# HDF5 Tools Documentation Set

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[from email]

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Subject: "HDF5 Tools" doc set plan, design notes, etc Cc: fbaker-hdfgroup.org

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X-Attachments:

"HDF5 Tools" documentation set

Planning and design notes, etc.

Current status

The HDF5 tools docs:

Are currently limited to reference manual-style material for the command-line utilities distributed with the HDF5 Library and highly variable documentation for other tools. Are linked only from the docs index page and the reference manual; neither link is particularly prominent. Are a section of the reference manual, which is functionally an unrelated document, being otherwise targeted strictly at programmers. Are not designed or distributed as though any of them were intended for data-only users. Lack motivational and contextual information (Who would use what tool? What problem does each tool address?) and adequate examples. Make no distinction between a tool that would be a basic data user's primary tool and one that such a user will never need to investigate.

Goals

To create an HDF5 tools doc set that:

Is free-standing.

On a level with either the HDF5 User's Guide that the HDF5 Reference Manual or with the entire HDF5 Library document set. No user should have to know to go to the reference manual for this information. It will contain motivational information (Why would I use this tool? What does this tool do?) and procedural information (How do I do this?).

Contains material that is, per tool, appropriately targeted for: All users Intro

Basic data-only users Primer, RM of just a handful of tools

Intensive data users User Guide 1, RM of larger handful

Data maintainers User Guide 2, RM of most tools

Casual programmers User Guide 3, RM of most tools

Full application developers User Guide 4, RM of all tools (except h5debug?)

and maintainers

HDF5 Library developers User Guide 4, RM of all tools

In addition to the targeted information sets, a master set presenting all the information for all the tools will be readily available.

A table such as the following should be prominent, possibly even on the first page a user sees: Tool Usage