
Subject: Re: IDLDOC Question

Posted by [Jeremy Bailin](#) on Thu, 20 Oct 2011 18:48:01 GMT

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On 1/24/11 6:39 PM, Michael Galloy wrote:

> On 1/24/11 2:49 pm, David Fanning wrote:

>> Mike, or whomever,

>>

>> What is the best way to document a program with IDLDOC when you
>> really want to document the last module in the file. I'm thinking
>> of FSC_Window, but I should think any widget program would have
>> the same problem.

>>

>> I really like to have the program documentation at the top
>> of the file, but if I understand IDLDOC correctly, the program
>> documentation has to be immediately in front of the procedure
>> or function definition statement that the documentation applies
>> to. Is there any easy way around this restriction? Or, am I
>> misunderstanding the restriction?

>

> IDLdoc has both file-level and routine-level documentation headers. So
> for a widget application you would probably have a file-level header
> that describes the purpose of the application and a routine-level header
> on the main routine to describe the parameters/keywords. Helper
> routines, event handlers, cleanup routines, etc. would be marked private
> so that they don't show up in user-level documentation. I would probably
> do something like this:

>

> ; docformat = 'rst'

>

> ;+

> ; Documentation about how to use the application, like an example of
> ; of using it::

> ;

> ; IDL> mg_application, dist(20), some_keyword=5.

> ;

> ; This should produce output like:

> ;

> ; .. image:: screenshot.png

> ;-

>

> ;+

> ; :Private:

> ;-

> pro mg_application_eventhandler_or_helperroutine, event

> end

>

> ;+

```
> ; Documentation on call `MG_APPLICATION`.
> ;
> ;:Params:
> ; data : in, required, type=fltarr(n)
> ; special data to do something to
> ;
> ;:Keywords:
> ; some_keyword : in, optional, type=float
> ; specify something
> ;-
> pro mg_application, data, some_keyword=someKeyword
> end
>
> If what you want it to do is document the parameters/keywords of the
> main routine at the top of the file, there is no mechanism for doing
> that. The "guiding philosophy" of IDLdoc is to place the documentation
> for something as close as possible to the actual definition in the code
> so that the documentation actually is updated as the code is updated. So
> this means that documenting the params/keyword should happen immediately
> before or after the "pro" or "function" line in the routine definition.
>
> Mike
```

Is it possible to have routine-level docformats? Basically, I have a widget program where the main routine is documented in IDL format and I just want to mark all of the helper routines private.

-Jeremy.
