

Describing a bean in velocity

The follow snippet might be useful during debugging to list the properties inside an arbitrary bean. Or for handing to a UI developer that use unaware of the getters/setters inside an object.

```
## prints out the property names for a bean
#macro (describeBean $name)
#set($bu = $struts.bean("com.opensymphony.util.BeanUtils"))
    #foreach($propName in $bu.getPropertyNames($name))
        <li>$propName</li>
    #end
#end
```

i.e. assuming \$obj is a PersonObject that has properties(firstName, lastName, and zip).

```
#describeBean($obj)
```

would print

```
<li>firstName</li>
<li>lastName</li>
<li>zip</li>
```

One might also expand upon this to build a dynamic interface with via reflection. e.g.

```
$struts.evaluate("$obj.${propName}")
```