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Subject: Re: IDL online help for v6.0 (sigh)  
Posted by [Michael Wallace](#) on Fri, 12 Mar 2004 19:35:20 GMT  
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You can try installing Acrobat Reader v5.0. I don't know about Redhat Enterprise Linux, but I'm using this version of Acrobat on my Fedora laptop and I can navigate the IDL documents.

<http://download.adobe.com/pub/adobe/acrobatreader/unix/5.x/linux-508.tar.gz>

Personally, I'd prefer HTML documentation, but I'll take whatever I can get.

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Subject: Re: IDL online help for v6.0 (sigh)  
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Fri, 12 Mar 2004 19:47:37 GMT  
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Michael Wallace wrote:

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>  
> <http://download.adobe.com/pub/adobe/acrobatreader/unix/5.x/linux-508.tar.gz>

Bewdy. Thanks for the link. My reticence to install the freely available code is due to the possibly draconian actions that may or (most likely) may not occur. Us foreigners have gotta be extra careful not to attract the attention of certain bureacratic peepers...especially in an election year ;o). I'm definitely overstating but there have been enough roundups of legal immigrants in the DC area to make friendlies look askance. Anyway, deportation back to Perth WA might not be that bad of a thing (good weather, beeyootiful beaches, healthy disrespect for authority... etc... :o)

> Personally, I'd prefer HTML documentation, but I'll take whatever I can  
> get.

I hear ya.

cheers,

paulv

p.s. I don't speak for NOAA and NOAA doesn't speak for me.

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Subject: Re: IDL online help for v6.0 (sigh)  
Posted by [btt](#) on Fri, 12 Mar 2004 19:49:37 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Paul Van Delst wrote:

> Hello there,  
>  
> Well, I just got meself a new computer with Redhat Enterprise  
> 3.something and IDL 6.0. IDL works fine (so far), but the online help  
> requires acroread. Typically this wouldn't be a problem, but the powers  
> that be tell me that acroread is not available for RH Enterprise  
> (whether for technical and/or legal/political reasons I don't know).  
> I've tried substituting in open sourced readers like xpdf, but IDL  
> insists on using acroread (and, anyway, when I do use xpdf on the actual  
> help files, I don't have a lot of functionality).  
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> I know this was all hashed out in this newsgroup when the online help  
> change occurred, but since I had old versions, I really didn't give it  
> much thought. Now, however, I have a brand spanking new version of IDL,  
> but no online help.  
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> Can some kind person out there tell me what my options are? Will  
> acroread v5.0 run on RH Enterprise? Or can the help files be converted  
> somehow for use in a regular browser like mozilla? (I recall something  
> about this when this was previously discussed.)  
>  
> Thanks for any info.  
>  
> paulv  
>  
Hi Paul,

I find that 99% of the time I use the HTML help system that is distributed with IDLWAVE (idlwave.org) even though I don't use IDLWAVE (yet). I find it very well organized and easy to navigate.

I put a link to funclisting.html on my browser bar (it's my home page, too)

Ben

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Subject: Re: IDL online help for v6.0 (sigh)  
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Fri, 12 Mar 2004 21:18:03 GMT  
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Paul Van Delst wrote:

Dear Paul

I have not tried yet but I read about it in the german linux user magazine.  
<http://gnochm.sourceforge.net/>

This tool is able to read the windows help files.

If this works fine we should do a feature request.

Reimar

> Hello there,  
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> and IDL 6.0. IDL works fine (so far), but the online help requires  
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> paulv

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Subject: Re: IDL online help for v6.0 (sigh)  
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Fri, 12 Mar 2004 21:37:12 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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:On Fri, 12 Mar 2004 14:49:37 -0500, Ben Tupper wrote:

> Paul Van Delst wrote:  
>  
>> Hello there,  
>>  
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>> 3.something and IDL 6.0. IDL works fine (so far), but the online help  
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 > Hi Paul,  
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 > I find that 99% of the time I use the HTML help system that is  
 > distributed with IDLWAVE (idlwave.org) even though I don't use IDLWAVE  
 > (yet). I find it very well organized and easy to navigate.  
 >  
 > I put a link to funclisting.html on my browser bar (it's my home page, too)

Thanks for the plug, Paul. If you like the HTML help (which really shines in a Mozilla-based browser, especially once you've taken the measures described in <http://idlwave.org/idlwave.html> Appendix B to get the illegal Microsoft use of the "Symbol" font to work correctly), imagine having it brought up to the correct page for over 10000 functions/routines/language constructs/system variables/class definitions/etc. For example, I typed:

icontour,ZV[M-Tab]

to autocomplete, then invoking help:

icontour,ZVALUE=[M-?]

which pulled up immediately the correct keyword in the relevant HTML help page. See the mozilla screenshot of said page here:

<http://turtle.as.arizona.edu/idl/icon.png>

And then run don't walk to idlwave.org ;).

