

Common Lisp Documentation Weaver

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1 Introduction

CL-DOCWEAVER is a document weaver for Common Lisp.

Documentation for a Lisp project is written with the user's tool of choice (like Texinfo, Markdown, etc). Then, Common Lisp definitions are expanded into the documentation source using DocWeaver commands.

DocWeaver commands give the user control on how definitions are to be expanded, either via command options or by choosing a different set of commands.

CL-DOCWEAVER is easy to extend to support different documentation tools.

Texinfo and Markdown are the ones with best support at this moment.

2 Installation

3 Usage

Write documentation for your Common Lisp project in your documentation tool of your choice (either Texinfo or Markdown at this moment). Then invoke *cl-docweaver* commands to expand Lisp definitions for either variables, functions, macros, classes, or even whole packages.

Commands have the following syntax: (**@command-name** &rest **args**).

For example, use (**@clfunction alexandria:flatten**) to expand the definition of **ALEXANDRIA:FLATTEN** function.

The expanded function definition looks like this:

```
FLATTEN (tree) [ALEXANDRIA]  
  Traverses the tree in order, collecting non-null leaves into a list.
```

Note that commands usually receive options in order to be able to control different aspects of the expanded definition.

By default, docstrings are interpreted to extract possible references to other parts of the code; then those references are formatted as links that can be used to navigate the definitions documentations.

Finally, use See [DOCWEAVER:WEAVE-FILE function], page 10 to weave your documentation system source files.

Have a look at *cl-docweaver* documentation in **docs** directory for an example of how all this works.

4 Commands

@setup &rest options [Command]

Configures *cl-docweaver*.

OPTIONS is a *plist* with members:

- **:docsystem** The documentation system to use. Either **:texinfo** or **:markdown**. Default is **:texinfo**.
- **:parse-docstrings** A boolean that indicates if docstrings should be parsed or not. Default is T.
- **:command-prefix** The prefix character to use for commands. Default is the **#\@** character.

@clvariable variable-symbol &rest args [Command]

Expands definition for variable bound to *VARIABLE-SYMBOL*.

For example,

```
(@clvariable cl:*standard-output*)
```

Expands to this:

```
*STANDARD-OUTPUT* [COMMON-LISP]
  default output stream
```

A list of symbols is also accepted; variable definitions are expanded in sequence.

For example,

```
(@clvariable (cl:*compile-print* cl:*compile-verbose*))
```

expands to this:

```
*COMPILE-PRINT* [COMMON-LISP]
  The default for the :PRINT argument to See [COMMON-LISP:COMPILE-FILE function], page 8.
```

```
*COMPILE-VERBOSE* [COMMON-LISP]
  The default for the :VERBOSE argument to See [COMMON-LISP:COMPILE-FILE function], page 8.
```

@clfunction function-symbol &rest args [Command]

Expands definition for function bound to *FUNCTION-SYMBOL*.

For example,

```
(@clfunction alexandria:map-permutations)
```

Expands to this:

```
MAP-PERMUTATIONS (function sequence &key (start 0) end [ALEXANDRIA]
  length (copy t))
```

Calls *function* with each permutation of *LENGTH* constructable from the subsequence of *SEQUENCE* delimited by *START* and *END*. *START* defaults to 0, *END* to *length* of the *sequence*, and *LENGTH* to the *length* of the delimited subsequence.

Like with See [\[@clvariable\]](#), page [\[undefined\]](#), a list of symbols is also accepted and definitions are expanded in sequence.

@clpackage *package-name* &**key** (*include-external-definitions* **t**) [Command]
include-internal-definitions (*categorized* **t**)

Expands definition for Common Lisp package named *PACKAGE-NAME*.

If *INCLUDE-EXTERNAL-DEFINITIONS* is **T**, then all package external definitions are expanded.

If *INCLUDE-INTERNAL-DEFINITIONS* is **T**, then all package internals definitions are expanded.

