
Subject: Re: "?" help-command in linux

Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Tue, 19 Apr 2005 18:49:45 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Mon, 18 Apr 2005 15:53:49 -0600, Sean Davis wrote:

```
> Hello
>
> Does anyone know how to control what happens when you use the "?" command in
> idl on a linux machine. ...As in...
>
> IDL> ? OPLOT
>
> the default for idl 6.1 is to open up adobe acrobat, which, of course, sucks
> for reading the online help. I have the html help installed (for idlwave),
> and also xchm (http://xchm.sf.net). I would ideally like xchm to open with
> the correct entry whenever I use the ? command.
```

I presume you're not using IDLWAVE? If you are, you could:

```
IDL> OPLOT [C-c ?]
```

and the HTML help would popup for OPLOT. In fact, you could try:

```
IDL> OPLOT, [Tab]
```

get a list of keywords, and right click on any of them to have the HTML help queued up to the correct section documenting that keyword.

What else can IDLWAVE give you help on, either in the HTML help pages, or directly in the source code of a relevant routine? Here's the list:

Routine name	The name of a routine (function, procedure, method).
Keyword Parameter	A keyword parameter of a routine.
System Variable	System variables like !DPI.
System Variable Tags	System variables tags like !D.X_SIZE.
IDL Statement	Statements like PRO, REPEAT, COMPILE_OPT, etc.
Class name	A class name in an OBJ_NEW call.
Class Init	Beyond the class name in an OBJ_NEW call.
Executive Command	An executive command like .RUN. Mostly useful in the shell.
Structure Tags	Structure tags like state.xsize
Class Tags	Class tags like self.value.
Default	The routine that would be selected for routine info display.

JD
