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Subject: Re: Acrobat help in 5.6 not working  
Posted by [thompson](#) on Tue, 06 May 2003 14:48:14 GMT  
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When you say laptop, I suspect that you're using some version of Windows. When I use the ? on my Windows XP laptop, I get something called "HTML Help" which appears to be a Microsoft product. It seems to work just fine.

I get very different behavior on my Linux workstation. There, it's definitely Acrobat Reader which pops up. It seems much more primitive to me than either the Windows tool, or the old idlhelp tool, particularly in its search capabilities. One thing I wonder is whether Acrobat Reader on Linux is fully functional. In the release notes that came with the version on the IDL disk (which matches the version on the Adobe website), it says something about the search function not being implemented on Linux. I know that when I click on the link "Click here to search now!", nothing happens.

Major bummer!

William Thompson

mperrin+news@arkham.berkeley.edu (Marshall Perrin) writes:

> I've got a fresh install of 5.6 on my laptop, and IDL itself works fine.  
> However, if I try to access the help on a function from the command line,  
> ( with ?somefunction) then acrobat opens, but does not go to that function,  
> and IDL prints  
  
> % IDL controller plugin for Adobe Acrobat Reader does not appear to be  
> installed.  
  
> Anyone else encountered this? A brief poking around on the install CD didn't  
> reveal anything obvious to install.  
  
> - Marshall

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Subject: Re: Acrobat help in 5.6 not working  
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Tue, 06 May 2003 18:24:26 GMT  
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On Tue, 06 May 2003 07:48:14 -0700, William Thompson wrote:

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>> % IDL controller plugin for Adobe Acrobat Reader does not appear to be  
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>> Anyone else encountered this? A brief poking around on the install CD  
>> didn't reveal anything obvious to install.

The ?command syntax works fine for me under Linux. You should see files  
like idl\_acrobat5\_plugin.api in your idl/bin/bin.linux.x86 directory.  
The search feature I think is only available with Acrobat v4.0. It's a  
painfully slow full-text search, not a pre-indexed search. Very soon now  
users of IDLWAVE (or those willing to convert) will have no more need for  
the PDF files. Watch this space.

JD

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