
Subject: Online Help ideas

Posted by [btupper](#) on Fri, 10 May 2002 15:40:42 GMT

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Howdy,

I have recently done some work in Labview from National Instruments (www.ni.com). It's really nice software - but the thing I was most impressed by was the online help. ****Very very**** nice. NI provides fantastic hyper-help as well as hosting seemingly endless tips/code/howto/user_contribution web pages.

It occurred to me that I really wish IDL had decent online help (well, duh!) I think this might be a great time to develop a wish list for RSI as it heads toward the next release of IDL. I think we all know how limited the present system is; so we don't need to drag up old stuff. Rather, I invite readers to offer suggestions for a constructive wish-list. If you email me your ideas (as well as posting them here) I will assemble them all and deliver to RSI. Email address is pemaquidriver@tidewater.net

So here's the question:

What would you like to see for online help resources from RSI?

Here's mine... place links to related topics at the **top** of the hyperhelp page. Once I have read the description of the function/procedure I usually know if I need to keep looking. It would be handier to have the links available without having to scroll down the page.

Thanks!

Ben

Subject: Re: Online Help ideas

Posted by [btupper](#) on Thu, 16 May 2002 14:05:11 GMT

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On Fri, 10 May 2002 15:40:42 GMT, btupper@bigelow.org (Ben Tupper) wrote:

>
> So here's the question:
>
> What would you like to see for online help resources from RSI?
>

All right guys, quit holding back :)

How about this?

IDL> ?Median

would bring up the online hyper help for the MEDIAN function, but

IDL> ??Median

would print the following in the output log or command window,

Result = MEDIAN(Array [, Width] [, /EVEN])

Just a minimal reminder of the appropriate syntax, etc., for the procedure. This might get a bit too much for some items... for example an object with a bazillion properties, but perhaps it could be fine tuned by method.

IDL> ??IDLgrModel::Rotate

Obj -> [IDLgrModel::]Rotate, Axis, Angle [, /PREMULTIPLY]

Might save a bit of mouse navigation.

And, ah, keep those great ideas pouring in!

Ben

Subject: Re: Online Help ideas
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Thu, 16 May 2002 18:09:46 GMT
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Ben Tupper wrote:

>
> On Fri, 10 May 2002 15:40:42 GMT, btupper@bigelow.org (Ben Tupper)
> wrote:
>
>>
>> So here's the question:
>>
>> What would you like to see for online help resources from RSI?
>>

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> All right guys, quit holding back :)
>
> How about this?
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> IDL> ?Median
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> IDL> ??Median
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> would print the following in the output log or command window,
>
> Result = MEDIAN(Array [, Width] [, /EVEN])
>
> Just a minimal reminder of the appropriate syntax, etc., for the
> procedure. This might get a bit too much for some items... for
> example an object with a bazillion properties, but perhaps it could be
> fine tuned by method.
>
> IDL> ??IDLgrModel::Rotate
>
> Obj -> [IDLgrModel::]Rotate, Axis, Angle [, /PREMULTIPLY]
>
> Might save a bit of mouse navigation.
>
> And, ah, keep those great ideas pouring in!
>
> Ben

Dear Ben,

if it's an idl source like mean.pro I have already a solution.

You can try my helpon.

http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/download/helpon.tar.gz

It did a bit more as you mentioned.

To get the declaration:

IDL> helpon,mean

function mean, x, double = double, nan = nan

To show definition of CALLING SEQUENCE from the header

IDL> helpon,'mean',/call

Result = MEAN(X)

To show all routines used by mean sorted by time of change

IDL> helpon,'mean',/info

MOMENT /usr/local/idl/idl/lib/moment.pro 2001-08-29 13:07:53

MEAN /usr/local/idl/idl/lib/mean.pro 2001-08-29 13:07:20

IDL> helpon,'mean',/info, /html

same as previous but output in to \$HOME/idl_export.html (windows
%TEMP%/idl_export.html)

regards

Reimar

--

Reimar Bauer

Institut fuer Stratosphaerische Chemie (ICG-I)

Forschungszentrum Juelich

email: R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de

a IDL library at Forschungszentrum Juelich

http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html

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Subject: Re: Online Help ideas

Posted by [btupper](#) on Fri, 17 May 2002 14:35:22 GMT

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On Thu, 16 May 2002 20:09:46 +0200, Reimar Bauer

<r.bauer@fz-juelich.de> wrote:

>
> if it's an idl source like mean.pro I have already a solution.
>
> You can try my helpon.
>
>
> http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/download/helpon.tar.gz
>
>
Great!

Thanks,

Ben
