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**WDL-AID**

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## PREPARING YOUR WDL FILES

Before the documentation can be generated, each input and output in your WDL file must be given a description and category. This is done using WDL's `parameter_meta` section:

```
parameter_meta {  
  name_of_input: {  
    description: "Some description of the input",  
    category: "some category"  
  }  
}
```

These fields (description and category) may also be called differently, but you will have to set some additional options when running WDL-AID, see *Custom description and category keys*.

WDL-AID will separate the inputs (and outputs) by category, so each category may be rendered in its own section. Required inputs are automatically detected and assigned the `required` category, overwriting the one noted in the `parameter_meta` section. This behaviour can be disabled using the `--do-not-separate-required` flag.

The default template supports the following categories for inputs:

- `required`
- `common`
- `advanced`
- `other`

For outputs any set categories will be ignored in the default template. All outputs will instead get listed under one header.

### 1.1 Excluding inputs

In some cases there may be inputs/outputs which should not be included in the documentation, eg. when using a sub-workflow which provides options which make no sense in the context of the overarching workflow. You can tell WDL\_AID to omit certain inputs/outputs by adding the following to your workflow's `meta` section:

```
WDL_AID: {  
  exclude: ["input_name", "call.input_name"]  
}
```

The inputs added here may be part of the workflow or task containing the meta section or from any call made inside of the workflow. Be sure to use the input names qualified relative to this workflow, ie. `input_name` for inputs of

the task/workflow itself, `call_name.input_name` for inputs of calls, `call_name.sub_call_name.input_name` for calls inside of sub-workflows, etc.

## 1.2 Metadata

The `meta` section of your workflow may also be used to pass additional information along to WDL-AID. The entire meta section of the workflow that WDL-AID gets called on is passed to the template unaltered. WDL-AID will also retrieve all authors from the meta sections of every called task and workflow and pass these along.

The default template supports the following meta section entries:

- `description` (only for the root workflow)
- `authors` (also for sub-workflows and tasks)

This is expected to be an object containing the following fields for each author:

- `name`
- `email` (optional)
- `organization` (optional)

eg.

```
meta {
  authors: [
    {
      name: "Eddard Stark",
      email: "StarkNed@winterfell.westeros",
      organization: "The North"
    }, {
      name: "Jon Snow",
      email: "j.snow@nightswatch.westeros",
      organization: "The Night's Watch"
    }
  ]
}
```

## RUNNING WDL-AID

WDL-AID can be run with the following command:

```
wdl-aid <workflow.wdl>
```

This will print the generated documentation to `stdout`. This will be markdown formatted text when using the default template.

### 2.1 Writing to a file

To write the output to a file the following option can be used:

**-o OUTPUT, --output OUTPUT**

The file to write the generated documentation to.

### 2.2 Fallback/default values

If no description or category is defined then WDL-AID will fallback to a default value. By default these values equal `???` and `other` respectively. You may override these fallback values using the following options:

**--fallback-description FALLBACK\_DESCRIPTION**

The fallback value for when no description is defined for a given input/output.

**--fallback-category FALLBACK\_CATEGORY**

The fallback value for when no category is defined for a given input/output.

In some cases a `parameter_meta` entry may be defined, but it does not contain the an object with a description item. By default the fallback values will get used in these cases. However, alternatively you can use the entirety of the defined `parameter_meta` entry as description value using the following flag:

**--fallback-description-to-object**

Use the entire `parameter_meta` object as description if the description key is not found.

## 2.3 Custom description and category keys

In case your `parameter_meta` entries use different keys than `description` and `category` to provide the description and category (respectively) of the inputs/outputs, you can use the following options to inform WDL-AID of which keys to look for:

- c CATEGORY\_KEY, --category-key CATEGORY\_KEY**  
The key used in the `parameter_meta` sections for the input/output category.
- d DESCRIPTION\_KEY, --description-key DESCRIPTION\_KEY**  
The key used in the `parameter_meta` section for the input/output description.

## 2.4 Keeping original categories for required inputs

If you wish to retain the categories noted in the `parameter_meta` sections for the required input, rather than having the overwritten with `required` then you can use the following flag:

## 2.5 Custom templates

You can provide a custom template using the following option. This template should be a [Jinja2](#) template.

- t TEMPLATE, --template TEMPLATE**  
A Jinja2 template to use for rendering the documentation.

See [Custom templates](#) for more details on making a custom template.

## 2.6 Extra data

It is possible to pass extra data along to the template. This can be done by providing the following option with a json file which contains this extra data.

- e EXTRA, --extra EXTRA**  
A JSON file with additional data to be passed to the `jinja2` rendering engine.

## 2.7 Strict mode

WDL-AID has an option to run in a “strict” mode. This entails that WDL-AID will error if any inputs or outputs are missing a `parameter_meta` section. This may be useful as part of CI testing, allowing you to ensure that all inputs and outputs will always be documented.

- strict**  
Error if the `parameter_meta` entry is missing for any inputs or outputs.  
Alternatively, you can use set this strict mode specifically for inputs or outputs as well.
- strict-inputs**  
Error if the `parameter_meta` entry is missing for any inputs.
- strict-outputs**  
Error if the `parameter_meta` entry is missing for any outputs.



