Naming Conventions For FileMaker Pro

CLICKWORKS

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Version History

Version 7.3, July 2022: Simplifications, dropping a few conventions we don't use anymore.
Version 7.2, December 2020: updated the logo.
Version 7.1, November 2017: three char code prefixes in table names
Version 7.0, November 2013: split checklist and guidelines, major review of script naming
Version 6.1, February 2013: added value lists topic.
Version 6.0, August 2012: guidelines Filemaker GO, indexing: define indexing for each field
Version 5.5, May 2012: script comment line for context.
Version 5.4, February 2012: custom functions for global constants + GEN, UTI, GLO, … explained
Version 5.3, September 2011: Layouts: always add developer layout
Version 5.2, May 2011: altered TO color coding advice, minor changes in naming conventions.
Version 5.1, June 2010: no more HUB table, minor changes in naming conventions.
Version 5.0, March 2010:altered naming conventions, added FM11 features. Altered "Error Capture" advice.
Version 4.0, September 2009: altered naming conventions, added FM10 features
Version 3.0, September 2007: simplified naming conventions, added FM9 features
Version 2.5, March 2007
Version 2.0, October 2006
Version 1.0, May 2004

Index

Naming Conventions v7.3 July 2022

General

Legacy projects		Stick with the existing naming convention. Don't start your own.
No spaces, use upper/lowercase		*_CMPid, isActive, nameFirst*
No special characters		*Only save chars are tilde and underscore. Avoid dots in field and table names.*
~~Short names~~		~~*CustPhone, SupZip*~~
Mark hard coded object names	~~name + **_dnr** (do not rename)~~	*Use field comments to document external use of field.*
Mark items that are potentially obsolete	name + **_OBSOLETE**	

Custom Functions

~~Regular functions~~	~~**cf_** + name~~	~~*cf_DateToYYYMMDD*~~
Group by type	**Type.name**	*Date.YYYYMMDD*
App constants	**ZK.** + name (uppercase)	*ZK.RESULT.OK*

TO names

Regular tables:	3 or 4 char code (uppercase)	*CMP, CON, PRO*
~~Application tables~~	~~**_** + name~~	~~*_dummy*~~
Globals table	**GLO**	
~~Virtual List table~~	~~**VIR**~~	
~~Application Library~~	~~**LIB**~~	

Table names

Regular tables:	3 or 4 char code (uppercase) + full name	*CMP_Company*
Avoid special cha		

Relationship Graph

Anchor Buoy in Squid formation		
Comment block as separator		
Underscore separates levels		*CMP_CON*
Sorting	**@** + {**asc**|**desc**} + fieldName	*CMP_CON@descNameLast*
Special attributes	**~** (tilde)	*CMP_CON~manager*
External Data Source/ESS	code+suffix	*Examples : CMPe (external) or CMPws (webshop) or CMPs(SQL)*
Delete related records	Red color	
Allow creation…	Green color	
Creation + Delete	Orange color	

Fields

Primary key	**__id**	
Foreign key	**_** + TO code + **id**	*_CMPid*
Multikey	Name + **s**	*_CMPids*
Utility fields	**zzz** + name	*zzzModTS*
Calculated field	Name + cu or cs	*Age_cu (unstored), LastFirst_cs*
Summary field	**zzs** + name or name_st or sc	*zzsSales (if not part of business logic) or Sales_st (total), CountOf_sc (count)*
Constant	**zzk** + name	*zzk1*
Boolean field	**b** + name	*bIsActive, bHasParent, bAllowUpdate*

Naming Conventions v7.3 July 2022

Layout folders

Empty layouts for use in scripts	**developer**	
UI layouts under costruction	**under construction**	
Layouts to check for removal	**cleanup**	

Layout names

UI layouts	no convention	
developer layouts	TO code	*CMP, CON, PRO, …*

Script names

General convention	entity.scriptName**(**paramList**)=**resultlist	*CIT.picker(Country)=zipCode*
Regular module	use TO name	*CMP.new*
Generic, cross-app	**GEN.** + name	*GEN.tryToCommit*
Global, app-wide	**GLO.** + name	*GLO.viewAs(type)*
Startup, shutdown	**INI.** + name	*INI.startup, INI.shutdown*
Utiity, cross-app	**UTI.** + name	*UTI.unlockStatusArea*
Security : account creation/delete	**SEC.** + name	*SEC.createResetAccount(name, pwd, privSet)*
Navigation	**NAV.** + name	*NAV.buildTabsThisLayout*
Scheduled Scripts on Server	**SRV.name or dnr suffix**	*SRV.RunNightly, SendMailsDNR*

Script parameters/results

separator	**;** (semicolon)	*GEN.mailTo(Address ;body ;msg)*
optional	**[**name**]** (square brackets)	*INI.startup([bNoSplash])*
optional + 2nd optional depending on first	**[**option1**[** ;option2**]]**	*INV.createEdit([INVid[;INLid]])*
predefined set of values	**{**value1**|**value2**}**	*INV.print(set={one|found})*
optional + predefined with default	**[{**value1**|**value2**}=**default**]**	*INV.print([set={one|found}])*
predefined result example		*SEC.deleteAccount(name)={true|false}*

Valuelists

Generic hard-coded lists	**GEN.** + name	*GEN.1, GEN.OK, GEN.oneTwo*
Table-specific hard coded	TO name + **.** + name	*CMP.Status*
Field values	TO name + **::** + FieldName	*CON ::LastName*
Related field values	TO chain + :: + FieldName	*CMP_CON ::LastName, ORD_CON~supplier ::LastName*
Multiple Fields	field1 + _ + field2	*CON ::id_LastName*