

Problem

How do I write a command help in C++?

Solution

It is preferable to use class that comes from ACE library, ACE_Get_Opt: http://www.dre.vanderbilt.edu/Doxygen/Current/html/ace/classACE__Get__Opt.html

Here there is a brief example of use:

```
#include <ARGV.h>
#include <ace/Arg_Shifter.h>
#include <ace/Get_Opt.h>

....

ACE_Get_Opt get_opts (argc, &argv[1], "db:");

ACE_CString m_b_arg_string("");
int m_a_arg_int = -1;

// the third parameter can be ACE_Get_Opt::ARG_REQUIRED, ACE_Get_Opt::ARG_OPTIONAL or without 3rd argument
for a no argument.
if (get_opts.long_option(ACE_TEXT ("a_long_option"), 'a', ACE_Get_Opt::ARG_REQUIRED) == -1)
    return -1;
if (get_opts.long_option(ACE_TEXT ("another_long_option"), 88) == -1)
    return -1;
if (get_opts.long_option(ACE_TEXT ("help"), h) == -1)
    return -1;
int c;
while ((c = get_opts ()) != -1)
    switch (c)
    {
        case 'd':
            //do something
            break;
        case 'b':
            m_b_arg_string = ACE_CString(get_opts.optarg);
            //do something else
            break;
        case 'a':
            //always check if the value is numeric if that is needed
            if(isNumeric(get_opts.optarg))
                m_a_arg_int = atoi(get_opts.optarg);
            else
                showUsage(argc, argv);
            break;
        case 88:
            //do something
            break;
        case '?':
            //this case informs when the option, that needs an argument, doesn't have it.
            ACS_SHORT_LOG((LM_INFO, MyProgram::main: Option -%c requires an argument!", get_opts.opt_opt()));
            return -1;
        case 'h':
        default:
            showUsage(argc, argv);
    }
}
```

-- [CarlitaParedes](#) - 27 Jun 2006

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