Comments

• “Don’t Comment Bad Code – Rewrite It”
  • Brian W. Kernigham and P.J. Plaughter, 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