Subject: Re: IDL online help for v6.0 (sigh)
Posted by JD Smith on Fri, 12 Mar 2004 21:37:12 GMT
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:On Fri, 12 Mar 2004 14:49:37 -0500, Ben Tupper wrote:

> Paul Van Delst wrote:
>
>> Hello there,
>>
>> Well, I just got meself a new computer with Redhat Enterprise
>> 3.something and IDL 6.0. IDL works fine (so far), but the online help
>> requires acroread. Typically this wouldn't be a problem, but the powers
>> that be tell me that acroread is not available for RH Enterprise
>> (whether for technical and/or legal/political reasons I don't know).
>> I've tried substituting in open sourced readers like xpdf, but IDL
>> insists on using acroread (and, anyway, when I do use xpdf on the actual
>> help files, I don't have a lot of functionality).
>>
>> I know this was all hashed out in this newsgroup when the online help
>> change occurred, but since I had old versions, I really didn't give it
>> much thought. Now, however, I have a brand spanking new version of IDL,
>> but no online help.
>>
>> Can some kind person out there tell me what my options are? Will
>> acroread v5.0 run on RH Enterprise? Or can the help files be converted
>> somehow for use in a regular browser like mozilla? (I recall something
>> about this when this was previosuly discussed.)
>>
>> Thanks for any info.
>>
>> paulv
>>
> Hi Paul,
>
> I find that 99% of the time I use the HTML help system that is
> distributed with IDLWAVE (idlwave.org) even though I don't use IDLWAVE
> (yet). I find it very well organized and easy to navigate.
>
> I put a link to funclisting.html on my browser bar (it's my home page, too)

Thanks for the plug, Paul. If you like the HTML help (which really shines
in a Mozilla-based browser, especially once you've taken the measures
described in http://idlwave.org/idlwave.html Appendix B to get the illegal
Microsoft use of the "Symbol" font to work correctly), imagine having it
brought up to the correct page for over 10000 functions/routines/language
constructs/system variables/class definitions/etc. For example, I typed:

icontour,ZV[M-Tab]

to autocomplete, then invoking help:

icontour,ZVALUE=[M-?]

which pulled up immediately the correct keyword in the relevant HTML
help page. See the mozilla screenshot of said page here:

http://turtle.as.arizona.edu/idl/icon.png

And then run don't walk to idlwave.org ;).

JD