
Subject: Re: user defined idl_catalog.xml

Posted by [sebinjapan](#) on Tue, 26 Sep 2006 10:19:28 GMT

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> Very nice. When you merge your ADP files, do your HTML files go in
> !DIR/help/online_help too? How do you use things if you don't merge
> your ADP files? How does the assistant know where to find your HTML
> files?

I don't move any html files. I create the directory ~/.assistant/src in which I put only the merged adp file (the directory ~/.assistant is automatically created by idl_assistant).

To merge the adp files provided by ITTVIS and by IDLDoc, I do

1) for the adp files provided by ITTVIS

- I copy idl.adp from !DIR/help/online_help to ~/.assistant/src/part1.adp
- I change the header part (between <profile> and </profile>) to give my own name, title, startpage ...
- I define the full path in links by changing all ref=" by ref="\$DIR/help/online_help/ (with \$DIR the full path contained in !DIR)
- I suppress the last line containing </assistantconfig>

2) for the adp files provided by IDLDoc

- I copy idl.adp from my own package directory to ~/.assistant/src/part2.adp
- I suppress the header lines until </profile>
- I define the full path in links by changing all ref=" by ref="\$MyPackageDir (with \$MyPackageDir the full path to IDLDoc)

3) I concatenate part1.adp and part2.adp into ~/.assistant/src/idl.adp

By default, the command "IDL> ?" load the file called "idl.adp" located in !help_path. So if you call the merged file idl.adp and you define !hep_path to ~/.assistant/src, "IDL> ?" will automatically launch you own adp file instead of the default one.

Note: If you don't merge the adp files, you can call the adp file created by IDLDoc by using the keyword book of online_help. But in that case you load only one of the adp files. A great solution would be that BOOK accept string arrays to load several books at the same time. In that case the merge of the adp file would be useless.

> Right now IDLWAVE only anticipates loading and caching a single XML
> file (the one provided with IDL), but it would be fairly easy to
> extend the framework to look for user-available ones. The question
> is, how to find them, and then how to locate the HTML/ADP files they
> reference? You'll note that the syntax doesn't say anything about
> where the files are:
>
> <ROUTINE name="OPLLOT" link="OPLLOT.html">

- > IDLWAVE simply assumes they are in !DIR/help/online_help. For random
- > user XML catalogs, the easiest might be some convention, perhaps an
- > additional tag in the XML file, which specifies the default location
- > to root the selected files. Perhaps IDLDoc even has a de facto
- > convention of this sort already (I haven't used it yet)?

Well... one solution would be to do similar work that I do with the adp files.

Merge the xml provided by ITTVIS and IDLDoc, define the full path for the links and put the resulting file in the directory used to define !help_path.

In that case IDLWAVE should look for files located in !help_path instead of !DIR/help/online_help

- > The other place we could hook this type of information in would be the
- > "user catalog", which you may have seen as a bunch of .idlwave_catalog
- > files in directories (e.g. AstroLib, etc.). As I alluded, this would
- > be easy to do if there was only one URL associated with a given
- > routine (e.g. no separate URL for keywords, etc.). Then we'd just
- > need to tag that in some way in the file (either with the IDLDoc, or
- > separately), and let idlwave_catalog strip that out. This is nice in
- > a sense because (from IDLWAVE's point of view), the .idlwave_catalog
- > file(s) would then be one stop shopping for routine and associated
- > help info.

I know the .idlwave_catalog files because I use them for my own package :-)

It is true, if Michael do not manage to get back the source of IDLDoc to be able to create the xml file associated to IDLDoc adp file, using the "user catalog" could be a good solution (even if it is not perfect as keywords will not have their own link).

Another solution would be to make (or get from ITTVIS?) a tool that could produce the xml file directly from the adp file.