

An implementation of Semi-Literate programming for Raku with Pod6

INTRODUCTION

I want to create a semi-literate Raku source file with the extension `.sl`. Then, I will *weave* it to generate a readable file in formats like Markdown, PDF, HTML, and more. Additionally, I will *tangle* it to create source code without any Pod6.

To do this, I need to divide the file into `Pod` and `Code` sections by parsing it. For this purpose, I will create a dedicated Grammar.

(See [Useful::Regexes](#) for the definitions of the named regexes used here. (`<hws>` == Horizontal WhiteSpace))

The Grammar

```
3| grammar Semi::Literate is export does Useful::Regexes {
```

Our file will exclusively consist of Pod or Code sections, and nothing else. The Code sections are of two types, a) code that is woven into the documentation, and b) code that is not woven into the documentation. The TOP token clearly indicates this.

```
4|         token TOP {
5|             [
6|                 || <pod>
7|                 || <non-woven-code>
8|                 || <woven-code>
9|             ]*
10|
```

The Pod6 delimiters

According to the [documentation](#),

Every Pod6 document has to begin with C<=begin pod> and end with C<=end> pod.

So let's define those tokens.

The begin-pod token

```
11|         token begin-pod {
12|             <leading-ws>
13|             '=' begin <hws> pod
14|             <ws-till-EOL>
15|
```

The end-pod token

The end-pod token is much simpler.

```
16|         token end-pod {
17|             <leading-ws>
18|             '=' end <hws> pod
19|             <ws-till-EOL>
20|
```

Replacing Pod6 sections with blank lines

When we *tangle* the semi-literate code, all the Pod6 will be removed. This would leave a lot of blank lines in the Raku code. So we'll clean it up. We provide the option for users to specify the number of empty lines that should replace a pod block. To do this, simply add a Pod6 comment immediately after the `=begin pod` statement. The comment can say anything you like, but must end with a digit specifying the number of blank lines with which to replace the Pod6 section.

```
=begin pod
=comment I want this pod block replaced by only one line 1
...
=end pod
```

Here's the relevant regex:

```
21|      token blank-line-comment {
22|          <leading-ws>
23|          '=' comment
24|          \N*?
25|          $<num-blank-lines> = (\d+)?
26|          <ws-till-EOL>
27|
```

The Pod token

Within the delimiters, all lines are considered documentation. We will refer to these lines as `plain-lines`. Additionally, it is possible to have nested Pod sections. This allows for a hierarchical organization of documentation, allowing for more structured and detailed explanations.

It is also permissible for the block to be empty. Therefore, we will use the 'zero-or-more' quantifier on the lines of documentation, allowing for the possibility of having no lines in the block.

```
28|      token pod {
29|          <begin-pod>
30|          <blank-line-comment>?
31|          [<pod> | <plain-line>]*
32|          <end-pod>
33|
```

The Code tokens

The Code sections are similarly easily defined. There are two types of Code sections, depending on whether they will appear in the woven code.

Woven sections

These sections are trivially defined. They are just one or more `plain-lines`.

```
34|      token woven-code {
35|          [
36|              || <plain-line>
37|          ]+
38|
```

Non-woven sections

Sometimes there will be code you do not want woven into the documentation, such as boilerplate code like `use v6.d;`. You have two options to mark such code. By individual lines or by a delimited block of code.

```
39|      token non-woven-code {
40|          [
41|              || <one-line-no-weave>
42|              || <delimited-no-weave>
43|          ]+
44|
```

One line of code

Simply append `# no-weave-this-line` at the end of the line!

```
45|     token one-line-no-weave {
46|         <leading-ws> \N*?
47|         '#' <hws> 'no-weave-this-line'
48|         <ws-till-EOL>
49|
```

Delimited blocks of code

Simply add comments `# begin-no-weave` and `#end-no-weave` before and after the code you want ignored in the formatted document.

```
50|     token begin-no-weave {
51|         <leading-ws>
52|         '#' <hws> 'begin-no-weave'
53|         <ws-till-EOL>
54|
55|
56|     token end-no-weave {
57|         <leading-ws>
58|         '#' <hws> 'end-no-weave'
59|         <ws-till-EOL>
60|
61|
62|     token delimited-no-weave {
63|         <begin-no-weave>
64|         <plain-line>*
65|         <end-no-weave>
66|
```

