



BBj Documentation is as Easy as JavaDocs

W

ikipedia defines [Javadoc](#) as “a documentation generator from Sun Microsystems [now Oracle] for generating API documentation in HTML format from Java source code. The HTML format is used to add the convenience of being able to hyperlink related documents together. The ‘doc comments’ format used by Javadoc is the de facto industry standard for documenting Java classes.”

With the help of a new BASIS utility, [BBjToJavadoc](#), and a little effort on your part, you now have a second motivation to put comments in your code, because BBjToJavadoc also gives you the ability to rapidly create API documentation from your BBj® application code using this new BASIS-supplied Javadoc documentation generator.

Figure 1 shows an example of doc comments in BBj code. In this example, the “block tags” are `@param`, `@return`, and `@see`.

```
rem /**
rem * Method doDDX:
rem * Exchange string data between dialog control and program variable
rem * @param BBjString Constructed control Name
rem * @param BBjString Program variable contents
rem * @param BBjNumber Init Flag: 0=Get control data, 1=Set control data
rem * @param BBjNumber Required Flag: Check for empty content when getting data from control
rem * @return BBjString Control data
rem * @see getControlByName()
rem */
method protected BBjString doDDX(BBjString pCtrlName$, BBjString pCtrlContents$, BBjNumber pInitFlag, BBjNumber pRequired)
```

Figure 1. BBj code incorporating doc comments



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The resulting HTML generated would then look like **Figure 2**.

doDDX

```
protected BBjString doDDX(BBjString pCtrlName$,
    BBjString pCtrlContents$,
    BBjNumber pInitFlag,
    BBjNumber pRequired)
```

Method doDDX: Exchange string data between dialog control and program variable

Parameters:

BBjString - Constructed control Name
 BBjString - Program variable contents
 BBjNumber - Init Flag: 0 = Get control data, 1 = Set control data
 BBjNumber - Required Flag: Check for empty content when getting data from control

Returns:

BBjString Control data

See Also:

getControlByName()

Figure 2. Resultant HTML API documentation example

With BBjToJavadoc, BASIS has made it possible for you to embed similar documentation comments in your BBj programs and generate your own documentation in HTML Javadoc format. In particular, your BBj custom classes can take advantage of some of the more advanced documentation capabilities, allowing you to navigate easily via hyperlinks among your classes. Because the Javadoc engine from the Java JDK toolset is used in the process, any valid document tag can be embedded in the doc comments.

Figure 3 is an example of a BBj custom dialog class with some doc comments that the Dialog Wizard embedded for us. Follow the required few simple steps below to generate the corresponding Javadoc documentation.

```
field public BBjTopLevelWindow Wnd!

rem /**
rem * Constructor Custmaintbig
rem */
method public Custmaintbig()
    #super!("custmaintbig.arc",100)
    if stbl("+USER_LOCALE",err=*endif)<>"" then
        #ClientLocale$ = stbl!("+USER_LOCALE")
        #Translator! = BBTranslator.getInstance("Custmaintbig",#ClientLocale$, "en",#PgmDirectory$)
    endif
    #Wnd! = #super!.getWndTop()
    DialogUtils.buildDialogProperties(#Translator!,#super!.getCtrlVect())
    if #Wnd!<>null() then
        #initToolBar()
        #setCallbacks()
    endif
methodend

rem /**
rem * Method initToolBar:
rem * Setup toolbar
rem */
method private void initToolBar()
rem /** DLGWIZ_BAR_BEGIN */
rem /** DLGWIZ_BAR_END */
methodend

rem /**
rem * Method setCallbacks:
rem * Set control callbacks
rem */
method private void setCallbacks()
rem /** DLGWIZ_CBS_BEGIN */
rem /** DLGWIZ_CBS_END */
methodend

    #super!.getControlByName("CustMaintWindow").setCallback(#API!.ON_CLOSE,#this!,"CustMaintWindow__ON_CLOSE")
methodend
```

Figure 3. BBj custom dialog class with embedded doc comments

Step 1. Start the Wizard

To start the wizard, run the program called **BBjToJavadocWizardRun.bb** located in the **<BBjHome>/utils/BBjToJavadoc** folder.

