
Subject: Re: Online help with non-windowing devices

Posted by [rivers](#) on Fri, 30 Jun 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <3stb3tINNpk7@lanews.la.asu.edu>, scowen@tycho.la.asu.edu (Paul A. Scowen) writes:

> Mark Rivers (rivers@cars3.uchicago.edu) wrote:

>

> : Prior to IDL 4.0 I could get online help by typing '?', and I would get a

> : text-based interface to the online help. Not beautiful, but it did the job.

> : This no longer works, IDL tries to use the hypertext help and I get an X error

> : opening display.

>

> : There was a post about a month ago which described a way to get the old widget

> : based help by using WIDGET_OLH. The old text based help was done with the

> : routine MAN_PROC. MAN_PROC still exists in IDL_DIR/lib/, but when I run it

> : there appears to be no online help library available?

>

> Yes, there's a way to do this. I have extensive sets of my own help files

> that I merge into the system help databases, but with this bloody new

> hyperhelp (piece of crap if you ask me) you can only merge files in .hlp

> format for which there are no compilation routines provided. When you run

> MAN_PROC it sees nothing because IDL v4.0 comes with no .help files in the

> help/ dir under the IDL tree. What you have to do is go into the pro dirs in

> the tree and build your own sets of .help files using MK_LIBRARY_HELP and

> then dump those files into the help/ dir. Then MAN_PROC will see them. I've

> given up on hyperhelp and use widget_olh pretty much all the time.

The problem is that I want to see the help on internal IDL routines, not on routines in \$IDL_DIR/lib or my own routines. If I am working from a non-windowing display I can't get help on PLOT or FINDGEN or any other IDL routine which is built into the IDL image.

Mark Rivers

(312) 702-2279 (office)

CARS

(312) 702-9951 (secretary)

Univ. of Chicago

(312) 702-5454 (FAX)

5640 S. Ellis Ave.

(708) 922-0499 (home)

Chicago, IL 60637

rivers@cars3.uchicago.edu (Internet)
