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Subject: Re: IDL Comments

Posted by [mperrin+news](#) on Thu, 08 Apr 2004 18:35:37 GMT

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Michael Wallace <[mwallace.removethis@swri.edu.invalid](mailto:mwallace.removethis@swri.edu.invalid)> wrote:

> This might be a dumb question, but my curiosity has gotten the best of  
> me. Why is it that the main comment block in RSI's IDL code (as well as  
> David's) always begins with ';'+' ? Is the '+' on the end some sort of  
> marker RSI uses to indicate what comments to use when they crank out new  
> documentation?

Check out `doc_library.pro` in the RSI IDL Library. Given a procedure name, it automatically displays the comment text between `;++` and `;-`. Quite a handy little tool...

- Marshall

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Subject: Re: IDL Comments

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Thu, 08 Apr 2004 18:38:58 GMT

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Michael Wallace wrote:

> This might be a dumb question, but my curiosity has gotten the best of  
> me. Why is it that the main comment block in RSI's IDL code (as well as  
> David's) always begins with ';'+' ? Is the '+' on the end some sort of  
> marker RSI uses to indicate what comments to use when they crank out new  
> documentation?

Yep. Well, sorta. The `;++` and `;-` delineate the comment fields when you use the

```
MK_HTML_HELP
```

procedure. It produces a somewhat natty html file containing all your documentation. I altered the IDL code to allow me to do the same for my Fortran90 code. I get nice pages I can direct people to when they ask questions that clearly indicate they haven't read the documentation. E.g.

[http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~paulv/Fortran90/Emissivity/Emissivity\\_Define.f90.html](http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~paulv/Fortran90/Emissivity/Emissivity_Define.f90.html)

paulv

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Subject: Re: IDL Comments

Posted by [Michael Wallace](#) on Thu, 08 Apr 2004 19:01:46 GMT

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- > Check out doc\_library.pro in the RSI IDL Library. Given a procedure name, it
- > automatically displays the comment text between ;+ and ;- . Quite a handy
- > little tool...

Thanks! Earlier today I was wishing for just such a command.... just so I wouldn't have to go through the trouble of opening the PDF files...

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Subject: Re: IDL Comments  
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Fri, 09 Apr 2004 18:17:05 GMT  
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On Thu, 08 Apr 2004 13:32:07 -0500, Michael Wallace wrote:

- > This might be a dumb question, but my curiosity has gotten the best of
- > me. Why is it that the main comment block in RSI's IDL code (as well as
- > David's) always begins with ';'+' ? Is the '+' on the end some sort of
- > marker RSI uses to indicate what comments to use when they crank out new
- > documentation?

IDLWAVE uses the delimiters to provide context sensitive help in routine headers. If the header follows normal conventions, the help entries for individual keywords etc. can be visited.

JD

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Subject: Re: IDL Comments  
Posted by [kklare](#) on Wed, 21 Apr 2004 01:57:38 GMT  
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In the olden days IDL used the ;+ and ;- markers to delimit the header text for making .help files.

In the lib/obsolete directory you will find mk\_library\_help.pro to convert a directory of .pro files into an special (offsets and topics first) file with the bodies. Then mp\_widget.pro was used to display them. HTML and PDF have obsoleted that. It did not support help on the basics and internals of IDL, e.g., + or FLOAT.

I improved mp\_widget to use a list for a large number (~200) of topics but did not square subscripts nor add no\_block. (I use a special xmanager that does not block inside other widgets, circa 1991 and potentially in the main program to allow it to be in the event loop for variable creation.)

- ; 1-Aug-1995 KAK Monospaced font for list widgets.
- ; 1-Aug-1995 KAK Handle empty .help elements of HELP\_PATH.
- ; 1-Aug-1995 KAK Buttons columns auto-sized based on area. (later

irrelevant)

; 11-Dec-1995 KAK remove STRLOWCASE because my Unix path has upper.

; 11-Dec-1995 KAK make it 2 lists and the text, only a quit button.

; 25-Mar-2004 KAK make routine width 15, text box 30 not 45.

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