

---

Subject: Firefox search plugin

Posted by [lbnc](#) on Wed, 02 Jul 2008 08:52:02 GMT

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

---

Hi there,

rather than using the built-in help from IDL I find myself using the webpages at [http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/idl\\_html\\_help/Functional\\_List\\_of\\_IDL\\_Routines.html](http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/idl_html_help/Functional_List_of_IDL_Routines.html) all the time. Because you can navigate quite easily to the help page once you know the name of the function/procedure you are interested in, I wrote a small search plugin for Firefox that allows you to just enter the routine name in the search field in the top right corner (upper case!) and voila! magic happens and you navigate to the right help page. If you want to be able to do that, too, do the following:

0) download and install Firefox from [www.mozilla.com](http://www.mozilla.com)

1) navigate to the searchplugins directory in your installation directory (e.g. C:\Program Files\Mozilla Firefox\)

2) open a file called IDL.xml using your favourite editor and insert the following

```
<SearchPlugin xmlns="http://www.mozilla.org/2006/browser/search/">
<ShortName>IDL Help</ShortName>
<Description>Function/Procedure Lookup for IDL</Description>
<InputEncoding>UTF-8</InputEncoding>
<Image width="16" height="16">
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAgAAAgAAAAICAIAAAACAAIAAgIAA
AICAgADAwMAAAD
%2FAAD%2FAAAA%2F%2F8A%2FwAAAP8A%2FwD%2F%2FwAA%2F%2F%2F
%2FAililililililgAililililgLMililililAswililililgAilililil
lgLMililililAswililililCzClilililgLswilililAIC7MlililCzCAuzC
lilgLMlilgLMlililAuzALswililgLu7swilililAAAAilililililil </
Image>
<Url type="text/html" method="GET" template="http://
idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/idl_html_help/{searchTerms}.html"></Url >
<SearchForm>http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/idl_html_help/
Functional_List_of_IDL_Routines.html</SearchForm>
</SearchPlugin>
```

3) save file, restart Firefox

4) select IDL Help as the search engine in the top right corner of Firefox

5) type PLOT and hit enter

6) Bob's your uncle.

I "stole" the icon from my IDL 6.2 installation, I hope I am forgiven.

Obviously, if you are using the IDL help, you will find this feature completely pointless, however there might be people who use the help

pages like me so I thought I share.

So long  
Lasse Clausen

---