slothunters

<p>Back in the olden days, you had no choice but to use slots if you want

to connect to</p>
<p> signals.📉 This is no longer the case in Qt 5, where connection

s can be made to regular</p>
<p> member functions or even📉 free functions or lambdas.</p>
<p>Declaring a slot registers that</p>
<p> function into that particular object's meta data, making it readil

y available to📉 all of</p>
<p> Qt's functionality which relies on the meta object. Other than tha

t, it is a regular</p>
<p> member function as📉 the documentation states. There is nothing

special in the slot</p>
<p> function itself, the difference is in the generation of meta📉

data for it in the meta</p>
<p> object.</p>
<p>This means that declaring slots comes at some cost, albeit a small one,

both📉 in</p>
<p> compilation time and executable size. I'd say it is overkill to ha

ve all your public</p>
<p> functions as slots. It📉 would be more efficient to only use sl

ots when you actually need</p>
<p> slots, if it can't work with a regular📉 function, make it

a slot.</p>
<p>Also, note that in</p>
<p> almost all of the cases, signals are declared with a return type&#1282

01; void . This has to do</p>
<p> with the typical usage case of signals - they can often pass a paramet

er,📉 but rarely</p>
<p> return anything. Even though it is possible to return a value through

a signal</p>
<p> connected to a slot,📉 this is used extremely rarely. So it doe

sn't make a lot of sense</p>
<p> to declare a function that returns something📉 as a slot you in

tend to connect to, as the</p>
<p> very fact it returns a value means it will most📉 likely not be

used in the typical</p>
<p> signal/slot context. That's why the getter is not a slot in that e

xample.📉 The setter as</p>
<p> a slot is redundant in Qt 5, and is probably the product of this examp

le code dating</p>
<p>📉 back to Qt 4.</p>
<p>Lastly, separating slots from regular public functions is a good way to

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<p> illustrate intent, or the "API"📉 of that class if yo

u will. For example, I mostly use</p>
<p> slots when extending QML, so I don't have to📉 mark every f