CoCoA-5 - Bug #34

CoCoAManual: obsolete entries in the manual

22 Nov 2011 14:07 - Anna Maria Bigatti

Status:	Closed		**Start date:**	22 Nov 2011
Priority:	Normal		**Due date:**	
Assignee:	Anna Maria Bigatti		**% Done:**	100%
Category:	Manual/documentation		**Estimated time:**	15.00 hours
Target version:	CoCoA-5.1.1 Seoul14		**Spent time:**	8.50 hours

Description
Some functions and commands are now obsolete ("Delete", "Call", ...). The related entry (with searchable "<key>") should be part of a section "Obsolete Functions and Commands" with motivation and instructions for conversion (if any)

Related issues:		
Related to CoCoA-5 - Support #177: CoCoAManual: General part of the documenta...	**In Progress**	**01 Jun 2012**
Related to CoCoA-5 - Support #488: CoCoAManual: Help page for porting old C4 ...	**Closed**	**21 Mar 2014**

History

#1 - 22 Nov 2011 14:08 - Anna Maria Bigatti

- Project changed from CoCoA to CoCoA-5

#2 - 22 Nov 2011 14:09 - Anna Maria Bigatti

- Subject changed from obsolete entries in tha manual to obsolete entries in the manual

- Category set to Manual/documentation

#3 - 21 Feb 2013 19:34 - Anna Maria Bigatti

- Status changed from New to In Progress

- % Done changed from 0 to 10

fixed some uppercase/lowercase entries for **make texdoc**

#4 - 02 Apr 2014 17:33 - Anna Maria Bigatti

- Target version set to CoCoA-5.1.0 Easter14

#5 - 09 Apr 2014 14:53 - John Abbott

- Target version changed from CoCoA-5.1.0 Easter14 to CoCoA-5.1.1 Seoul14

#6 - 02 Jul 2014 16:29 - Anna Maria Bigatti

- Subject changed from obsolete entries in the manual to CoCoAManual: obsolete entries in the manual

- Status changed from In Progress to Resolved

I added the key "obsolete".
now

```
? obsolete
```

gives the list of obsolete commands (which usually give motivation and modern alternatives)
Is that good enough?
I might be able to make a "Obsolete Functions and Commands" page.... maybe....

#7 - 15 Jul 2014 12:37 - Anna Maria Bigatti

Anna Maria Bigatti wrote:

> I added the key "obsolete".
> now
> [...]
> gives the list of obsolete commands (which usually give motivation and modern alternatives)

Now I think of removing the key **obsolete** and just add **(obsolete)** to the title: it would work for the search and would be more evident (and visible in the index)

#8 - 15 Jul 2014 13:48 - John Abbott

I think your suggestion is a good one.

I propose adding OBSOLETE (in capitals) as the first word of the title; that should make it highly visible (and probably a bit ugly, but that could be a "feature" :-))

#9 - 15 Jul 2014 14:38 - Anna Maria Bigatti

John Abbott wrote:

> I propose adding OBSOLETE (in capitals) as the first word of the title;

I made it all capital, but as the last word of the title (to keep alphabetical order)

#10 - 15 Jul 2014 14:38 - Anna Maria Bigatti

- % Done changed from 10 to 50

#11 - 16 Jul 2014 15:37 - Anna Maria Bigatti

- Status changed from Resolved to Feedback

- % Done changed from 50 to 80

Done. Rule for maintaining it.
(1) Add [OBSOLETE] or [OBSOLESCENT] in the title of obsolete/obsolescent functions, possibily giving motivation/instructions/examples on how to update.
(2) search in CoCoA-5 for "? obsolete" will automatically give the list of obsolete functions
(3) New chapter "Migrating from CoCoA-4 and keeping up-to-date" should give general information of major changes, and also (automatically) list all obsolete and obsolescent functions

#12 - 16 Jul 2014 15:40 - Anna Maria Bigatti

Remember that obsolescent functions should be moved to the package obsolescent.cpkg5.
Now they all works silently.
Should they issue a warning in the last year before being removed?

#13 - 16 Jul 2014 15:51 - John Abbott

Yes, obsolescent functions should give some warning that they are going to disappear (and presumably what to do instead -- perhaps in the manual page?).

One problem with warnings (*e.g.* forgetting a ref when calling append) is that you can get hundreds of messages appearing if you call the function in a loop. While this may encourage some users to revise their code, it could also really annoy others (*e.g.* me).

In summary: yes, there should be warnings about obsolescent functions, but not too many of them.

Perhaps warnings should not be printed immediately, but saved up until the next prompt, and then printed (perhaps with a repeat count?)

FURTHER THOUGHTS the message warning about obsolescence should look like a **warning** (*e.g.* starting with the string WARNING:)

#14 - 02 Sep 2014 11:30 - John Abbott

- Status changed from Feedback to Closed

- % Done changed from 80 to 100