
Subject: Re: Help menu in 8.0

Posted by [Spon](#) on Mon, 14 Mar 2011 13:41:19 GMT

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On Mar 14, 12:50 pm, Sverre Solberg <s...@nilu.no> wrote:

> Hi,
>
> a basic question from a basic user:
> I have always used IDL from the command line. It's a while since our
> IT dep. upgraded IDL, jumping now from 6.4 to 8.0. After upgrading,
> the help menu has become so extremely slow. I can type "?" and go for
> a coffee, and then I get time for another cup if trying to select
> items on the menu.

I know the feeling :-)

> Anyone experiencing the same? And having solutions?
>
> Cheers
> Sverre S.

I've not made the leap to IDL 8 yet, but I had the same issue when we moved to 7.1

My solution, inelegant though it may be, was to run version 6.4's help instead, as I still had both versions available to me.

This may not be ideal with this upgrade as there seems to be a substantial difference in functionality between versions 8 and 7, which was certainly not the case between 7 and 6.

Regards,
Chris

Subject: Re: Help menu in 8.0

Posted by chris_torrence@NOSPAM on Mon, 14 Mar 2011 15:25:46 GMT

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Hi all,

The help system in IDL 7.0 and 7.1 was based on the Eclipse help system, which was indeed sluggish in starting up.

In IDL 8.0 we switched to just using a browser-based help. Any slowness in starting up help is purely due to the browser itself, not IDL.

One suggestion - you can fire up the web browser separately, and just

navigate to the the help file within <IDL_DIR>/help/online_help/IDL/idl.html. Then you can bookmark that page, and keep the help running all the time. Unfortunately, this doesn't have the convenience of using "?fft" from within IDL, but at least it will be faster for you.

Cheers,

Chris
ITTVIS

Subject: Re: Help menu in 8.0

Posted by [chris_torrence@NOSPAM](#) on Wed, 16 Mar 2011 17:56:22 GMT

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On Mar 14, 9:25 am, Chris Torrence <gorth...@gmail.com> wrote:

> Hi all,
>
> The help system in IDL 7.0 and 7.1 was based on the Eclipse help
> system, which was indeed sluggish in starting up.
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> In IDL 8.0 we switched to just using a browser-based help. Any
> slowness in starting up help is purely due to the browser itself, not
> IDL.
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> One suggestion - you can fire up the web browser separately, and just
> navigate to the the help file within <IDL_DIR>/help/online_help/IDL/
> idl.html. Then you can bookmark that page, and keep the help running
> all the time. Unfortunately, this doesn't have the convenience of
> using "?fft" from within IDL, but at least it will be faster for you.
>
> Cheers,
>
> Chris
> ITTVIS

One important point: If you're trying to use Google Chrome to view IDL help, it won't work properly unless you add the following switch when launching Chrome:

"--allow-file-access-from-files"

Apparently, Chrome has a strict security policy when viewing local files, that prevents the WebHelp from working straight out-of-the-box.

There is a thread here about it:

<http://forums.adobe.com/thread/688697?tstart=0>

Cheers,
Chris

