
Subject: Re: IDL help in alternate browser
Posted by [timothyja123](#) on Fri, 23 May 2014 03:35:47 GMT
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On Wednesday, May 21, 2014 11:54:50 PM UTC+10, Haje Korth wrote:

> The functionality is broken. Below is what I received from tech support five months ago.

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> Me: I have tried to change the web browser to Firefox in the settings, but apparently the changes are ignored. No matter what the settings are, the help goes to chrome instead of firefox. Is this just me or is this a bug?

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> Support: This is occurring because IDL will always use the default browser to open the IDL help. I think one should be able to change the browser in which it is open using Window> Preferences > General > "Web Browser".

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> However, this doesn't seem to work with IDL 8.3. Therefore, I have filed another bug report about this issue (IDL-69010).

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> If you want to switch the Help to use Firefox, there are two options:

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> 1) Make Firefox the default browser on your system.

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> 2) Do the following suggestion:

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> FWIW, if you would like to open the IDL 8.3 help in a non-default web browser application, you might consider creating a workbench macro to spawn that browser with an argument that cause the an IDL help page to search for a selected string in your IDL editor window. For example:

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> SPAWN, 'START "" "C:\Program Files (x86)\Mozilla Firefox\firefox.exe" -url "file:///C:/Program%%20Files/Exelis/IDL83/help/online_help/IDL/idl.htm#s

>

> earch-%S"', /NOWAIT

>

Interesting I might also file a bug. I have .html file type associated with an editor as I do web development. Its really driving me nuts trying to load help only to have it open in a text editor.

This is what I end up seeing:

<!--

This file was created by IDL to work around limitations of the Microsoft Windows ShellExecute() function:

- If you pass ShellExecute() a URL containing an HTML anchor, it strips the anchor off the URL and the browser never sees it.
- There are hacks involving the FindExecutable() function that can trick ShellExecute() into not stripping the anchor, but they have the unwanted side effect of starting a new browser instance for each such call.
- You can just skip ShellExecute() and talk to InternetExplorer directly, but that locks out other browsers and is fairly difficult as well. Plus, it won't track changes Microsoft may make to the browser.

In addition, it is used to work around a similar problem on Unix systems where a URL containing a pipe symbol '|' is interpreted by the shell and cannot be passed through to the Javascript interpreting the URL. The help symbol uses the string '|Firstpick' to indicate that the first topic found in the query should be loaded but this URL cannot be sent directly to the browser because the shell treats it as a pipe symbol to control i/o.

Alternatively, you can generate a temporary HTML file containing a refresh META tag, and pass the URL for that file to ShellExecute(). This is that file.

You can remove this file if you wish. IDL will recreate it whenever it needs it. The specific situation where that occurs is a call to ONLINE_HELP that specifies a non-NULL topic and which sets the BOOK keyword to the name of an HTML file.

-->

<html>

<!-- saved from url=(0014)about:internet -->

<head>

<meta http-equiv="Refresh" content="0; URL='file:///C:/Program Files/Exelis/IDL83/help/online_help/IDL/idl_CSH.htm#HELP_CONTENTS' ">

</head>

</html>
