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Subject: Re: Calling Help Files

Posted by [David Foster](#) on Wed, 21 Jan 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

>  
> Kerstin Voigt (voigt@dlr.de) writes:  
>  
>> does anybody know, how I can call a self created help file from within IDL  
>> 5.0?  
>> They have the standard Microsoft \*.hlp-format (PC environment).  
>  
> To create an "authentic" IDL help file requires that you have  
> a particular help file compiler, I believe. But since I always  
> have a WWW browser open anyway, I've found it convenient  
> to use HTML help for my IDL procedures. I simply use the  
> template.pro file to create a template for my programs.  
> (It uses the ";" and "-" convention to delineate a section  
> of code used for comments.)  
>  
> Then I just use the MK\_HTML\_HELP routine from the IDL library  
> to construct an HTML file from my IDL procedures and functions.  
> It is all done in one step. This, for example, is what I use  
> to build the help files for the program files on my web page.  
>

I guess I am just plain primitive, but my help files are plain  
ascii files, with a .doc extension. They are placed in the directories  
where the .pro files live, and I use my program LHELP.PRO to display  
them (easy interface, search capability, and can view .pro files as  
well). No snazzy hypertext links or fancy fonts, but works quite well.

If you're interested you can download LHELP.PRO and supporting routines  
via anonymous ftp:

bial8.ucsd.edu pub/software/idl/share/Lhelp/lhelp.tar.gz

Dave

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