
Subject: Re: Help with help files.

Posted by [A. Maudsley](#) on Thu, 05 Sep 1996 07:00:00 GMT

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

My solution doesn't really address your question, but here's another approach for on-line documentation.

I have written some help information using HTML, and then spawn Netscape (or whatever your favorite browser may be) from my IDL application. If Netscape is already defined on the path of your system then you don't need to use another environment variable. I implemented a routine which actually does look for an environment variable which points to the browser executable, but if it isn't defined it defaults to "Netscape 'help_file'.html". You can find the routine SHOWHTML at my (in development) web site:

http://www.va.ucsf.edu/mrs/mrs_vamc.htm

You can pass either a local filename or a URL. I have tested it with SUN and Windows.

Andrew

Dyer Lytle <dlytle@as.arizona.edu> wrote in article
<322DB2EA.263E@as.arizona.edu>...

```
>
> I was wondering how people handle on-line documentation in IDL.
> We have developed about 8 different applications in IDL that we
> distribute to our user base of about 40 people at various locations
> and each of these applications has associated with it one or more
> online "help" files. Currently, we ask our users to define their
> "IDL_PATH" so that IDL can find the various tasks to execute and
> we have them define a directory called "IDL_DOC" that we reference
> whenever we call "xdisplayfile" from an application, i.e.
>
> CASE event OF
>
>   'help': BEGIN
>     xdisplayfile,'$IDL_DOC/example.hlp'
>   END
>
> Does anyone know a way to somehow use "IDL_PATH" to find this
> documentation rather than using a separate environmental variable?
> Or perhaps someone has a better approach to IDL on-line documentation?
>
> Thanks in advance,
>
```

> -Dyer
