
Subject: Re: IDL help in 8.3

Posted by [Haje Korth](#) on Fri, 10 Jan 2014 00:02:28 GMT

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Hi Chris,

Thanks for biting and your response. I was not aware that continuing to provide the internal help browser is so costly. I am somewhat ignorant about this but from your response I gather that the old internal help browser from v8.2.3 is not html 5 compliant so that you could not simple reuse the old code. SO I respect your decision to discontinue development on the internal help browser.

I am hoping though that you will be able to fix the problem I bugged regarding the selection of the web browser. I would like to define firefox as my help browser even though it is not the default browser on the system. In that way I do not junk up the standard tabs I have open on the default browser for other every day work purposes. And if it gets really messy, I can just restart the help-dedicated browser. (The help itself displays just fine in Chrome, so readability is not the reason why I want to use a different web browser.)

Cheers,
Haje

On Wednesday, January 8, 2014 6:39:21 PM UTC-5, Chris Torrence wrote:

> Okay, I'll bite. The main problem we ran into was finding a reliable web browser that was HTML5 compliant and was cross platform. On Windows we limped along for a couple of releases using the built-in Internet Explorer web package, just embedded within our own application. On Mac we were using Webkit, again embedded within an app. On Linux & Solaris there wasn't a good solution, so we used the web browser.

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> It was just getting too expensive (development-wise) to roll our own help application on every platform. I'd rather put the development resources into features like implied print or the dynamic equation plots.

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> I don't know if it's any consolation, but it also took me a while to adjust to the new world order. I would find myself with 5 tabs open to the IDL help, each one to a different topic. However, what I found was that tabs are cheap - now, when I'm using IDL, if I want help, I just do "?fft", look up what I need, then just close that tab. Or you could do as Wayne suggests and just keep it open in the web browser.

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> I'm sorry that *once again* we have changed the IDL help system, but I hope that you will be able to adjust quickly, and maybe even find some benefit...

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> Hope this explanation helps.
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> -Chris
>
> ExelisVIS
>
> p.s. if you are having actual troubles with viewing the help, be sure to contact Tech Support! It's all standard HTML5, so it should work in any modern browser such as Chrome, Safari, or Firefox.
