

## **Formatting for Improved Readability**

Crystal Flow's formatter is parser-based. It does a lot more than a formatter that uses lexical analysis only.

- 1) Alignment of type specifiers, declarators among consecutive declarations
- 2) Alignment of assignment operators among consecutive assignment statements
- 3) Formatting of long expressions that take up more than one line - based on precedence of operators
- 4) Proper formatting of macro definitions that contain many statements
- 5) Maintains a comment-field to the right for easy readability

### **Applying New Format Settings**

When Crystal C opens a file for the first time,

it uses the current format settings to format the file and saves the format settings **on a per file basis**.

When you open the file again, the saved format settings are used for that file.

If you change the format settings, for example, if you select K&R format.

- To apply the new settings to a file that is currently open,  
Click **File @ Refresh Current File**.
- You can apply the new settings to all files in the project by clicking **<Reparse All>** in the Project Management menu.
- If you select **"Apply changes to all files"**, Crystal C will apply the new format settings to a file **whenever it opens a file**.

### **An Overview of cards relevant to Format Settings in the Options Menu :**

#### **General**

- Code field width, Comment column width

When a statements have comments to their right, Crystal tool creates a comments column to the the right. You can set the code field width and the comments column width.

- Use **/\*...\*/** or **//** for the comments column
- Indent size, tab size
- Keep tabs or replace tabs with spaces
- K&R style of braces
- **Whether to format array-initializers or not**

#### **Advanced**

- Format the whole file or just the lines that you edit
- Enable/Disable formatting
- Enable/Disable formatting of the comments column
- Font selection

#### **Customize**

- whether to insert a space after **#** in **#define**, **#if** etc.
- whether to insert a space between **if** and **(**
- Whether to place function parameters on separate lines
- and so on...

Comment Formatting

Associate code with comments

- Associate a variable with its meaning
- Associate a statement with its comment