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Subject: Re: IDL 5.5 help file  
Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Tue, 06 Nov 2001 19:39:16 GMT  
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From: "renjie" <renjie.he@uth.tmc.edu>  
> how to find IDL 5.5 help file, the default is 5.4

IDL 5.5 ships with version 5.4 help files, plus a "What's New" file for the 5.5 changes (whatsnew55.pdf).

Yes, it is a bit shabby, isn't it?

---

Mark Hadfield  
m.hadfield@niwa.cri.nz <http://katipo.niwa.cri.nz/~hadfield>  
National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research

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Posted from clam.niwa.cri.nz [202.36.29.1]  
via Mailgate.ORG Server - <http://www.Mailgate.ORG>

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Subject: Re: IDL 5.5 help file  
Posted by [John-David T. Smith](#) on Tue, 06 Nov 2001 22:22:18 GMT  
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Mark Hadfield wrote:

>  
> From: "renjie" <renjie.he@uth.tmc.edu>  
>> how to find IDL 5.5 help file, the default is 5.4  
>  
> IDL 5.5 ships with version 5.4 help files, plus a "What's New" file for the  
> 5.5 changes (whatsnew55.pdf).  
>  
> Yes, it is a bit shabby, isn't it?

Very shabby indeed.

For those of you who use Emacs and IDLWAVE, I'm putting the finishing touches on an IDL v5.5 update to the online help, which incorporates most of the updates to 5.5 as listed in "What's New". You'll get all the correct keyword completion, uniform access to the new routines added (like CPU ;), and even modified and new keyword/argument documentation "in-place" in the online help. It's a text-based help system directly converted from IDL's PDF help files, but it's *very* fast and insanely convenient.

For those of you who don't use Emacs and IDLWAVE... maybe now's the time to consider it.

For those of you who think Emacs is that old video format that lost out to VHS in the 80's, nothing to see here.

JD

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Subject: Re: IDL 5.5 help file

Posted by [Pavel A. Romashkin](#) on Tue, 06 Nov 2001 23:48:31 GMT

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JD Smith wrote:

>

> For those of you who don't use Emacs and IDLWAVE... maybe now's the time  
> to consider it.

As soon as the lovely X11 port to the Mac is completed... and if I survive the shock from seeing it...

Pavel

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Subject: Re: IDL 5.5 help file

Posted by [Nigel Wade](#) on Wed, 07 Nov 2001 10:07:51 GMT

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Mark Hadfield wrote:

> From: "renjie" <renjie.he@uth.tmc.edu>

>> how to find IDL 5.5 help file, the default is 5.4

>

> IDL 5.5 ships with version 5.4 help files, plus a "What's New" file for  
> the 5.5 changes (whatsnew55.pdf).

>

> Yes, it is a bit shabby, isn't it?

> ---

As an corollary to a previous thread on passing strings to call\_external in 5.5, is the fact that the string length is changed to 32bit mentioned in the "What's New"?

--

-----  
Nigel Wade, System Administrator, Space Plasma Physics Group,

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E-mail : nmw@ion.le.ac.uk  
Phone : +44 (0)116 2523568, Fax : +44 (0)116 2523555

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Subject: Re: IDL 5.5 help file  
Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Wed, 07 Nov 2001 20:49:16 GMT  
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From: "Nigel Wade" <nmw@ion.le.ac.uk>  
> As an corollary to a previous thread on passing strings to  
> call\_external in 5.5, is the fact that the string length is  
> changed to 32bit mentioned in the "What's New"?

Yes:

"Maximum String Length Limit Increased for 32-Bit IDL  
Prior to IDL 5.5, 32-bit IDL had a maximum string length limit of 64K (65534 characters) while 64-bit IDL allowed strings to be up to 2.1GB (2147483647 characters) in length. With IDL 5.5, this limit has been raised to 2.1GB for both types of IDL."

Though AFAIK it doesn't point out the implications of this for call\_external.

---  
Mark Hadfield  
m.hadfield@niwa.cri.nz <http://katipo.niwa.cri.nz/~hadfield>  
National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research

--  
Posted from clam.niwa.cri.nz [202.36.29.1]  
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Subject: Re: IDL 5.5 help file  
Posted by [Nigel Wade](#) on Thu, 08 Nov 2001 09:28:28 GMT  
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Mark Hadfield wrote:

> From: "Nigel Wade" <nmw@ion.le.ac.uk>

>> As an corollary to a previous thread on passing strings to  
>> call\_external in 5.5, is the fact that the string length is  
>> changed to 32bit mentioned in the "What's New"?  
>  
> Yes:  
>  
> "Maximum String Length Limit Increased for 32-Bit IDL  
> Prior to IDL 5.5, 32-bit IDL had a maximum string length limit of 64K  
> (65534 characters) while 64-bit IDL allowed strings to be up to 2.1GB  
> (2147483647 characters) in length. With IDL 5.5, this limit has been  
> raised to 2.1GB for both types  
> of IDL."  
>  
> Though AFAIK it doesn't point out the implications of this for  
> call\_external.  
>  
>

I never knew there were 32bit and 64bit versions of IDL.

It's probably safest to assume that there are other changes to the way IDL variables are stored internally, and recompiling all C/FORTRAN etc. code which deals with IDL variables would be prudent. It does mean that if you want to support multiple versions of IDL you have to have multiple versions of all your external code, though.

--

-----  
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University of Leicester, Leicester, LE1 7RH, UK  
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Phone : +44 (0)116 2523568, Fax : +44 (0)116 2523555

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Subject: Re: IDL 5.5 help file  
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Thu, 08 Nov 2001 15:17:31 GMT  
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Nigel Wade <nmw@ion.le.ac.uk> writes:

> It's probably safest to assume that there are other changes to the way IDL  
> variables are stored internally, and recompiling all C/FORTRAN etc. code  
> which deals with IDL variables would be prudent. It does mean that if you  
> want to support multiple versions of IDL you have to have multiple versions  
> of all your external code, though.

To be honest, I think that has always been true. I believe that RSI has never made any guarantees that compiled DLMS would work across release versions.

Craig

--

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Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D.      EMAIL: [craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu](mailto:craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu)  
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response  
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