

This file is: <ftp://ftp.cs.orst.edu/software/NeXT/documents/IDR.rtf>
This version published on: 1995-11-04
Current administrator: Raf_Schietekat (aliases explained below)

Identifier Domains Registry (aka. IDR)

Problem

Imagine: You have created an object or a set of objects (a kit^{1/4}), and when you or somebody else deploys it/them, a conflict arises. Somebody else has used the same name for a class, and the project won't link, or give errors when some code in a bundle is loaded. Someone has to give in, but who? And even so, there is bound to be some sorrow for some developer(s) and/or user(s). Maybe some code that is already in established use has to be adapted as a result. Suppose you're called Ervin Oldfield, so you're using the prefix EO, and suddenly some software company comes trampling all over you...

``Solution"

We're in the objects business, folks! Here is where you should turn to to make sure such a conflict will never happen to your code ("I want to use such-and-such a prefix, is it still free, and if so, would you register it for my exclusive use?"), or at least it will then be less likely, if everyone participates. I volunteer to maintain this at least for a while.

This is not a real solution to this problem, of course, just a workaround, painting over the rust. But it should make a difference. (A real solution would be an entirely different programming environment, I suppose.)

Warning: This is just a means to coordinate efforts, without authority, and it relies on the cooperation of the participants. If a conflict arises about established code, please try to resolve it amongst yourselves.

Guidelines

- **Important:** Don't use a digit as the first character after the prefix, because this is an escape mechanism whenever conflicts arise.
- It is assumed that if you have registered a prefix, then you may also use it with any number of underscores in front of it. Right?

Good style

- Occupy as few slots as is feasible (which should really be only one); use additional prefixes after the initial prefix to create subdomains (e.g., NeXT should have used NXDB, NXIB, NXIX, NXWM, NX3D, ...).
- Individuals and small companies should use at least 3 letters, larger companies may use 2 (or more); conflicts will be resolved by appending digits to the desired prefix.
- Your prefix does not need to be all capitals, it's perfectly OK to use something more descriptive.
- If you've been using a prefix that doesn't follow these good-style guidelines, and it is not feasible to adapt things, then maybe that can't be helped. But do explain carefully why your claim should be accepted anyway.

How to register

- Send your requests to Raf_Schietekat (aliases explained below). Please use the subject ``Identifier Domains Registry".
- Motivate the requested prefix (e.g., by stating your full name with any middle initial).
- This is also for established code that you know of, NEXTSTEP related or not.

prefix	owner/description
//_/etc.	Only authorised personnel allowed!
bootstrap	Mach/NeXT? (todo check)
class	Objective-C runtime
condition	Mach
cthread	Mach
DB	NeXT Database Kit
DPS	PostScript
EO	NeXT Enterprise Objects Framework Architecture
exc	Mach
(F)FREE	FREE.h (Raf_Schietekat, MiscKit)
host	Mach
IB	NeXT Interface Builder
IK	Icon Kit (Scott_Roy, registered 1995-02-19)
IO	NeXT Driver Kit
IX	NeXT Indexing Kit
kern_loader	Mach/NeXT? (todo check) kern loader functions

kpathsea, kpse	Kpathsearch library (Karl_Berry)
mach	Mach
method	Objective-C runtime
MIDI	NeXT MIDI
Misc	MiscKit
msg	Mach
mutex	Mach
N3D	NeXT 3-D Kit
netname	Mach
ni, NI	NeXT NetInfo functions/objects
NS	NeXT OpenStep
NX	NeXT (most of NEXTSTEP)
objc	Objective-C runtime
object	Objective-C runtime
port	Mach
processor	Mach
PS	PostScript
RJS	Raf_Schietekat (registered 1995-02-18)
sel	Objective-C runtime
SND, snddriver	NeXT Sound (Driver) functions
task	Mach
thread	Mach
TS	Trego Systems (Art_Isbell, registered 1995-02-19)
vm	Mach
WM	NeXT Workspace Manager
WW	WavesWorld (Michael_Johnson, registered 1995-02-23)
yy, YY	Unix yacc, FSF/GNU bison, Unix lex, FSF/GNU flex

(m/N is m for ordinary mail, N for NeXTmail)

alias	m/N	e-mail	last contact at this address
Karl_Berry	m	karl@cs.umb.edu	1994-12-28
Art_Isbell	N	art@cubicsol.com	1995-02-19
Michael_Johnson	m	wave@media.mit.edu	1995-02-23
Scott_Roy	m	hsr@CS.Stanford.EDU	1995-02-19

Raf_Schietekat N RfSchtkt@maze.ruca.ua.ac.be 1995-11-01