Noting Much About Ado

Dr. Ana Nelson dexy.it/ado

Integrating Development, Documentation and Reporting

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A Little About Me

- I'm a software developer (used to be an economist).
- Became interested in software development and document automation while working on my thesis.
- Lots of similarities between software documentation and scientific document automation.
- Wrote my "dream tool" after I learned Python.
- My twitter: @ananelson

Dexy

- My dream tool.
- Supports *any* programming language.
- Lets you write any kind of document.
- Automates your whole project.
- http://dexy.it
- @dexyit

Ado

An experimental command-line TODO app which might be interesting (or is just a useful vehicle for talking about dexy).

Code & Prose

Code

Documentation

Prose

Tools:

version control text editors github

version control text editors github word processors wikis/CMSs/blogs

Tools for Documentation, i.e. Integrating Code and Prose

Automated

- Usually one of two approaches:
- place the code in the prose (literate programming)
- place the prose in the code (comments -> API docs)
- Problems
 - inflexible
 - hard to re-use

Manual

well, yeah, manual.

Code is Code, Prose is Prose

- Code lives in Code Files
- Prose lives in Prose Files
- Tools mix them together

Benefits

- No editing or copy/pasting code in tools designed for formatted text.
- All code is executable.
- Can still do "code in prose" literate programming and "prose in code" automated API generation.

But wait!

Code

Documentation

Prose

Let's add "Data"

Code

Data

Prose

Data

- Data from an external API.
- Code performance analysis data.
- Website traffic data.
- Support/helpdesk metrics.
- Big Data

Let's add "Data"

Code

Data

Prose

Relationships

Analysis Documentation

Data Reporting Prose

Or...

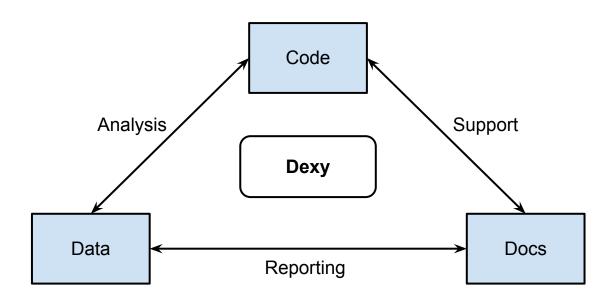
Inputs/Costs:

- Code
- Prose
- Data

Output/Added Value:

- Documentation
- Reporting
- Analysis

Code is Code, Prose is Prose, Data is Data



Dexy

A tool for automating the integration of code, prose and data.

A tool for automating analysis, reporting and documentation.

Get the best of both worlds: the flexibility of the Manual approach with the maintainability of an Automated approach.

Dexy can:

- run code
- insert code into documents
- insert code output into documents
- convert documents to/from different formats
- run data analysis scripts
- insert results and graphs into documents
- run task automation scripts
- interact with remote APIs

Example: Ado

 A demo/example to illustrate the intersection of code, prose and data.

Ado: Command Line ToDo Software

- I wanted a simple, local (not web-based)
 TODO app.
- I wanted to leverage Dexy's templates and automation to be Ado's reporting system
- So: I wrote a simple wrapper for a SQLite database, and a simple command line tool for inserting data.
- Dexy does everything else.

Demo

dexy.it/ado