If *CATEGORIZED* is **T**, then package definitions appear categorized in sections (variables, functions, etc).

Example:

```
(@clpackage :alexandria)
```

@clref *symbol type* [Command]

Creates a reference to *SYMBOL*. *TYPE* should be one of **variable**, **function**, **class**, etc.

For example, to reference ALEXANDRIA:FLATTEN function, do this:

```
(@clref alexandria:flatten function)
```

And this is the resulting link: See [\[ALEXANDRIA:FLATTEN function\]](#), page 3

5 Documentation systems

5.1 Texinfo

The Texinfo output needs to include `common-lisp.texi` file, that is shipped with *CL-DOCWEAVER*.

The `common-lisp.texi` file contains a set of Texinfo macros that are used by *CL-DOCWEAVER* for expanding Common Lisp definitions.

You can have a look at *CL-DOCWEAVER* own documentation in `docs/cl-docweaver.texi` for an example for how this should be used.

Also you may want to invoke `makeinfo` and `texi2any` Texinfo commands with `--no-validate` option, as some of the generated references in docstrings may not appear in your final document, and without that option you would get an error.

See `docs/Makefile` in *CL-DOCWEAVER* source for an example of how Texinfo tools should be used.

6 Tips and tricks

6.1 Lisp evaluation

It is possible to take advantage of Lisp evaluation to handle the list of symbols to expand. As commands are parsed using standard `CL:READ` function, reader syntax `#.` can be used to evaluate arbitrary Lisp code.

```
READ (&optional (stream *standard-input*) [COMMON-LISP]
      (sb-impl::eof-error-p t) (sb-impl::eof-value nil) (sb-impl::recursive-p nil))
      Read the next Lisp value from STREAM, and return it.
```

We can take advantage of that and expand all functions that match some term.

Symbols matching

For example, to expand all functions in `CL` package that have 'file' in their name:

```
(@clfunction #.(docweaver/utils:symbols-matching :cl "FILE" :function))
```

Results in this expansion:

```
PROBE-FILE (sb-impl::pathspec) [COMMON-LISP]
      Return the truename of PATHSPEC if the truename can be found,
      or NIL otherwise. See See <undefined> [COMMON-LISP:TRUENAME function],
      page <undefined> for more information.
```

```
FILE-AUTHOR (sb-impl::pathspec) [COMMON-LISP]
      Return the author of the file specified by PATHSPEC. Signal an
      error of type if no such file exists, or if PATHSPEC
      is a wild pathname.
```

```
RENAME-FILE (sb-impl::file sb-impl::new-name) [COMMON-LISP]
      Rename FILE to have the specified NEW-NAME. If FILE is a stream open to a
      file, then the associated file is renamed.
```

```
FILE-LENGTH (stream) [COMMON-LISP]
```

```
FILE-POSITION (stream &optional position) [COMMON-LISP]
```

```
FILE-NAMESTRING (pathname) [COMMON-LISP]
      Return a string representation of the name in PATHNAME.
```

```
DELETE-FILE (sb-impl::file) [COMMON-LISP]
      Delete the specified FILE.
```

If *FILE* is a stream, on Windows the stream is closed immediately. On Unix platforms the stream remains open, allowing IO to continue: the OS resources associated with the deleted file remain available till the stream is closed as per standard Unix `unlink()` behaviour.

COMPILE-FILE-PATHNAME (*sb-c::input-file* **&key** [COMMON-LISP]
(sb-c::output-file nil sb-c::output-file-p) **&allow-other-keys**)

Return a pathname describing what file See [COMMON-LISP:COMPILE-FILE function], page 8 would write to given these arguments.

COMPILE-FILE (*sb-c::input-file* **&key** (*sb-c::output-file* [COMMON-LISP]
(sb-c::cfp-output-file-default sb-c::input-file)) *((:verbose*
**compile-verbose*) *compile-verbose*)* *((:print *compile-print*)*
**compile-print*)* (*sb-c::external-format :default*) (*sb-c::trace-file nil*)
*((:block-compile sb-c::*block-compile-arg*) nil)* (*sb-c::emit-cfasl*
*sb-c::*emit-cfasl*)*)

Compile *INPUT-FILE*, producing a corresponding fasl file and returning its filename.