Once the wizard launches (**Figure 4**), stipulate where to store the generated documentation and choose the level of scope, or visibility, the documentation includes - public, protected, or private. Choosing a 'private' level of scope documents everything.

Lastly, choose one or more non-tokenized BBj source files to document.

Step 2. Set Options

After clicking the [Next] button, proceed to the second screen (**Figure 5**) to set options for the Javadoc program. Read more about these options in the online [Javadoc documentation](#).

Step 3. Generate the Docs

Now, you are ready to generate the actual documentation, so click [Next] and then [Finish] to display the completed screen shown in (**Figure 6**). You have the option to show the results of the generation immediately upon completion.

If desired, the Wizard displays the nicely structured HTML documentation in your default browser (**Figure 7**). You can easily navigate between the different regions of the document - the field summary, constructors, and the methods themselves. Clicking the hyperlinks for methods or fields in the left navigation pane takes you to a copy of the code that defines the entity.

So just that easily, the BBjToJavadoc utility has done all the work for you, simply creating a robust hyperlinked documentation system derived from your own code.

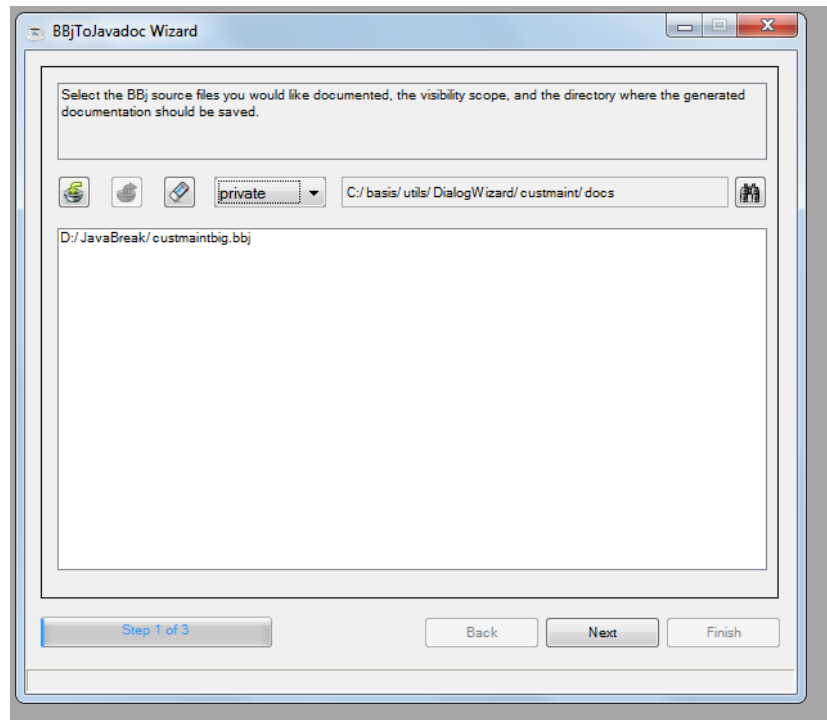


Figure 4. Wizard screen for Step 1

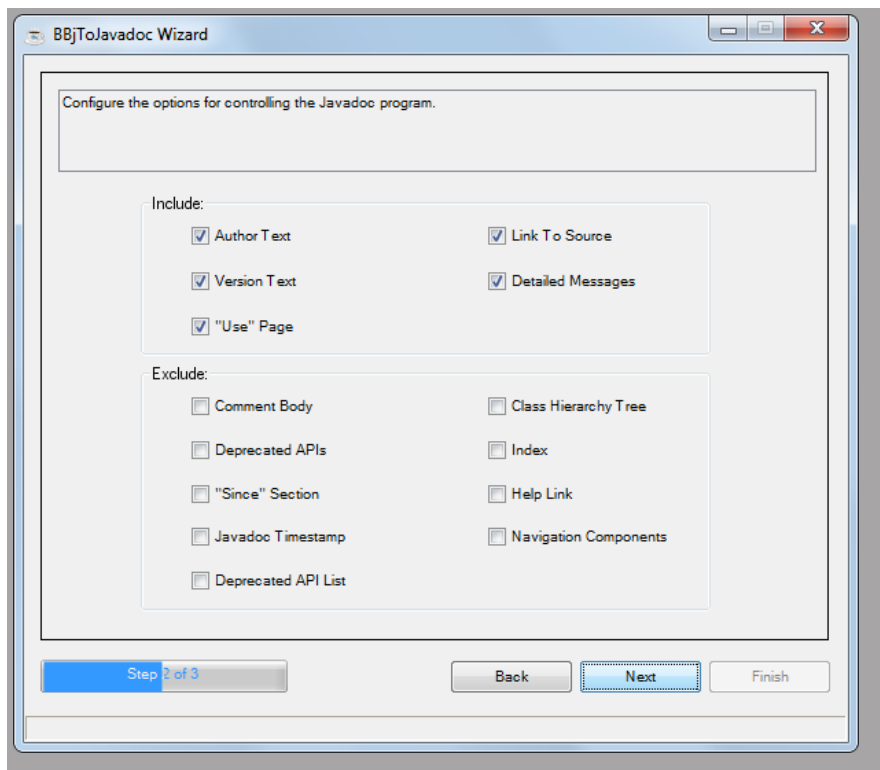


Figure 5. Wizard screen for Step 2

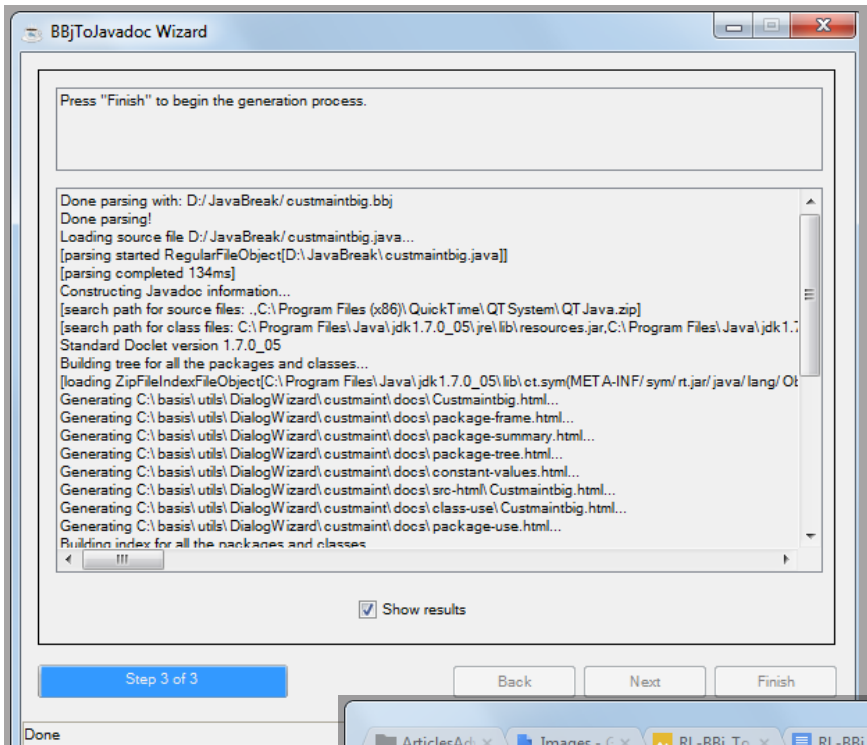


Figure 6. Wizard screen for Step 3

Summary

BBjToJavadoc is a documentation generator from BASIS for generating API documentation in HTML format from BBj source code. The HTML format is used to add the convenience of being able to hyperlink related documents together. The 'doc comments' format used by BBjToJavadoc is the BASIS standard for documenting BBj custom classes. While we can't actually remove the often neglected task of documenting your code from your 'to-do' list, this BASIS building block utility makes it as easy as possible for you to write self-documenting object-oriented code. ■

