
Subject: Re: RANDOMU bug (and HTML help)
Posted by [landsman](#) on Tue, 23 Feb 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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In article <7arrcv\$a7\$1@hammer.msfc.nasa.gov>, mallors@msfc.nasa.gov (Robert S. Mallozzi) writes...

> From a message I received from RSI regarding IDL HTML help:

>

> "The IDL html help files were removed from the IDL 5.2
> distribution as a space-saving measure. They are considered
> to be redundant."

>

> It looks like we are stuck with the painfully slow "hyperhelp".

Under Solaris, the hyperhelp also has the occasional habit of crashing the system.

Another advantage of the html help files is that html is the easiest method of creating help files for user written procedures. Thus one can create links between the documentation for intrinsic and user-written procedures, or create a search page that includes both intrinsic and user-written procedures. (I have a simple interface for the latter at http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/cgi-bin/search_idl.cgi)

Finally html has the advantage of being a familiar interface (e.g. Netscape or Explorer) across all systems, whereas I often find myself reading the help on how to use the IDL hyperhelp.

--Wayne Landsman

landsman@mpb.gsfc.nasa.gov
