

To: Distribution
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Subject: Plans for Online Documentation for Manuals for MR9.0

INTRODUCTION

As a result of the design review, the plans for online documentation have altered somewhat and we are reissuing the MTB to detail those alterations/refinements. The default info seg for help is going to be changed and will point to other sections of an hierarchical structure of info segs. The plans still involve the two commands, `explain_doc` and `where_doc` which are included here in MPM format.

NEW INFO SEGMENTS

The current default info seg, which defines the structure of an info seg, will be moved, and a new default will be written to explain how the help system works and will direct the user to other parts of the help system for specific topics. The new default info seg will contain the following:

- o a definition of help which includes:
 - an explanation that help is used primarily as a reminder. It is not a complete description and for that the user should refer to reference manuals.
 - online information about modules and some topics in summary form.
- o the names of the info segs on the next level of the hierarchical structure:
 - `documentation, doc`
 - explains what online information is available for documentation and how to access it.
 - `topics, tp`
 - describes the general information info segments.

modules, mod

explains how users can access the info segs for commands and subroutines.

structure, struc

explains the structure of an info seg (now the default) and informs the user of validate_info_seg.

NEW DOCUMENTATION COMMANDS

The two new documentation commands, explain_doc and where_doc offer a complete description of specific manuals and supply a list of which manuals document the information the user needs. These two commands share information in a MRDS data base and, because they work so similarly, are separate entries in the same program. The MPM command descriptions which follow explain their use in detail.

explain_doc (edoc)

explain_doc (edoc)

SYNTAX AS A COMMAND:

edoc manual_id {-control_args}

FUNCTION: returns the description of a specified manual(s).

ARGUMENTS:

manual_id
is the manual name, the manual short name, or the order number of the manual. The star convention is allowed.

CONTROL ARGUMENTS:

-description, -desc
is the default control argument and returns a brief description of the contents of a manual.

-audience, -aud
describes the audience for which the manual is intended.

-table of contents, -toc
prints the table of contents of the specified manual.

-new features, -nf
lists all new features that have been added to the manual with the last update. Also, has addendum information.

-all
prints all the sections of manual information.

-brief, -bf
does not enter the request loop. The default is to enter the request loop after the specified sections are printed.

-output_file, -of
directs the output to a file instead of the user's terminal.

REQUESTS:

When a user has invoked the command and the section has been displayed, there is a prompt of the following form:

Another section?

The user may respond with the following requests:

explain_doc (edoc)

explain_doc (edoc)

description, desc
audience, aud
table_of_contents, toc
new_features, nf
all

all the section names may be specified (without the hyphen).

?

lists available responses

no, quit

quits the request loop and returns the user to command level.

EXAMPLE:

! edoc AG92 -audience

MPM Commands and Active Functions AG92

Intended Audience

Programmers' reference manual containing the bulk of Multics
commands and all the active functions

Another section?

where_doc wdoc)

where_doc wdoc)

SYNTAX AS A COMMAND:

wdoc topic_id {-control_args}

FUNCTION: returns the location of specified topics by listing manual name(s) and order number(s).

ARGUMENTS:

topic_id

is the name of a topic or a system module such as a command or subroutine. If a topic of more than one word is specified, it must be enclosed in quotes. The star convention is allowed.

CONTROL ARGUMENTS:

-description, -desc

returns a brief description of the contents of a manual.

-audience, -aud

describes the audience for which the manual is intended.

-table_of_contents, -toc

prints the table of contents of the specified manual.

-new_features, -nf

lists all new features that have been added to the manual since the last update. Also, includes addenda information.

-all

prints all the sections of manual information.

-output_file, -of

directs the output to a file instead of the user's terminal.

EXAMPLE:

! wdoc create_dir

Title: MPM Commands and Active Functions
Order NO. AG92-03; Short Name: Commands