

Eclipse CAN Print Pretty

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(A long explanation that comes before the solution here -- but otherwise this might sound completely irrelevant. However, I think it should be helpful to a lot of us.)

I don't know about the rest of you, but I have been baffled and frustrated by how Eclipse formats our code for the printer. Note: Eclipse does seem to do a fine job of placing line breaks, inserting the correct number of tabs, adding missing {} braces, etc.

But when it comes to pushing our work out to the printer, I have found Eclipse's carefully-chosen line breaks (wrapping a single long line of code or comment into two, shorter lines) to be just an inch or two late: that is, when I print out a hard copy of my program, it looks like this:

```
/* Here are some nice lines of code that  
Eclipse  
* formatted for me. But on the printer,  
look  
* at all these lines ("Eclipse," "look")  
that  
* have been added?
```

What's happening is that Eclipse has multiple faces. When you're editing your document and go to Source > Format, Eclipse's first face formats your code beautifully. But when you go to print, Eclipse's second face takes the code you have written and formats it (for a second time!) to fit onto the printed page.

For some reason, Eclipse's two faces format your code on different criteria, process it with different margin restrictions. When you format your code manually in Eclipse, it sets it larger than the printer can handle, so the second printer-formatter re-formats it with ugly line breaks.

Ok, if you're still reading after all my redundancy, continue to the next page.

SOLUTION

(I'm going to write these out in painful detail; feel free to read peripatetically.)

- 1) In Eclipse, go into preferences through these menus: Eclipse > Preferences...
- 2) On the left of the Preferences window which opens up, you will see a tree of preference categories. Click the grey arrow next to "General" to expand that branch of the tree.
- 3) Click the arrow next to "Appearance" to expand that branch.
- 4) Select "Colors and Fonts" under the Appearance branch.
- 5) On the right hand side, you will see inside a small window another collapsed tree structure. Click the arrow next to "Basic" to expand that branch.
- 6) Scroll down to the item titled "Text Font," under the Basic branch, and select it.
- 7) To your right, three buttons should appear: Click the button labeled "Change...", and you will be presented with the font palette.
- 8) Currently selected in the font palette is the font Monaco, with size 11. Changing this to Monaco size 10 will greatly reduce the number of incorrect line breaks that Eclipse is forced to make upon printing. Changing the font instead to Lucida Grande, size 11, should prevent these ugly line breaks completely.