

The Mabel Literate Programming Tool

A Simple Tangler

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Introduction

I wanted to take notes with executable code snippets inside, and I didn't want it to be glued to my text editor. This little project is supposed to (eventually) do that.

I chose markdown because it's simple, light weight, and has many implementations. A markdown engine or `pandoc` will be better than any weaver that I could write.

The source in `src/mabel.go` is generated with `mabel` through `mabel mabel.md > src/mabel.go`.

Imports and packages

I let the package name be `main` for now. For this file we will need the `os`, `bufio`, and `fmt` packages from the `stdlib`.

```
package main
```

```
import (  
    "os"  
    "bufio"  
    "fmt"  
)
```

Dealing with erros

Since we'll be doing a lot of file i/o, lets make a `check` function that will panic if it recieves an error.

```
func check(e error) {  
    if e != nil {  
        panic(e)  
    }  
}
```

Tangling

This is still an early implmentation and so doesn't have all the features I want. For now it looks through the code, and if it's in a code block (determined by the `open` boolean) it will print the line into stdout which then could be piped into a file.

```
func tangle(in string) {  
    file, err := os.Open(in)  
    check(err)  
    f := bufio.NewScanner(file)  
    var open bool = false  
    for i := 0; f.Scan(); i++ {  
        ln := f.Text()  
        if len(ln) >= 3 {  
            if ln[:3] == "```" {  
                open = !open  
                fmt.Println()  
                continue  
            }  
        }  
        if open {  
            fmt.Println(ln)  
        }  
    }  
}
```

Main and dealing with input

For now just tangle all argument given to it, or if no arguments are given, take one from stdin.

```
func main() {  
    if len(os.Args) > 1 {  
        for _, i := range os.Args[1:] {  
            tangle(i)  
        }  
    } else {  
        var file string  
        fmt.Scan(&file)  
        tangle(file)  
    }  
}
```

What's next?

- ☐ Add concurrency for speed
- ☐ Ability to execute/print to stdout a selected group of code blocks (like org-babel)