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Subject: Inheriting Properties (or something similar) in IDLDOC

Posted by [Matt Francis](#) on Tue, 10 Jul 2012 00:05:03 GMT

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I've just started a project of re-commenting a large IDL code into IDLDOC format and moving some external text file documentation into those comments.

One issue I have is that the code uses IDL custom object, and in particular inheritance, extensively. I would like the documentation for derived classes to inherit appropriate info from the parent class documentation.

In particular, the functionality of a lot of the object functions, such as threshold levels and other parameters and switches are controlled by config files. A base class may have some behaviour controlled by some 'tag' in a config file and a derived class may be controlled by additional tags. I would like a way to summarise all of the config file tags that control an object (i.e. are looked at by any of the objects functions) and then have derived classes documentation inherit the summary from the superclass.

Looking over the IDLDOC reference guide, I thought perhaps the `:Properties:` tag in the file comments might allow this. So I have comments in the base class `<obj_name>__define.pro` file that look something like this:

```
;+
; Abstract Base class for handling input data for mapping.
; Provides a common interface for different data sources.
;
; :Properties:
;   data_type : property name
;   The IDL data type to use for the data storage array pointed to
; by self.data
;   something_else :
;   Some other property
;-
```

This produces a nice summary of 'properties' in the IDLDOC produced docs. However, this does not show up the doc page for derived classes (not that I was expected to, just hoping....).

Is there any way to achieve what I'm trying to do? For comparison the way IDLDOC handles the actual class members is exactly the behaviour I want, but for a 'user defined' set of properties of objects. Is this possible?

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