
Subject: Cool Help!

Posted by [btupper](#) on Mon, 08 Jul 2002 14:53:47 GMT

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Hello,

You may recall a while back that I had a thorn under my saddle regarding the IDL online help (in particular for IDL 5.5 which was padded on as a PDF.) Some folk passed along ideas about what might be nice for future online help system, and I faithfully sent those ideas along to RSI. I hope I sent them to the right place but I have no idea since I received no response.

In the meantime, Andrew Cool had been cooking up a method for extracting the online help text (including that for IDL 5.5) via that neat IDL 5.5 HTML help files that David is hosting at his website. I still don't know who crafted that.

We have now wrapped Andrew's query routine with a GUI wrapper. The GUI provides an alphabetical index, a routine list, a 'See Also' list, and the help text for the queried routine. The GUI is object based but the object is stored in a system variable for easy access.

You can retrieve the three necessary files from...

www.tidewater.net/~pemaquid/coolhelp.zip

Simply unzip all three files into your !PATH and then

IDL> ch

or

IDL> ch, 'uniq' ;or whatever routine you would like to see

You might need to reset your session before it will work and you *WILL* need to have

(1) Martin Schultz's MGS_BASEOBJECT

<http://www.mpimet.mpg.de/~schultz.martin/idl/index.html>

and

(2) David Fanning's COYOTE_PROGRAMS.ZIP

<http://www.dfanning.com/documents/programs/coyoteprograms.zip>

This package has been tested on WIN98 and Win2000. Please direct comments and suggestions to Andrew at andrew.cool@dsto.defence.gov.au or to me at pemaquidriver@tidewater.net.

Regards,

Ben
