
Subject: Re: [Object IDL] self-documenting objects ...
Posted by [David Foster](#) on Fri, 31 Jul 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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dEdmundson@Bigfoot.com wrote:

>
> I have created a number of potentially useful objects that I wish
> to share with others. Of course I have documented the code and
> written a nice comment header but it would be nice to access help
> online. Thus, I have adopted the convention of coding a "help"
> method procedure for every object I write, viz.
>
> myobj = obj_new('myobject')
> myobj -> help
>
> Rather than having to duplicate documentation in this method
> *and* the code header, can I not simply display the source
> header to the user? This approach has the benefit of encouraging
> the IDL programmer to write well-documented code headers.
> Comments on this convention?

<snip>

I don't see any reason why you couldn't extract the header
from the source file and display it. Here is another possibility...

I have been lamblasted (sp?) for this in the past, but I have
decided to write separate .doc documentation files for my routines.
I have written a widget program called LHELP that allows you to
view these files, perform text searches within the current file, and
to view .pro files as well. I have found it to be quite useful
and convenient.

If your object-method approach doesn't pan out you can download
LHELP from: <ftp://bial8.ucsd.edu/pub/software/idl/software> .

Good luck!

Dave

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