Subject: Re: Help for non-RSI libraries under IDL 4.0
Posted by sterner on Wed, 31 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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sterner@strdev.jhuapl.edu (Ray Sterner) writes:

> I agree that HTML should be used for help. Something like netscape
> should be able to do pretty much everything that the new IDL 4.0
> help does. The 4.0 help cannot be copied from the help window and
> pasted into IDL (or anywhere else). HTML does not have this problem.

 To clarify the statement about not being able to copy help text,
 that is not quite right. You can copy the text, it takes an extra
 step: Use the Copy option from the Edit menu. A new widow appears
 with plain text which can be copied.

 I have learned some of the reasons for not using HTML for IDL 4.0
 help. The same text is used for both online help and the published
 manuals. The current help system took a considerable time to develope
 and when started HTML browsers were not as widely available or as
 good as now. Plus they still do not have good support for easy
 cross referencing and indexing. Perhaps if HTML support software
 becomes more widespread the balance will change.

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