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rather than using the built-in help from IDL I find myself using the webpages at http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/idl_html_help/Functional_List_of_IDL_Routines.html all the time. Because you can navigate quite easily to the help page once you know the name of the function/procedure you are interested in, I wrote a small search plugin for Firefox that allows you to just enter the routine name in the search field in the top right corner (upper case!) and voila! magic happens and you navigate to the right help page. If you want to be able to do that, too, do the following:

6) Bob's your uncle.

Obviously, if you are using the IDL help, you will find this feature completely pointless, however there might be people who use the help

pages like me so I thought I share.

So long
Lasse Clausen

Subject: Re: Firefox search plugin

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Wed, 02 Jul 2008 17:02:40 GMT

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On Jul 2, 2:52 am, l...@lbnc.de wrote:

> Hi there,
>
> rather than using the built-in help from IDL I find myself using the
> webpages at http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/idl_html_help/Functional_List_of_IDL_Ro...
> all the time. Because you can navigate quite easily to the help page
> once you know the name of the function/procedure you are interested
> in, I wrote a small search plugin for Firefox that allows you to just
> enter the routine name in the search field in the top right corner
> (upper case!) and voila! magic happens and you navigate to the right
> help page. If you want to be able to do that, too, do the following:
>
> 0) download and install Firefox from www.mozilla.com
> 1) navigate to the searchplugins directory in your installation
> directory (e.g. C:\Program Files\Mozilla Firefox\)
> 2) open a file called IDL.xml using your favourite editor and insert
> the following
> <SearchPlugin xmlns="http://www.mozilla.org/2006/browser/search/">
> <ShortName>IDL Help</ShortName>
> <Description>Function/Procedure Lookup for IDL</Description>
> <InputEncoding>UTF-8</InputEncoding>
> <Image width="16" height="16">
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAgAAAgAAAAICAAIAAAACAAIAAgIAA
AICAgADAwMAAAD
> %2FAAD%2FAAAA%2F%2F8A%2FwAAAP8A%2FwD%2F%2FwAA%2F%2F%2F
> %2FAililililililgAililililgLMililililAswililililgAilililil
lgLMililililAswililililCzClilililgLswilililAIC7MlililCzCAuzC
ililgLMilililAuzALswilililgLu7swilililAAAAililililililil </
> Image>
> <Url type="text/html" method="GET" template="http://
> idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/idl_html_help/{searchTerms}.html"></Url >
> <SearchForm>[http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/idl_html_help/
Functional_List_of_IDL_Routines.html](http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/idl_html_help/Functional_List_of_IDL_Routines.html)</SearchForm>
> </SearchPlugin>
> 3) save file, restart Firefox
> 4) select IDL Help as the search engine in the top right corner of
> Firefox

> 5) type PLOT and hit enter
> 6) Bob's your uncle.
>
> I "stole" the icon from my IDL 6.2 installation, I hope I am forgiven.
>
> Obviously, if you are using the IDL help, you will find this feature
> completely pointless, however there might be people who use the help
> pages like me so I thought I share.

Cool. I got this working (word of warning for others, make sure you get your line breaks correct when copy-and-pasting).

By the way, I have a custom Google search available on my website (michaelgalloy.com over on the right side) that will search the IDL docs. The search is publicly available so the Javascript that does the search could be embedded in any website that wants it.

Mike

--

www.michaelgalloy.com
Tech-X Corporation
Software Developer II

Subject: Re: Firefox search plugin
Posted by [Mike\[2\]](#) on Thu, 03 Jul 2008 13:49:11 GMT
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On Jul 2, 1:02 pm, "mgal...@gmail.com" <mgal...@gmail.com> wrote:
> Cool. I got this working (word of warning for others, make sure you
> get your line breaks correct when copy-and-pasting).

Yes - very cool. Thanks Lasse!

Do you know if this can be made case insensitive? It works for "PLOT", but not for "plot". I wonder if there is some xml magic that can change the searchTerms to all uppercase before submitting the Url?

Mike

Subject: Re: Firefox search plugin
Posted by [lbnc](#) on Fri, 04 Jul 2008 08:06:46 GMT
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On 3 Jul, 14:49, Mike <Michael.Mill...@gmail.com> wrote:
> On Jul 2, 1:02 pm, "mgal...@gmail.com" <mgal...@gmail.com> wrote:

>
>> Cool. I got this working (word of warning for others, make sure you
>> get your line breaks correct when copy-and-pasting).
>
> Yes - very cool. Thanks Lasse!
>
> Do you know if this can be made case insensitive? It works for
> "PLOT", but not for "plot". I wonder if there is some xml magic that
> can change the searchTerms to all uppercase before submitting the Url?
>
> Mike

indeed, that bothered me too. But instead of diving into XML I decided
to direct the query to a little HTML page I created that translates
the query into upper case characters using JavaScript and the
redirects you to the IDL help pages.

In the Url tag of your IDL.xml, change the template value to

`http://www.lbnc.de/idl_search/ulconverter.html?q={searchTerm s}`

That should do the trick nicely.

Cheers
Lasse Clausen

Subject: Re: Firefox search plugin
Posted by [Mike\[2\]](#) on Mon, 07 Jul 2008 14:36:43 GMT
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On Jul 4, 4:06 am, I...@lbnc.de wrote:

> indeed, that bothered me too. But instead of diving into XML I decided
> to direct the query to a little HTML page I created that translates
> the query into upper case characters using JavaScript and the
> redirects you to the IDL help pages.
>
> In the Url tag of your IDL.xml, change the template value to
>
> `http://www.lbnc.de/idl_search/ulconverter.html?q={searchTerm s}`
>
> That should do the trick nicely.

Very nicely - this is a great tool - thanks!

Mike