## CUSTOM TEMPLATES

WDL-AID uses [Jinja2](#) to generate documentation files. By default a template is provided to Jinja2 which comes packaged with WDL-AID. This default template will result in a markdown file. If you wish to generate a differently formatted file (eg. html) or simply want to change the content of the document then you can provide a custom Jinja2 template. This custom template can be passed to WDL-AID using the `-t` option.

The following variables are made available to the template:

- **workflow\_name**: The name of the workflow.
- **workflow\_file**: The path given as input to WDL-AID.
- **workflow\_authors**: A list of author information, taken from the `authors` field in the meta section. If this field does not contain a list its value will be wrapped in one.
- **workflow\_all\_authors**: A list of author information taken from the `authors` fields from the workflow and called sub-workflows and tasks.
- **workflow\_meta**: A direct copy of the workflow's meta section.
- **excluded\_inputs**: A list of fully-qualified inputs which are available but will be excluded from the rendering process.
- **excluded\_outputs**: A list of fully-qualified outputs which are available but will be excluded from the rendering process.
- **wdl\_aid\_version**: The version of WDL-AID used
- **inputs**: A dictionary which for each input category contains a list of dictionaries. These inner dictionaries will describe an input and contains the following keys:
  - **name**: The (fully qualified) name of the input.
  - **type**: The WDL value type of the input (eg. `String?` or `Pair[Int, Boolean]`).
  - **default**: The default value of the input. If an input has no default, then `None`.
  - **description**: The description of the input as specified in the `parameter_meta` sections in the WDL file(s).
- **outputs**: A dictionary which for each output category contains a list of dictionaries. These inner dictionaries will describe an output and contains the following keys:
  - **name**: The (fully qualified) name of the output.
  - **type**: The WDL value type of the output (eg. `String?` or `Pair[Int, Boolean]`).
  - **description**: The description of the output as specified in the `parameter_meta` sections in the WDL file(s).
- **extra**: Whatever value is contained within the JSON file provided though the `-e` option, otherwise `None`.

## 3.1 Minimalistic Example

The following is a small example of a template that could be used with WDL-AID.

```
<html>
<head>
  <title>{{ workflow_name }}</title>
  <style>
    ul { list-style: none; }
    li { background: #e5e5e5; padding: 10px; }
    li:nth-child(odd) { background: #f0f0f0; }
    dt { font-weight: bold }
  </style>
</head>
<body>
  <h1>{{ workflow_name }}</h1>
  {{ workflow_description }}
  <h2>Required Inputs</h2>

  <ul>
    {% for ri in inputs.required|sort(attribute='name') %}
      <li>
        <dl>
          <dt>name</dt>
          <dd>{{ ri.name }}</dd>
          <dt>type</dt>
          <dd>{{ ri.type }}</dd>
          <dt>default value</dt>
          <dd>{{ ri.default }}</dd>
          <dt>description</dt>
          <dd>{{ ri.description }}</dd>
        </dl>
      </li>
    {% endfor %}
  </ul>
</body>
</html>
```

## CHANGELOG

### 4.1 v1.0.0

- Strict mode can now be set for inputs and outputs separately using the `--strict-inputs` and `--strict-outputs` flags respectively. `--strict` sets both to true.
- Input categories are now presented to jinja2 under the `inputs` variable, rather than as top-level variables themselves.
- The default template will now include the outputs. The outputs' categories are ignored by the default template.
- Documenting outputs is now supported. Information regarding the outputs will be presented to jinja2 under the `outputs` variable in a similar structure as the inputs, but without the `default` field.
- Miniwdl no longer needs to be specifically version 0.5. Version 1.0 or higher is now expected.
- The error shown when there is no workflow in the given WDL file is now clearer.

### 4.2 v0.1.1

- Inputs without a default will now be given a `None` value in the default field passed to jinja2, instead of a string containing `None`. This should not impact generated documents (unless specific logic dealing with `None` values is used), as jinja will still render `None` values as `None`.

### 4.3 v0.1.0

- initial release



## WELCOME TO WDL-AID'S DOCUMENTATION!

Generate documentation for the inputs and outputs of [WDL](#) workflows, based on the [parameter\\_meta](#) information defined in the WDL file.

WDL-AID is developed by the Sequencing Analysis Support Core at the [Leiden University Medical Center](#).

### 5.1 Quick start

#### 5.1.1 Installation

WDL-AID can be installed using:

```
pip install wdl-aid
```

#### 5.1.2 Basic usage

Running WDL-AID requires the following steps:

1. Add [parameter\\_meta](#) sections to your tasks and workflows. These should be objects containing both a description and category:

```
parameter_meta {  
  input_name: {  
    description: "A description of what value should be provided and is what it_  
↪is used for.",  
    category: "required"  
  }  
}
```

For inputs the available categories in the default template are:

- required
- common
- advanced
- other

Required inputs are automatically detected and their noted category will be overwritten with **required**.

For outputs the default template will ignore the categories and simply list all categories under one header.

2. Once installed, WDL-AID can be run using the following command:

```
wdl-aid <workflow.wdl> -o docs.md
```

This will generate the file `docs.md`, containing the generated documentation.

## 5.2 Reporting bugs and feature requests

Please report any bugs, issues or pull requests on the [github issue tracker](#).

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genindex

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