JD

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Subject: Re: IDL online help for v6.0 (sigh)  
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Fri, 12 Mar 2004 21:53:10 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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On Fri, 12 Mar 2004 22:18:03 +0100, Reimar Bauer wrote:

> Paul Van Delst wrote:  
>  
> Dear Paul  
>  
> I have not tried yet but I read about it in the german linux user magazine.  
> <http://gnochm.sourceforge.net/>  
>  
> This tool is able to read the windows help files.  
>  
> If this works fine we should do a feature request.  
>

Just installed gnochm and gave a try, but it doesn't work with the idl.chm file from IDL6. I've submitted a bug report to the gnochm team. Very good idea though! Has bookmarks and everything. If it is controllable remotely from IDLWAVE I'd consider making it one of the defaults. Note that Windows users can use the idl.chm from IDLWAVE natively in the HTMLHelp viewer. Of course, they can't run a shell, so it's a mixed blessing.

JD

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Subject: Re: IDL online help for v6.0 (sigh)  
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Sat, 13 Mar 2004 00:09:44 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Michael Wallace wrote:  
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> Enterprise Linux, but I'm using this version of Acrobat on my Fedora  
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>  
> <http://download.adobe.com/pub/adobe/acrobatreader/unix/5.x/linux-508.tar.gz>

Bummer, it didn't work. acroread doesn't even get started, it just aborts.

Thanks, though.

paulv

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Subject: Re: IDL online help for v6.0 (sigh)  
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Sat, 13 Mar 2004 00:39:18 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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JD Smith wrote:

> :On Fri, 12 Mar 2004 14:49:37 -0500, Ben Tupper wrote:

>

>

>> Paul Van Delst wrote:

>>

>>

>>> Hello there,

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>> (yet). I find it very well organized and easy to navigate.

>>

>> I put a link to funclisting.html on my browser bar (it's my home page, too)

>

>  
> Thanks for the plug, Paul.

Well, the plug was from Ben. But I just downloaded the idl html help files from idlwave.org and have done the same as Ben - putting the funclisting in my bookmarks. The IDLWAVE html help files are an extremely valuable resource.

What you and the other IDLWAVE folks have put together is just great. But <rant> I do have to grouse a bit that this is even required! Why doesn't RSI provide this functionality in browsers - which as I've learned today are a lot more widespread than acroread. The previous IDL online help may not have been the best thing since sliced bread, but it was ridiculously easy to use and search. It just really grates that despite all the \$\$ for IDL, without the IDLWAVE effort, I'd be stuck for online help! Has anyone from RSI visited <http://www.mathworks.com/access/helpdesk/help/techdoc/matlab.shtml> ?? Even the matlab site isn't that great, but at least it's there. Is there an equivalent site for IDL? I mean, come on RSI! Man! :o(  
</rant>

Thanks again to all the IDLWAVE people.

paulv

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Subject: Re: IDL online help for v6.0 (sigh)  
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Sat, 13 Mar 2004 00:49:50 GMT  
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On Fri, 12 Mar 2004 19:39:18 -0500, Paul Van Delst wrote:

> JD Smith wrote:  
>> :On Fri, 12 Mar 2004 14:49:37 -0500, Ben Tupper wrote:  
>>  
>>  
>>> Paul Van Delst wrote:  
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>> Thanks for the plug, Paul.  
>  
> Well, the plug was from Ben.

Sorry, meant Ben. Too much cathode radiation today. Just to give credit where it's due, the CHM help in IDL6.0 for Windows is very much just a peculiarly bundled pile of HTML, so it didn't take too much processing to whip it into shape as a big set of HTML files: mostly just decompiling it, fixing some internal links and adding navigational links on each page. The main pain is scanning through all of that documentation to associate links with those 10000 keywords and routines in IDLWAVE I mentioned. But that's where all the fun is too.

Good luck,

JD

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