The plain-line token

The `plain-line` token is, really, any line at all... .. except for one subtlety. They it can't be one of the begin/end delimiters. We can specify that with a Regex Boolean Condition Check.

```
67|     token plain-line {
68|         :my $*EXCEPTION = False;
69|         [
70|             || <begin-pod>           { $*EXCEPTION = True }
71|             || <end-pod>             { $*EXCEPTION = True }
72|             || <begin-no-weave>      { $*EXCEPTION = True }
73|             || <end-no-weave>        { $*EXCEPTION = True }
74|             || <one-line-no-weave>   { $*EXCEPTION = True }
75|             || [^^ <rest-of-line>]
76|         ]
77|         <?{ !$*EXCEPTION }>
78|
```

And that concludes the grammar for separating Pod from Code!

The Tangle subroutine

This subroutine will remove all the Pod6 code from a semi-literate file (.sl) and keep only the Raku code.

```
80| sub tangle (
```

The subroutine has a single parameter, which is the input filename. The filename is required. Typically, this parameter is obtained from the command line or passed from the subroutine MAIN.

```
81|     Str $input-file!,
```

The subroutine will return a Str, which will be a working Raku program.

```
82|     --> Str ) is export {
```

First we will get the entire Semi-Literate .sl file...

```
83|     my Str $source = $input-file.IO.slurp;
```

Clean the source

Remove unnecessary blank lines

Very often the code section of the Semi-Literate file will have blank lines that you don't want to see in the tangled working code. For example:

```
sub foo () {
    { ... }
} # end of sub foo ()

# <== unwanted blank lines
# <== unwanted blank lines

# <== unwanted blank lines
# <== unwanted blank lines
```

So we'll remove the blank lines immediately outside the beginning and end of the Pod6 sections.

```
84|     my Str $cleaned-source = $source;
85|     $cleaned-source ~~ s:g{\=end (\N*)\n+} = "\=end$0\n";
86|     $cleaned-source ~~ s:g{\n+\=begin (<hws> pod) [<hws> \d]?} = "\n\=begin$0";
```

The interesting stuff

We parse it using the Semi::Literate grammar and obtain a list of submatches (that's what the caps method does) ...

```
87|     my Pair @submatches = Semi::Literate.parse($cleaned-source).caps;
```

...and iterate through the submatches and keep only the code sections...

```
88|     my Str $raku-code = @submatches.map( {
89|         when .key eq 'woven-code' | 'non-woven-code' {
90|             .value;
91|         }
```

Replace Pod6 sections with blank lines

```
92|         when .key eq 'pod' {
93|             my $num-blank-lines =
94|                 .value.hash<blank-line-comment><num-blank-lines>;
95|             "\n" x $num-blank-lines with $num-blank-lines;
96|         }
97|
```

... and we will join all the code sections together...

```
98|
99|     ).join;
```

Remove the *no-weave* delimiters

```
100|     $raku-code ~~ s:g{ ^^ <hws> '#' <hws> 'begin-no-weave'      <rest-of-line> }
101|         = '';
102|     $raku-code ~~ s:g{ ^^ <hws> '#' <hws> 'no-weave-this-line' <rest-of-line> }
103|         = "$0\n";
104|     $raku-code ~~ s:g{ ^^ <hws> '#' <hws> 'end-no-weave'          <rest-of-line> }
105|         = '';
```

remove blank lines at the end

```
106|     $raku-code ~~ s{\n <blank-line>* $ } = '';
```

And that's the end of the tangle subroutine!

```
107|     return $raku-code;
108|
```

The Weave subroutine

The Weave subroutine will *weave* the `.sl` file into a readable Markdown, HTML, or other format. It is a little more complicated than `sub tangle` because it has to include the code sections.

```
109| sub weave (
```

The parameters of Weave

`sub weave` will have several parameters.

