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Subject: Re: Making help for your own functions & procedures

Posted by [thompson](#) on Tue, 13 Apr 1993 13:50:26 GMT

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deutsch@orac.stsci.edu writes:

> In article <thompson.734294880@serts.gsfc.nasa.gov>, thompson@serts.gsfc.nasa.gov  
(William Thompson) writes:

>> [kaij@dutnsi2.tudelft.nl](mailto:kaij@dutnsi2.tudelft.nl) (Roland Kaijen) writes:

>>

>>> n IDL 3.0.1 for WINDOWS there is very good online help-tool. Unfortunately

>>> only the functions & procedures know by the makers of IDL are in this

>>> help-tool; there are however frequently used functions & procedures written

>>> by others that we would like to a

>>

>> Use the routine MK\_LIBRARY\_HELP in the IDL User's Library.

>>

>> Bill Thompson

> This allows one to create the .HELP files, but what if you are not allowed

> to add to the IDL\_DIR/help directory? e.g. on a cluster where you are not

> the main user of IDL, how can I add .HELP entries (for use with ?)

> for me to use, but not for everyone to have to see. Can I set something

> somewhere to not only look in the IDL distribution HELP directory, but also

> one of my own (or one which applies to a certain package, etc.)

The question mark command in IDL actually calls a routine called MAN\_PROC. At one point we had edited man\_proc.pro to do exactly what you're talking about, but then RSI came out with the widgetized version of "?" and we gave up.

Nowadays we depend on another routine called DOC which allows us to browse through the directories in !PATH, and to extract the documentation from it.

It's basically a user-friendly front-end to DOC\_LIBRARY. The software works best on a widgets platform such as X-windows or Microsoft Windows, but there's also a capability of using it on less sophisticated platforms. If you want this software, please E-mail me and I'll tell you how to get it.

If you have widgets available to you (either X-windows or I believe now Microsoft Windows) you can use a routine called XDL, which does more-or-less the same thing as DOC, although somewhat differently. XDL should be supplied with the IDL distribution.

Bill Thompson

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