Modification

- is more about how it solves a problem

```
...  
if( pred1 ) ...  
...  
if( pred1 ) ...  
+if( pred1 && pred2 ) ...  
...
```

- is less about how the code is formatted

```
...  
if( pred1 ) ...  
+if (pred1) ...  
...  
if( pred1 ) ...  
+if (pred1 && pred2) ...  
...
```


Minimal Changes

- Strive for changes that are minimal
 - The change itself will be pleasing
 - The overall code will be ugly anyway, before and after
- Smaller changes are easier to review
- We picked poor clang-format settings, though

Hell is other people

Jean-Paul Sarte

Who messed with *my* code?!?

- Take pride in the code you write
- Be prepared that others will modify it
 - to their taste, even
- You still are the domain expert, though

Your Code is Grazing on the Commons Now

- You offer code for the common good
 - In return, others will shepherd it
 - Be thankful
-
- No code was harmed in the making of this talk