Subject: GETHELP function -- where can I find it? Posted by Russ Welti on Tue, 25 Apr 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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Last week I posted asking about a way to get HELP info on a variable returned as a string array:

- > Does anyone know if I can get the normal HELP info on
- > just a simple variable back similarly, as in:
- > help,var=var or maybe help,/stru,struct=some_struct

I found my own answer, in the GETHELP function, in 3.6.1.

HOWEVER, it won't run. Does anyone have a working GETHELP function?

The documentation says I can do this, but:

IDL> a=gethelp()

a=gethelp()

% Syntax error.

IDL> print,filepath('gethelp')

% Compiled module: FILEPATH.

/opt/idl/gethelp

IDL> \$ls /opt/idl/gethelp*

/opt/idl/gethelp*: No such file or directory

The 4.0 beta help system says the file is in "the lib subdirectory of the IDL distribution". I can find no source file for GETHELP *anywhere* on my machine.

Does anyone have a copy of it I can get?

Thanks much.

Russ Welti UW -- Seattle, WA rwelti@u.washington.edu

Subject: Re: GETHELP function -- where can I find it? Posted by Fergus Gallagher on Thu, 04 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Russ Welti <rwelti@u.washington.edu> wrote:

- > Last week I posted asking about a way to get HELP info on a > variable returned as a string array: >> Does anyone know if I can get the normal HELP info on >> just a simple variable back similarly, as in: >> help,var=var or maybe help,/stru,struct=some_struct > I found my own answer, in the GETHELP function, in 3.6.1. > HOWEVER, it won't run. Does anyone have a working GETHELP > function? > The documentation says I can do this, but: > IDL> a=gethelp() > a=gethelp() > % Syntax error. > IDL> print, filepath ('gethelp') > % Compiled module: FILEPATH. > /opt/idl/gethelp > IDL> \$ls /opt/idl/gethelp* > /opt/idl/gethelp*: No such file or directory > > The 4.0 beta help system says the file is in "the lib subdirectory > of the IDL distribution". I can find no source file for GETHELP > *anywhere* on my machine. > Does anyone have a copy of it I can get? > > Thanks much, Firstly, FILEPATH('xxxx') returns \$IDL_DIR/xxxx even if xxxx doesn't exist. Secondly, GETHELP could be a IDL primitive, and hence it need not have a file associated with it. Lastly, I said that I was TOLD that GETHELP would be included in IDL 4.0. In the meantime, try the following:
- function gethelp,x if breakdown(x)='imminent' then begin print, 'Please do not rely on beta versions'

end return,string(randomu(seed,100)) end	
You're welcome much.	
Fergus	
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