

# Documented source code: here's what you've been waiting for.



Why are well-documented sources an economical benefit for each IT department? A question that is easily answered by software professionals: *because they save time*. This fact is illustrated by the presence of a well-defined documentation phase in the master plan of every software project.

But what happens to the documentation during a software lifecycle? Easy again: because of time pressure during final development, and because of the necessity to release a product as quickly as possible in a market that keeps changing, the creation and maintenance of technical documentation are the first tasks to be abandoned.

## With re•Source, it's never too late

Whether the existing documentation needs refining, or a complete build-up of documentation is required, re•Source is capable of adding extensive technical information and knowledge at all times. This includes detailed information on all components of an application, no matter how big or complex, including databases, job control, screens etc. Varying levels of organizational information document a complete program, from the smallest switching of bits to the global transaction overview.

## re•Source is extremely flexible

re•Source gives new meaning to 'on-line documentation' by providing live application information i.e. not yesteryears books. Through its natural agility and by using the application itself as groundwork, re•Source guarantees extreme currency of the information presented. Even better, just ask what kind of information you want and re•Source will generate it for you in your preferred format, including HTML and various PC application formats..

## Access and ease of use

Even when investigating the most obscure of mammoth applications, re•Source still makes information easily accessible. Embedded browser technology enables re•Source to navigate complex applications as if exploring the blueprint of a big house. The same technology provides for the lowest barrier for learning and using the many features of re•Source.

## Everybody benefits from expert tools

For the production of technical documentation re•Source automates everything that can be automated, so that programmers can focus their creativity on bringing the best product. As a result, resource usage is optimized and project control becomes precise and efficient.

## Documentation = knowledge

If a software project doesn't end up with documented source code, knowledge is available only in the heads of the programmers. That may not be the most reliable basis for future maintenance activities. The problems encountered in preparing for Y2K did make this point clear. Up-to-date documentation must be available where the code resides. And it should not be allowed to retire.

## Documentation = flexibility

A well known and understood piece of software can be maintained and updated. Its documentation is the basis for estimating and planning maintenance and re-engineering tasks. This means that accurate documentation will keep software products alive-and-kicking for much longer. Without restrictions because *'something is missing'*.

## Documentation provides easy ROI

By supporting both the generation of technical documentation as well as supplying answers to questions posed out-of-the-blue, re•Source assists during all phases of a software lifecycle. From long-term ROI through reduced support and maintenance requirements to quick results that support a more efficient decision process, documentation is an ideal tool for reaching optimal IT management.

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