Subject: Re: "?" help-command in linux
Posted by JD Smith on Tue, 19 Apr 2005 18:49:45 GMT
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On Mon, 18 Apr 2005 15:53:49 -0600, Sean Davis wrote:

> Hello
>
> Does anyone know how to control what happens when you use the "?" command in
> idl on a linux machine. ...As in...
>
> IDL> ? OPLOT
>
> the default for idl 6.1 is to open up adobe acrobat, which, of course, sucks
> for reading the online help. I have the html help installed (for idlwave),
> and also xchm (http://xchm.sf.net). I would ideally like xchm to open with
> the correct entry whenever I use the ? command.

I presume you're not using IDLWAVE? If you are, you could:

IDL> OPLOT [C-c ?]

and the HTML help would popup for OPLOT. In fact, you could try:

IDL> OPLOT, [Tab]

get a list of keywords, and right click on any of them to have the
HTML help queued up to the correct section documenting that keyword.

What else can IDLWAVE give you help on, either in the HTML help pages,
or directly in the source code of a relevant routine? Here's the
list:

Routine name   The name of a routine (function, procedure, method).
Keyword Parameter A keyword parameter of a routine.
System Variable System variables like !DPI.
System Variable Tags System variables tags like !D.X_SIZE.
IDL Statement   Statements like PRO, REPEAT, COMPILE_OPT, etc.
Class name   A class name in an OBJ_NEW call.
Class Init   Beyond the class name in an OBJ_NEW call.
Executive Command An executive command like .RUN. Mostly useful in
   the shell.
Structure Tags   Structure tags like state.xsize
Class Tags   Class tags like self.value.
Default   The routine that would be selected for routine
   info display.

JD

Subject: Re: "?" help-command in linux
Posted by Ken Mankoff on Tue, 19 Apr 2005 20:11:45 GMT

On Mon, 18 Apr 2005, Sean Davis wrote:
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> would ideally like xchm to open with the correct entry whenever I
> use the ? command.
>
> thanks,
> sean

Well I just tried to make a procedure called "?.pro" and that didn't
work...

Are you using IDLWAVE? If yes, there is a simple approach: Write
some LISP code to change the behavior. I could help with this but my
LISP is rusty. I'm sure there are some people here who could do this
in their sleep. But anyway, if you are using IDLWAVE there are
better ways to get help than through ? (see previous post by JD).

Unfortunately, I think the end result will be you either a) deal
with the current situation, or b) learn some new habits.

Those new habits don't have to be IDLWAVE. It could just be the
habit of writing "IDL> h, 'foo'" rather than "? foo". Now, write
'h.pro' to do whatever it is you want.

   -k.

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http://spacebit.dyndns.org/

Subject: Re: "?" help-command in linux
Posted by Sean Davis on Wed, 20 Apr 2005 00:13:57 GMT

Good point.

I'm actually straddling the fence between IDLDE and IDLWAVE. I should

probably jump off and go completely into IDLWAVE territory. There are
still a few things I haven't gotten used to or figured out how to do yet.
The html help is nice though.

Thanks for the help!

JD Smith wrote:

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> the shell.

> Structure Tags   Structure tags like state.xsize
> Class Tags   Class tags like self.value.
> Default   The routine that would be selected for routine
> info display.
>
> JD

Subject: Re: "?" help-command in linux
Posted by savoie on Wed, 20 Apr 2005 14:36:56 GMT
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Sean Davis <seand@colorado.edu> writes:

> I'm actually straddling the fence between IDLDE and IDLWAVE. I should
> probably jump off and go completely into IDLWAVE territory.

JUMP! JUMP! JUMP! JUMP! JUMP! JUMP! JUMP! JUMP! JUMP! JUMP!

--
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