:PRINT

If true, a message per non-macroexpanded top level form is printed to See [COMMON-LISP:*STANDARD-OUTPUT* variable], page 4. Top level forms that whose subforms are processed as top level forms (eg. See *<undefined>* [COMMON-LISP:EVAL-WHEN function], page *<undefined>*, See *<undefined>* [COMMON-LISP:MACROLET function], page *<undefined>*, See *<undefined>* [COMMON-LISP:PROGN function], page *<undefined>*) receive no such message, but their subforms do.

As an extension to ANSI, if *:PRINT* is *:top-level-forms*, a message per top level form after macroexpansion is printed to See [COMMON-LISP:*STANDARD-OUTPUT* variable], page 4.

For example, compiling an See *<undefined>* [COMMON-LISP:IN-PACKAGE function], page *<undefined>* form will result in a message about a top level See *<undefined>* [COMMON-LISP:SETQ function], page *<undefined>* in addition to the message about the See *<undefined>* [COMMON-LISP:IN-PACKAGE function], page *<undefined>* form' itself.

Both forms of reporting obey the See *<undefined>* [SB-EXT:SB-EXT:*COMPILER-PRINT-VARIABLE-ALIST* variable], page *<undefined>*.

:BLOCK-COMPILE

Though See [COMMON-LISP:COMPILE-FILE function], page 8 accepts an additional *:BLOCK-COMPILE* argument, it is not currently supported. (non-standard)

:TRACE-FILE

If given, internal data structures are dumped to the specified file, or if a value of is given, to a file of See *<undefined>* [COMMON-LISP:* function], page *<undefined>*.trace type

derived from the input file name. (non-standard)

:EMIT-CFASL

(Experimental). If true, outputs the toplevel compile-time effects of this file into a separate .cfasl file.

FILE-ERROR-PATHNAME (*condition*) [COMMON-LISP]

FILE-WRITE-DATE (*sb-impl::pathspec*) [COMMON-LISP]

Return the write date of the file specified by *PATHSPEC*.

An error of type is signaled if no such file exists, or if *PATHSPEC* is a wild pathname.

FILE-STRING-LENGTH (*stream sb-impl::object*) [COMMON-LISP]

Categorized definitions

We can also go a bit further and use evaluation to fetch a list of symbols with docstrings matching a certain category. When the syntax **Category:** <category-name> is used in definition docstrings, it is detected by See <undefined> [docweaver/utls:symbols-categorized], page <undefined>.

For example:

```
(@clfunction #.(docweaver/utls:symbols-categorized :docweaver/utls
"foobar" :function))
```

Expands the categorized functions:

BAR *nil* [DOCWEAVER/UTILS]

See [DOCWEAVER/UTILS:BAR function], page 9 function.

Category: foobar.

FOO *nil* [DOCWEAVER/UTILS]

See [DOCWEAVER/UTILS:FOO function], page 9 function.

Category: foobar.

7 API

DOCWEAVER

[PACKAGE]

External definitions

Functions

WEAVE-FILE (*file output-file &rest options &key docsystem* [DOCWEAVER]
modules command-prefix (parse-docstrings t))

Weaves documentation source in *FILE* and writes the result to *OUTPUT-FILE*.

Arguments:

- **DOCSYSTEM**: specify the documentation tool that is being used (*:texinfo*, *:markdown*, etc.).
- **MODULES**: is the list of *modules* (or ASDF system names) that need to be loaded to be able to read definition descriptions.
- **COMMAND-PREFIX**: is the character to use as prefix for commands. The character ‘at’ is the default.
- **PARSE-DOCSTRINGS**: if *T*, then docstings are parsed and highlighted and references to code from it created.

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