Subject: Re: Adding libraries to online help Posted by David Foster on Mon, 21 Apr 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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Dave Burridge wrote:

> Eric Williams wrote:

>>

>> Hi,

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- >> I have recently installed IDL 4.01 on a Sun running Solaris 2.5.1.
- >> I have also downloaded many of the great libraries available from
- >> numerous sources. My question is does anyone know what I need to do
- >> to add the new procedures to the IDL online help. I know most of
- >> them are available on the web but I know users will want to be able
- >> to look them up with the online help function.

>>

> Eric,

>

- > The IDL online help libraries are "compiled" on both the Windows and
- > Solaris platforms as far as I know. The only way you can add to them is
- > make a complete textual copy (say, for an HTML editor) and distribute
- > that.

>

One alternative that might cause some controversy: we document our routines in .doc files which are located in the same directories as the .pro files. Then we use a program I wrote called LHELP.PRO which finds all such .doc files and allows you to choose from among them and display their contents. Text search capabilities make it easier to find topics. Also, you can use it to look at the source code.

This might not be an option for software you download from external sources, as you'd have to extract the headers and paste into .doc files for each routine, but I thought I'd mention it. I've been flamed for this method before, but it is *very* convenient.

Dave

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