Subject: Re: IDL Help on Mac OS
Posted by David Klassen on Fri, 26 Jun 2009 14:11:52 GMT

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This is all VERY odd behavior---none of which I see on my Mac. I'm running
OSX 10.4.11 and IDL 6.4.1. Starting help from the IDL prompt also gives
me an icon in the dock but it's called idl_assistant and if I click the red dot
on the upper left corner, the entire program ends (as opposed to just the
window, which is standard Mac behavior) and the icon goes away. And it
doesn't do anything to any browser I use (Firefox).

What versions of stuff are you using?

On Jun 24, 11:17 am, "Kenneth P. Bowman" <k-bow...@null.edu> wrote:
> Does anyone else find the way IDL Help works on Mac OS as annoying as I do?
>
> Starting help from the IDl prompt puts a useless application icon in the Dock
> called idlhelpserver.darwin.universal. Elegant name for an application, no?
>
> If I close the Help window in my browser, the idlhelpserver application does
> not quit, but I cannot use it for anything useful, like re-opening the Help
> window. I have to go back to IDL and restart Help from the prompt.
>
> To make it even better, if I quit idlhelpserver, it *always* hangs (using
> 90% of a cpu) and I have to manually kill it.
>
> Even if I don't mind having a useless icon in my Dock, using Help interferes
> with how I typically use my web browser.
>
> Normally I close all browser windows when I am temporarily finished using it.
> If I bring it to the front it automatically opens a new window and I can
> then surf to wherever I want to go. With the IDL Help open, however,
> if I bring the browser to the front or unhide it, the IDL Help is on top.
> This is the case even when the IDL help window was previously minimized.
> So every time I switch to my browser, I have to re-minimize the IDL help
> window and then manually open a new browser window before I can do
> anything.
>
> The whole thing is a continuous irritation. Has anyone found
> another way to use Help that is not so intrusive?