

Re: need help..

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Source: http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/C_CPP/comp.lang.c/2005-04/msg00135.html

- *From:* CBFalconer <cbfalconer@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 31 Mar 2005 23:43:41 GMT
-

Nils Weller wrote:

> CBFalconer wrote:

>

.... snip ...

>>

>> Which you can easily avoid at all times by simply cultivating the

>> habit of writing:

>>

>> if (2 == line) ...

>>

>> i.e. put the constant first.

>

> I don't like this habit for various reasons:

>

> 1) Though the reversed version is semantically equivalent, it is harder

> to read unless you are already quite used to reversing the test. The

> vast majority of programmers always puts the variable they want to test

> first, i.e. they write

>

> if (foo == 0) {

>

> The few who write

>

> if (0 == foo) {

>

.... snip ...

>

> 3) Quality compilers warn about the ``if (foo = 0)" construct. I know

> for a fact only that gcc and HP's compilers do this (and not because the

> bug ever occurred to me, but because I explicitly tested these compilers),

> but it is very likely that the offerings of vendors such as Comeau,

> Compaq, Intel, SGI, IBM, Sun and a host of others are also capable of

> doing this (I don't have these compilers handy right now and will let

> others fill in the blanks.)

And I dislike that warning. I often want to write something like:

```
if (!(p = malloc(sizeof *p))) getouthere("no memory");
else if (!(p->ptr = malloc(sizeof *p->ptr))) {
```

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```
free(p); getouthere("no memory");
}
else {
/* all seems well, go for it */
}
/* Unless getouthere does something, we always get here */
```

and similar things to do with opening files, getting parameters,
etc.

"If you want to post a followup via groups.google.com, don't use
the broken "Reply" link at the bottom of the article. Click on
"show options" at the top of the article, then click on the
"Reply" at the bottom of the article headers." – Keith Thompson

• *Follow-Ups:*

- ◆ [**Re: need help..**](#)
◇ *From:* Chris Croughton

• *References:*

- ◆ [**need help..**](#)
◇ *From:* slickn_sly
- ◆ [**Re: need help..**](#)
◇ *From:* Martin Ambuhl
- ◆ [**Re: need help..**](#)
◇ *From:* CBFalconer
- ◆ [**Re: need help..**](#)
◇ *From:* Nils Weller

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