

Clean Code

Chpt 4 – Comments

CS342 – Fall 2017

Comments

- “Don’t Comment Bad Code – Rewrite It”
 - Brian W. Kernigham and P.J. Plaugher, 1978
- Comments are, at best, a necessary evil.
- Comments compensate for failure to express in code

Comment Design Principles

- Legit comments:
 - legal: //copyright and authorship
 - informative: //returns...
 - explanation of intent: //we rank these higher because...
 - clarification
 - consequence warning
 - TODOs

Comment Design Principles

- Bad comments:
 - Mumbling
 - Redundant comments
 - Misleading comments
 - Mandated comments
 - Journal Comments (History of Changes)
 - Noise Comments
 - Position Markers & Closing Brace Comments
 - Commented Out Code