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Subject: Re: Searching PDF help in IDL 5.6  
Posted by [btupper](#) on Fri, 01 Aug 2003 00:11:47 GMT  
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On Thu, 31 Jul 2003 17:35:40 -0400, William Thompson  
<[thompson@orpheus.nascom.nasa.gov](mailto:thompson@orpheus.nascom.nasa.gov)> wrote:

> Justin:  
>  
> I don't know why you can't search under Solaris. I know that it's not possible  
> under Linux. This line is found in the README file distributed with the Linux  
> version of acroread  
>  
>> Adobe Acrobat Reader 5.0.7 Additional Information  
>>  
>> There is no search functionality available for the Linux version of the  
>> Acrobat Reader.  
>  
> Major bummer!  
>  
> What I do is to go through the alphabetical index to find what I'm looking for,  
> which is awkward, or simply fire up the IDL help from 5.4.  
>  
> William Thompson  
>  
>  
> Justin wrote:  
>> Dear all,  
>>  
>> IDL 5.6, Solaris 5.9, Acroread 5.0.5  
>>  
>> We've just upgraded from IDL 5.4 to 5.6 (nothing like being on the  
>> cutting edge). Now I'm really not keen on the PDF help (seems like a way  
>> for RSI to make it easier for themselves and not the user) but I think  
>> that discussion has already been had and so no need to resurrect it...  
>>  
>> So my problem: I can't "search" the PDF help files, I can only "find" in  
>> them. The "search" uses index files to speed things up. I've found an  
>> index.pdx file in /opt/idl/idl\_5.6/help, but when I add this to the list  
>> of indexes in Acrobat Reader I get "index is currently unavailable". Can  
>> other people search the documentation? Is it Solaris, IDL, Acroread or  
>> bad-luck?  
>>  
>>  
>> I've just done a test and it takes 3mins 10sec (on my SunBlade 100) to  
>> do a 'find' through just the IDL Reference Guide - though things are  
>> quicker if you look for something at the beginning of the file. Not  
>> really the speed I was after!

>>  
>> Any hints gratefully received,  
>>  
>> Thanks, Justin  
>>  
>> PS I get a feeling that this might bring out the IDLWave evangelists!  
>>  
>

Hello,

I have been tinkering with an update to CoolHelp (ala CoolHelp2).  
This new system draws on the graciously provided HTML help files that  
come from idlwave.org

CoolHelp2 can be called with or without a GUI and on some platforms  
you can control the number of help browsers open at any one time.  
Right now, the only pages accessible are fro built in routines, so  
it's not the same as have the fullblown "random" access help system.  
But what can you expect from lunchtime hacking?

I tried to be faithful to the original CoolHelp look and feel, and I  
think the transition should be easy.

You can get the help files from idlwave.org (Thanks JD) and CoolHelp2  
from <http://www.tidewater.net/~pemaquid/#COOLHELP2>

Feedback always welcome.

Cheers,  
Ben

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