Subject: Re: IDL7.0 Help System Tabs???
Posted by David Fanning on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 16:47:04 GMT

larkn10@gmail.com writes:

> Also the basic searching for the new help system does not seem very
> helpful. For example,
> if I enter "widget_control", I do not get useful options as the result
> of the search. Perhaps
> I have missed something here.

I am away from my IDL 7 installation today (and am
experiencing something pretty close to relief), but
I really, really hope you are kidding about this. :-)

Cheers,

David
--
David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com/

Subject: Re: IDL7.0 Help System Tabs???
Posted by Spon on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 17:06:27 GMT

On Dec 6, 4:38 pm, lark...@gmail.com wrote:
> I have a couple issues with the new help system.
>
> This may be a silly question, but the "old" help system on Windows had
> this great feature: TABS.
> I found this to be extremely useful, but I cannot figure out how to
> open multiple tabs in the new
> help system. This is very surprising given the basis for the new
> IDE.

Yes, I've had a rant about this already (it's good to know I'm not
alone!), but it's at the end of a long, long thread; probably would've
been better off starting a new one :-)
Have a search for Ronn Kling's method of opening two help menus
though.

>
> Also the basic searching for the new help system does not seem very
> helpful. For example,

> if I enter "widget_control", I do not get useful options as the result
> of the search. Perhaps
> I have missed something here.
>
> Any help is appreciated! Sorry if I missed earlier posts addressing
> these issues.
>
> Thanks a lot!
>
> -Larry
OK, a workaround:

deep breath
In the workbench, click on Help->Dynamic Help
Click on Index (at the bottom)
Type in your keyword, e.g. 'widget_control' and open out the subtree
it finds
Right-click on the helpfile you want to see and select 'Open help in
Help Contents' (this is slow-ish on my machine)
Bingo

Not exactly intuitive, is it? :-(
Chris

There's got to be a better way, no? And yet using help->search gives
little of any use that I can find

Subject: Re: IDL7.0 Help System Tabs???
Posted by Vince Hradil on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 17:19:07 GMT

On Dec 6, 11:06 am, Spon <christoph.b...@gmail.com> wrote:
> On Dec 6, 4:38 pm, lark...@gmail.com wrote:
>
>> I have a couple issues with the new help system.
>
>> This may be a silly question, but the "old" help system on Windows had
>> this great feature: TABS.
>> I found this to be extremely useful, but I cannot figure out how to
>> open multiple tabs in the new
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>
> Not exactly intuitive, is it? :-(
> Chris
>
> There's got to be a better way, no? And yet using help->search gives
> little of any use that I can find

Yes, the index is definitely the way to go. The tabs (for index,
etc.) are on the BOTTOM... arggh.

Subject: Re: IDL7.0 Help System Tabs???
Posted by R.G.Stockwell on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 18:00:39 GMT
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>> Also the basic searching for the new help system does not seem very
>> helpful. For example,
>> if I enter "widget_control", I do not get useful options as the result
>> of the search. Perhaps
>> I have missed something here.

That is not true, WIDGET_CONTROL shows up as
the 101st item in the search results. :)

(Granted, some ordering of results may be necessary
in a future release)

Cheers,
bob

Spon writes:

> OK, a workaround:
>
> *deep breath*
> In the workbench, click on Help->Dynamic Help
> Click on Index (at the bottom)
> Type in your keyword, e.g. 'widget_control' and open out the subtree
> it finds
> Right-click on the helpfile you want to see and select 'Open help in
> Help Contents' (this is slow-ish on my machine)
> Bingo
>
> Not exactly intuitive, is it? :-(

At least in Windows XP, with 4 MByte RAM, I don't find any of
this to be true. The on-line help works in what I would think
of as an "intuitive" way. At least, it didn't do anything
for me that startled me or annoyed me. I'm very happy with it.
I certainly can find what I have looked for so far.

Cheers,

David
--
David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com/
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")