Subject: Re: [Object IDL] self-documenting objects ... Posted by David Foster on Fri, 31 Jul 1998 07:00:00 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

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 possiblility...

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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