
Subject: Searching PDF help in IDL 5.6

Posted by [Justin\[2\]](#) on Thu, 31 Jul 2003 20:04:10 GMT

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Dear all,

IDL 5.6, Solaris 5.9, Acroread 5.0.5

We've just upgraded from IDL 5.4 to 5.6 (nothing like being on the cutting edge). Now I'm really not keen on the PDF help (seems like a way for RSI to make it easier for themselves and not the user) but I think that discussion has already been had and so no need to resurrect it...

So my problem: I can't "search" the PDF help files, I can only "find" in them. The "search" uses index files to speed things up. I've found an index.pdx file in /opt/idl/idl_5.6/help, but when I add this to the list of indexes in Acrobat Reader I get "index is currently unavailable". Can other people search the documentation? Is it Solaris, IDL, Acroread or bad-luck?

I've just done a test and it takes 3mins 10sec (on my SunBlade 100) to do a 'find' through just the IDL Reference Guide - though things are quicker if you look for something at the beginning of the file. Not really the speed I was after!

Any hints gratefully received,

Thanks, Justin

PS I get a feeling that this might bring out the IDLWave evangelists!

Subject: Re: Searching PDF help in IDL 5.6

Posted by [Paul Selby](#) on Tue, 05 Aug 2003 23:31:22 GMT

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Justin wrote:

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> them. The "search" uses index files to speed things up. I've found an
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> of indexes in Acrobat Reader I get "index is currently unavailable". Can
> other people search the documentation? Is it Solaris, IDL, Acroread or
> bad-luck?

We had the same problem with IDL5.6 on both Solaris & AIX - it appears to be a filename case issue.

As well as the index.pdx file there is an INDEX directory (note difference in case). Adding a symbolic link "index" to "INDEX" seemed to fix the problem with search - I guess renaming the directory should have the same result.

Hope this helps
Paul
