

# The great thing about naming conventions is that not everybody will follow them

[devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20090828-00](http://devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20090828-00)

August 28, 2009



Raymond Chen

The naming convention for `HRESULT` is «facility» \_ «severity» \_ «name», where the facility portion (and the underscore) is omitted if the facility is `FACILITY_NULL` or `FACILITY_WIN32`. Good luck finding anybody who follows this naming convention. Okay, fine, if you look closely you might be able to find some people who do.

	<code>CO_ E_ NOTINITIALIZED</code>
<b>COM</b>	<code>CO_ S_ MACHINENAMENOTFOUND</code>
	<code>STG_ E_ SHAREVIOLATION</code>
<b>Structured storage</b>	<code>STG_ S_ CONVERTED</code>
<b>SETUPAPI</b>	<code>SPAPI_ E_ EXPECTED_SECTION_NAME</code>
	<code>DV_ E_ TYMED</code>
<b>Data and view</b>	<code>DV_ E_ FORMATETC</code>
<b>Class factory</b>	<code>CLASS_ E_ NOAGGREGATION</code>
<b>Class registry</b>	<code>REGDB_ E_ CLASSNOTREG</code>
<b>OLEDB</b>	<code>DB_ E_ DELETEDROW</code>

Actually, I guess I was a bit too pessimistic when I said *nobody* follows it. It seems that the majority of Windows components do follow this convention, although there are some notable exceptions.

<b>DirectDraw</b>	<code>DDERR_UNSUPPORTEDFORMAT</code>
<b>ADSI</b>	<code>E_ADS_INVALID_DOMAIN_OBJECT</code>

There are also some people who decided to confuse matters further by using the `HRESULT` convention for error codes returned by `GetLastError()` !

<b>RPC</b>	RPC_S_OBJECT_NOT_FOUND
<b>SmartCard</b>	SEC_E_SMARTCARD_CERT_REVOKED
<b>Task scheduler</b>	SCHED_E_SERVICE_NOT_LOCALSYSTEM
<b>Winsock</b>	WSA_E_NO_MORE

I apologize for the confusion this has caused.

**Pre-emptive clarifying remark:** The examples given in this article are merely illustrative and are not intended to be comprehensive.

Raymond Chen

**Follow**

