
Subject: Re: IDL Documentation tool?

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Tue, 23 Jan 2001 00:42:31 GMT

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Daniel Luebbert <luebbert@ssrl.slac.stanford.edu> writes:

> Hi there,
>
> I am trying to generate a documentation for a large bunch of IDL
> programs of mine,
> so that someone else could easily understand and use them.
> Does anyone know of a program, PERL script, commercial tool or whatever
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> which could generate a complete documentation from the source code?
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> It should certainly include a list of routines in each file, with the
> respective arguments and keywords,
> and also extra any header documentation like "doc_library" does.
> But ideally it should also analyze which other routines each file uses,
> maybe detect common block incompatibilities,
> etc., etc...

David: Why would you ever want to do this? Just go with the flow!

Craig: Darn it! Why doesn't IDL have this in the first place? <grump>

JD: You can do it with a combination of HISTOGRAM and REBIN...

Pavel: Make sure it works on a Mac too!

R. Bauer: See <http://www.fz-juelich.de/> for licensing...

Liam: Be sure to properly document your code and you will never have this problem.

Newbie: Why won't colors work on my 24-bit screen?

Sarcasm aside, and it WAS SARCASM :-), yes Daniel, I think this would be a wonderful addition to IDL, but I don't know of any such tool at the moment.

Craig

P.S. No offense intended by anybody's inclusion or omission from the list above. I was just having fun!

--

Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response

Subject: Re: IDL Documentation tool?

Posted by [Paul van Delst](#) on Tue, 23 Jan 2001 01:09:37 GMT

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Daniel Luebbert wrote:

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Uhhh... don't you write the documentation *before* the code?

At first I thought MK_HTML_HELP would do the job, but you want something to actually go in and parse the source code and hunt about for all the dependencies along with argument lists?

Jeez.

You'd still have to modify all the routine documentation so that other users know, say, what units the various arguments are supposed to be in. Wot a job.

It sounds like a good project in which to learn Perl.... :o) Hmmmm....

Good luck.

paulv

--

Paul van Delst A little learning is a dangerous thing;
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring;
Ph: (301) 763-8000 x7274 There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,
Fax: (301) 763-8545 And drinking largely sobers us again.
Email: pvandelst@ncep.noaa.gov Alexander Pope.

Subject: Re: IDL Documentation tool?

Posted by [Jason P. Meyers](#) on Tue, 23 Jan 2001 01:11:16 GMT

Craig Markwardt wrote:

>
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> Newbie: Why won't colors work on my 24-bit screen?
>
> Craig
>

What a nice, comprehensive digest of comp.lang.idl-pvwave! :-)

Jason Meyers
PhD Student, Center for Imaging Science
Rochester Institute of Technology
jpm7934@rit.edu

Subject: Re: IDL Documentation tool?

Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 23 Jan 2001 02:25:17 GMT

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Jason P. Meyers (jpm7934@cis.rit.edu) writes:

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> What a nice, comprehensive digest of comp.lang.idl-pvwave! :-)

Indeed. Now I feel comfortable going on a well-deserved sabbatical to correct a problem with chronic crabbiness knowing that I'll never be missed. :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. Let's just say I had to laugh because my original idea for a response to this question was to suggest that one industrious day of hunting and pecking at the keyboard would *certainly* be more appreciated by end users than the results of any such hypothetical documentation tool. :-)

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: IDL Documentation tool?
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Tue, 23 Jan 2001 07:58:53 GMT
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Daniel Luebbert wrote:

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> maybe detect common block incompatibilities,
> etc., etc...

Please have a look at the result of my catalog routine (unix/linux
the windows version has some restrictions)

http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/idl_work_libraries.htm

The examples are extracted and you got them by clicking to the diamond
symbol.

The database card icon is used to see all routines each routine used.
Additional these files could be downloaded as tar.gz file or IDL 5.3 SAV
file.

(The windows Version is not able to tar gz)

If your mouse is over one of the routine names you will see the calling
sequence

If you click on the routine you get a separate window with the routine
from it's

original place. (or into idlde, this belongs to the settings of your
browser I prefer

IDL_SOURCE connected to the navigator)

Any failure in the header or if a routine doesn't compile is sampled in
a separate html file of each owner of the file. The author will be
informed
by email automaticly.

Please have a look to my reply too.

Re: check for duplicate routine names?

The catalog routines are written in IDL.

For further routines and licensing please look first at

http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html

http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/download/catalog.tar.gz

http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/download/catalog_db.tar.gz

More descriptions of html and idl you will get in my publication

<http://www.fz-juelich.de/zb/text/publikation/juel3786.html>

regards
Reimar

--

Reimar Bauer

Institut fuer Stratosphaerische Chemie (ICG-1)
Forschungszentrum Juelich
email: R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de

=====
a IDL library at Forschungszentrum Jülich
http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html

Subject: Re: IDL Documentation tool?

Posted by [James Kuyper](#) on Tue, 23 Jan 2001 15:34:17 GMT

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Daniel Luebbert wrote:

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No. That's fundamentally an impossible task. Complete documentation includes things that don't reside in your source code and can't be derived from it, such as a list of the requirements it must meet, a description of how it fits into the larger picture, explanations of your design decisions (including why you DIDN'T do certain things), a user's guide, and the revision history.

Now, in any language that supports comments, you can insert those things in your code, but they can't be derived from the code itself.

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- > respective arguments and keywords,
- > and also extra any header documentation like "doc_library" does.
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Those are all useful things to do; just don't confuse them with "complete" documentation.

Unfortunately, I'm unaware of any existing facilities for collecting such information from IDL files, but others may know more about such

things.

Subject: Re: IDL Documentation tool?

Posted by [plugge](#) on Wed, 24 Jan 2001 08:45:57 GMT

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In article <3A6CCA1B.496CB694@ssrl.slac.stanford.edu>, Daniel Luebbert <luebbert@ssrl.slac.stanford.edu> writes:

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|>

|>I know for instance that Java comes with a neat little program

|>"javadoc", which does much of the above.

|>If anybody is aware of something similar for IDL, I would be most

|>grateful for a hint.

|>

|>Daniel

Daniel,

some time ago I wrote a prettyprinter for IDL that could be a (first!!) approach for your problem. It converts an IDL source file to LaTeX, optionally generating an index of routines and common blocks and a table of contents. I use it frequently to generate listings of the exercises done by the students here (it is used also as a kind of printer filter for IDL).

If you are interested, I could send you an example .dvi or .ps file for an first impression. The converter is freeware (GNU GPL) and comes with full source; so you can modify it for your needs.

Best regards

Michael Plugge
