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Subject: Re: 8.0 Developer Documentation

Posted by [penteado](#) on Mon, 02 Aug 2010 16:46:05 GMT

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On Aug 2, 12:42 pm, Doug Edmundson <do...@ittvis.com> wrote:

> I've forwarded your idea on to the docs group. I talked to them last  
> week about the issue and I think they'd like to know which PDFs people  
> are using most. Are folks still heavy into iTools, dataminer, the EDG,  
> etc.? That info will help them gauge priorities.  
>  
> The 7.1 help system should work on its own, sans workbench. It should  
> be in .../itt/IDL71/idlde/. Sorry if I'm misunderstanding your question.  
>  
> I don't know if this'll help much, but note that on Mac one can open  
> multiple PDFs at the same time in Preview, as if they're all a chapter  
> in one big book. That might make searching a bit easier. Links should  
> work for the most part. I just tried Adobe Reader on Windows and am  
> feeling a bit of pain... ;-)

It is very inconvenient to have to look for the pdfs, particularly lacking their content showing on searches of the help system. As I remember, through all the recent versions of the help system, it was always possible to search everywhere from a single place. Now, one needs to know that besides the help, there are those separate pdfs to look into. Besides the inconvenience (I am probably going to use Acrobat to join them into a single file, so that they become a bit easier to use), it is not obvious that these separate files exist - I only found out from this thread, and I was already missing some of the content I knew was present in previous versions. So many users might not find what they need just because it does not show up in the help system.

At least there should be a way to launch the pdf reader on those pdfs directly from the Workbench or the help system, so that it is visible that they exist - if there is one already, it is not visible enough.

Of those pdfs, I particularly use most often the parts about the internal API, the iTool classes, and the IMSL routines.

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