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Subject: Re: IDL (8.6.0) Help not working after update to MacOS Sierra 10.12.5  
Posted by [chris\\_torrence@NOSPAM](#) on Mon, 31 Jul 2017 17:17:24 GMT

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On Monday, July 31, 2017 at 9:29:51 AM UTC-6, Barry Lesht wrote:

> On Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at 10:51:29 AM UTC-5, Barry Lesht wrote:

>> I updated my MacbookPro to Sierra 10.12.5 yesterday. Today I the "Help" function in IDL 8.6.0 no longer works - nothing happens. Has anyone else had this problem?

>>

>> Thanks.

>

> Further update as per Harris Tech Support this morning:

>

> I do have good news for you, however. The issue with IDL Help on Mac is related to a recent update Apple pushed alongside OSX 10.12.5. This bug was address and will be fixed in IDL 8.6.1. Even better, IDL 8.6.1 releases sometime today. Once installed, IDL Help should function as expected for you.

>

> In the mean time, the work-around is to copy/paste the link within the Help error message in the IDL console. This link can be pasted into a browser to get to IDL Help. Alternatively, you can just launch IDL Help from Finder and search manually. The bug arises from the way IDL pushes the links to operating system which was broken by Apple.

Hey Barry,

IDL 8.6.1 has the same fix described in my workaround above:

In /Applications/harris/idl86/bin/online\_help\_html, around line 111, change the following lines from:

```
href="\"file://$1\""  
osascript -e 'open location '$href
```

To:

```
href="file://$1"  
open $href
```

If you tried that, and it didn't actually solve the problem, then I don't know if IDL 8.6.1 will solve it either. We just tried this on macOS 10.12.5 and 10.12.6 and the help launched successfully with the fix.

Anyway, I \*hope\* that IDL 8.6.1 solves the problem on your machine.

Cheers,  
Chris

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