
(Comments on Documentation)

by

Elizabeth D. Rather and E. K. Conklin

Abstract

Good programmer-level documentation is essential in a professional software application, regardless of the language used. It is traditionally a difficult problem, as most programmers do not enjoy writing. Forth presents some special documentation challenges, most notably the necessity to describe a large vocabulary of defined words, sometimes numbering in the thousands. The authors discuss the pros and cons of various techniques they have used in the last fifteen years, including: in-line comments, glossaries, on-line shadow blocks, on-line **LOCATE**, off-line manuals, and other techniques. The recent McDonnell Douglas Electrophoresis Operations in Space project is used as an example.