`$input-file`

The input filename is required. Typically, this parameter is obtained from the command line through a wrapper subroutine `MAIN`.

```
110|     Str $input-file!;
```

`$line-numbers`

It can be useful to print line numbers in the code listing. It currently defaults to `True`.

```
111|     Bool :l(:$line-numbers) = True;
```

`sub weave` returns a `Str`.

```
112|     --> Str ) is export {  
113|  
114|     my UInt $line-number = 1;
```

First we will get the entire `.sl` file...

```
115|     my Str $source = $input-file.IO.slurp;
```

Remove blank lines at the beginning and end of the code

EXPLAIN THIS!

```
116|     my Str $cleaned-source = $source;  
117|     $cleaned-source ~~ s:g{\=end (\N*)\n+} = "\=end$0\n";  
118|     $cleaned-source ~~ s:g{\n+\=begin (<hws> pod) [<hws> \d]?} = "\n\=begin$0";
```

Interesting stuff

...Next, we parse it using the `Semi::Literate` grammar and obtain a list of submatches (that's what the `caps` method does) ...

```
119|     my Pair @submatches = Semi::Literate.parse($cleaned-source).caps;
```

...And now begins the interesting part. We iterate through the submatches and insert the code sections into the `Pod6`...

This function checks if the line of code is a full line comment. If so, return `False`, so nothing will be printed for this line.

If it's a line of code with a comment at the end, remove the comment from the line and return `True`

Otherwise return True

```
120|     my token full-line-comment {
121|         $<the-code>=<(<leading-ws>)>
122|         '#'
123|         <rest-of-line>
124|
125|
126|     my regex partial-line-comment {
127|
128|
129|
130|
131|         <ws-till-EOL>
132|
133|
134|     sub remove-comments (Seq $lines --> Seq) {
135|
136|         my @retval = ();
137|         for $lines.List -> $line {
138|             given $line {
139|
140|
141|                 when /<partial-line-comment>/ { @retval.push: $0}
142|
143|                 default
144|                     {#`[[note ">> normal line";]] @retval.push: $line}
145|
146|
147|
148|
149|             return @retval.Seq;
150|
151|
152|     my Str $non-woven-blank-lines = qq:to/EOQ/;
153|         \=end code
154|         \=end pod
155|         \=begin pod
156|         \=begin code :lang<raku>
157|         EOQ
158|
159|     my Regex $full-comment-blank-lines = rx[
160|         '=begin pod'           <ws-till-EOL>
161|         '=begin code :lang<raku>' <ws-till-EOL>
162|         [<leading-ws> \d+ | '|'?' <ws-till-EOL>]*
163|         '=end code'           <ws-till-EOL>
164|         '=end pod'            <ws-till-EOL>
165|     ];
166|
167|     my $fmt = ($line-numbers ?? "%3s| " !! ' ') ~ "%s\n";
168|
169|     my Str $weave = @submatches.map( {
170|         when .key eq 'pod' {
171|             .value
172|
173|
174|             when .key eq 'woven-code' { qq:to/EOCB/; }
175|             \=begin pod
```

```

176|         \=begin code :lang<raku>
177|         {
178|             .value
179|             ==> lines()
180|             ==> remove-comments()
181|             ==> map(
182|                 $line-numbers
183|                 ?? {"%4s| %s\n".sprintf($line-number++, $_) }
184|                 !! {      "%s\n".sprintf(          $_) }
185|             )
186|
187|         }
188|         \=end code
189|         \=end pod
190|         EOCB
191|
192|         when .key eq 'non-woven-code' {
193|
194|
195|
196|
197|     ).join;

```

Remove unseemly blank lines

```

198|     $weave ~~ s:g{ $non-woven-blank-lines | <$full-comment-blank-lines> } = '';

```

remove blank lines at the end

```

199|     $weave ~~ s{\n <blank-line>* $ } = '';

```

And that's the end of the weave subroutine!

```

200|     "deleteme.rakudoc".IO.spurt: $weave;
201|     return $weave
202|

```

NAME

Semi::Literate - A semi-literate way to weave and tangle Raku/Pod6 source code.

VERSION

This documentation refers to Semi-Literate version 0.0.1

SYNOPSIS

```
use Semi::Literate;  
# Brief but working code example(s) here showing the most common usage(s)  
  
# This section will be as far as many users bother reading  
# so make it as educational and exemplary as possible.
```

DESCRIPTION

Influences

`Semi::Literate` is based on Daniel Sockwell's [Pod::Literate](#).

Also influenced by zyedidia's [<Literate|https://zyedidia.github.io/literate/>](https://zyedidia.github.io/literate/) program. Especially the idea of not weaving some portions of the code.

A full description of the module and its features. May include numerous subsections (i.e. `=head2`, `=head2`, etc.)

BUGS AND LIMITATIONS

There are no known bugs in this module. Patches are welcome.

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