
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
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Subject: Re: GETHELP function -- where can I find it?
Posted by [Fergus Gallagher](#) on Thu, 04 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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Russ Welti <rwelti@u.washington.edu> wrote:

```

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> I found my own answer, in the GETHELP function, in 3.6.1.
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> HOWEVER, it won't run. Does anyone have a working GETHELP
> function?
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> The documentation says I can do this, but:
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> *anywhere* on my machine.
>
> Does anyone have a copy of it I can get?
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> 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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