

New Features of Eli Version 4.6

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New Features of Eli Version 4.6

This document gives information about new facilities available in Eli version 4.6 and those modifications made since the previous distributed Eli version 4.5 that might be of general interest. Numerous corrections, improvements, and additions have been made without being described here.

1 Additional Packages

Eli is a collection of *packages* that define sets of tools and workflow patterns. The actual generation process is handled by *Odin*, a program designed to manage a collection of artifacts and tools to provide products that are up-to-date with respect to all of the raw material on which they are based.

Many of the packages included in the Eli distribution define tools and workflow patterns that, although they support text-processor generation, are useful for other applications. Version 4.6 simplifies the processes of modifying existing packages and of adding new packages to take advantage of these facilities.

We are also making additional packages available individually in conjunction with the standard Eli distribution. These additional packages are distributed as tar files whose names begin with `pkg-`.

For those interested in constructing their own packages, the best reference is the book *Generating Software from Specifications* (see <http://www.jbpub.com/catalog/0763741248/>).

2 New `eli` Parameter

We have added a parameter `-p 'dir'` to the `eli` command (see Section “Packages in the cache” in *Eli System Administration Guide*). Here `'dir'` is the absolute path name of a directory containing either a package or a package collection (see Section “Package Management” in *Eli System Administration Guide*).

An `eli` command may have any number of `-p` parameters, which are considered in order from left to right. They are effective only when the cache specified by the `eli` command does not exist, or when it is being rebuilt because the `-R` parameter is also given. In either case, the package(s) specified are added to the set of packages to be used in building the cache (see Section “Cache Management” in *Eli System Administration Guide*).

3 The `installpkg` Product

The standard Eli packages can be installed in a library that can be updated without affecting any caches currently being used (see Section “Installation” in *Eli System Administration Guide*). Updates only take effect if a new cache is created or an existing cache is reset by executing and `eli` command on that cache with the `-R` parameter.

We have added the `installpkg` product to allow users to install additional packages in the standard library or to create their own libraries (see Section “Installing additional packages” in *Eli System Administration Guide*). To take advantage of this facility, the packages must be *versioned* (see Section “Versioned packages” in *Eli System Administration Guide*).

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