Subject: Re: GETHELP function -- where can I find it? Posted by Fergus Gallagher on Thu, 04 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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Russ Welti <rwelti@u.washington.edu> wrote:
> Last week I posted asking about a way to get HELP info on a
> variable returned as a string array:
>> Does anyone know if I can get the normal HELP info on
>> just a simple variable back similarly, as in:
>> help,var=var or maybe help,/stru,struct=some struct
> I found my own answer, in the GETHELP function, in 3.6.1.
> HOWEVER, it won't run. Does anyone have a working GETHELP
> function?
> The documentation says I can do this, but:
>
> IDL> a=gethelp()
> a=gethelp()
> % Syntax error.
> IDL> print,filepath('gethelp')
> % Compiled module: FILEPATH.
> /opt/idl/gethelp
> IDL> $ls /opt/idl/gethelp*
> /opt/idl/gethelp*: No such file or directory
> The 4.0 beta help system says the file is in "the lib subdirectory
> of the IDL distribution". I can find no source file for GETHELP
> *anywhere* on my machine.
>
> Does anyone have a copy of it I can get?
> Thanks much,
```

Firstly, FILEPATH('xxxx') returns \$IDL DIR/xxxx even if xxxx doesn't exist.

Secondly, GETHELP could be a IDL primitive, and hence it need not have a file associated with it.

Lastly, I said that I was TOLD that GETHELP would be included in IDL 4.0.

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In the meantime, try the following:
function gethelp,x
if breakdown(x)='imminent' then begin
   print, 'Please do not rely on beta versions'
end
return, string(randomu(seed, 100))
end
You're welcome much.
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