

blog

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1 Selectively exporting headlines in org-mode

I have on several occasions needed to selectively export only portions of an org document. For example, I may write a problem set or exam, and have some headlines that are the problems, and others that are the solutions. Or, I may have done some analysis in a headline, e.g. statistics of problem scores that I do not want in exported content, or I have a manuscript with a supporting information section that does not go in the exported manuscript, and the manuscript cannot go in the supporting information file.

org-mode supports [selective export](#) through use of tags. However, this is inflexible if you want to export multiple different documents with different selective exports, unless you don't mind changing the settings, or commenting and uncommenting lines all the time.

Enter dynamic binding of variables in emacs-lisp. We can temporarily define variables, especially `org-export-select-tags` and `org-export-exclude-tags`, and write emacs-lisp code blocks to export the current document the way we want. First, let us create some headlines.

1.1 problem 1 **problem**

description of a hard problem

1.1.1 solution to problem 1

solution

it is an easy solution

1.2 problem 2

problem

what is the square root of 100?

1.2.1 solution to problem 2

solution

why it's 10 of course.