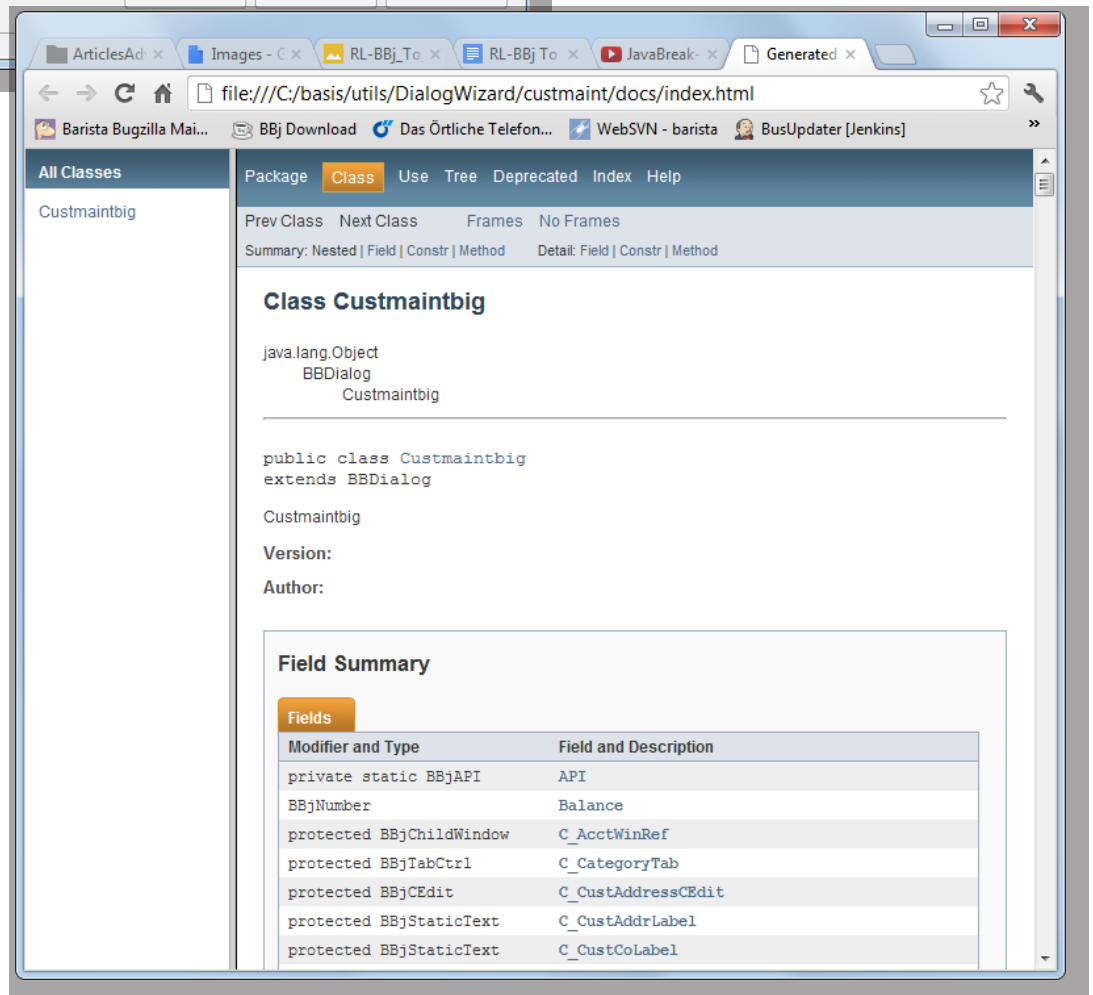


Figure 7. Resultant HTML documentation



For more information, visit

- [BBDocsGenerator User Guide](#)
- [Oracle Java API Documentation Generator](#)
- [Oracle Javadoc Tool](#)