
Subject: Re: IDLDoc Bandwagon

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Tue, 21 Sep 2010 03:54:20 GMT

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On 9/20/10 5:48 pm, David Fanning wrote:

> Folks,
>
> I have been wanting to get on the IDLDoc bandwagon
> for awhile now. But I have never been able to successfully
> get reasonable looking output from any of my (apparently
> feeble) attempts to get it to work.
>
> Today I downloaded the very latest from Mike's web page,
> and spent most of the afternoon trying one combination
> after the other. Nearly all of my attempts, no matter
> what I set the FORMAT_STYLE keyword to, end up looking
> like a dog's dish with all my comments slammed together
> in a single paragraph.
>
> I'm usually no good at figuring these kinds of things out,
> but I have spent enough time on it that I would have
> expected to be *somewhere* by now. Line endings seem
> somehow to be involved, so I thought I would just ask,
> has anyone gotten this to work on a Windows machine?

One thing that has slowed me down on the most recent release of IDLdoc is that it will have actual documentation: both a tutorial and a reference manual! Hopefully, these will help people learn how to get the comments formatted usefully.

But, in the meantime, you are correct, the FORMAT_STYLE and MARKUP_STYLE determine how the comments are formatted in the output. Looking at some of the code in your library, it looks like you probably should use FORMAT_STYLE='IDL' and MARKUP_STYLE='preformatted' (it won't look good, but should be readable). The MARKUP_STYLE='preformatted' will make linefeeds significant. You will also need to make the comment header (i.e., the part between ;+ and ;-) be next to the routine prototype (the pro/function line), like:

```
;+
; NAME:
;   BITGET
;
; PURPOSE:
;
;   Returns the bit value (0 or 1) of a specified bit in a supplied
;   number.
;
```



```
; AUTHOR:
;
; FANNING SOFTWARE CONSULTING
; David Fanning, Ph.D.
; 1645 Sheely Drive
; Fort Collins, CO 80526 USA
; Phone: 970-221-0438
; E-mail: davidf@dfanning.com
; Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com
;
```

```
; CATEGORY:
```

```
; Utilities
;
```

```
; CALLING SEQUENCE:
```

```
; bitValue = BitGet(number, bit)
;
```

```
; INPUT_PARAMETERS:
```

```
; number:      The input number. Should be a scalar integer.
;              If not, it is converted to
;              one by rounding.
```

```
; bit:         The number of the bit you are interested in. A
;              value between 0 and 63.
;              If not supplied, all 64 bit values of the
;              number are returned. May be an array of bit
;              numbers.
```

```
; OUTPUT_PARAMETERS:
```

```
; bitValue:    The value, 0 or 1, of the specified bit in the
;              number.
```

```
; KEYWORDS:
```

```
; SILENT:      If set, suppresses informational messages
;              regarding rounding operations.
```

```
; MODIFICATION HISTORY:
```

```
; Written by David W. Fanning, 14 June 2006.
```

```
;-
FUNCTION BitGet, value, bit, SILENT=silent
```

Note, I recommend using `FORMAT_STYLE='rst'`, `MARKUP_STYLE='rst'` for new comments, in which case the header would look like:


```

;+
; Returns the bit value (0 or 1) of a specified bit in a supplied
; number.
;
; :Categories:
;   utilities
;
; :Author:
;   ::
;
;   FANNING SOFTWARE CONSULTING
;   David Fanning, Ph.D.
;   1645 Sheely Drive
;   Fort Collins, CO 80526 USA
;   Phone: 970-221-0438
;   E-mail: davidf@dfanning.com
;   Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com
;
; :History:
;   Written by David W. Fanning, 14 June 2006.
;
; :Params:
;   value : in, required, type=integer
;     The input number. Should be a scalar integer. If not, it is
;     converted to one by rounding.
;   bit : in, optional, type=integer
;     The value, 0 or 1, of the specified bit in the number.
;
; :Keywords:
;   silent : in, optional, type=boolean
;     If set, suppresses informational messages regarding rounding
;     operations.
;-
FUNCTION BitGet, value, bit, SILENT=silent

```

It's painful to convert existing files, so individual files can specify their own FORMAT_STYLE/MARKUP_STYLE by putting a "docformat" comment on the *first line* of the file, like:

```
; docformat = 'rst rst'
```

or

```
; docformat = 'IDL preformatted'
```

Anyway, I hope to have something a bit more complete by the way of documentation out soon.

Mike

--

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