CLM writes:

> I am building an IDL object widget to display help information, modeled after the IDL online help (?). I have a table of contents base containing a widget tree on the left. I have a blank window on the right, in which I'd like to display the related help information. I know how to display a text document, but I'd really like to have the ability to display a PDF file or Word file or something similar - with embedded graphics, nicer fonts, colors, and the like.
>
> I can not figure out how to do this. I have found the ONLINE_HELP intrinsic routine, but that spawns a new pdf viewer, and I can not figure out how to embed this within my existing widget.
>
> It does not have to be a pdf, but a file format that I can save existing Word documents to is preferable.
>
> It needs to be both PC and MAC compatible.
>
> Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

Try Matlab. ;-)

Cheers,

David

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

On Wednesday, January 30, 2013 12:41:38 PM UTC-5, David Fanning wrote:
> CLM writes:
>
>
>
>> I am building an IDL object widget to display help information, modeled after the IDL online help (?). I have a table of contents base containing a widget tree on the left. I have a blank

window on the right, in which I'd like to display the related help information. I know how to display a text document, but I'd really like to have the ability to display a PDF file or Word file or something similar - with embedded graphics, nicer fonts, colors, and the like.

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>> Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

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> Try Matlab. ;-)

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> Cheers,

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> David

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> David Fanning, Ph.D.

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> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

>

> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.idlcoyote.com/

>

> Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Haha. Funny. Too late for that. This is to be the help document for over a million lines/ hundreds of programs of existing IDL code.

Subject: Re: Embedding a PDF (or similar) display window in an IDL widget
Posted by David Fanning on Wed, 30 Jan 2013 17:46:09 GMT

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CLM writes:

> Haha. Funny. Too late for that. This is to be the help document for over a million lines/ hundreds of programs of existing IDL code.

Oh, dear! :-(

Cheers,

David

--
David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.idlcoyote.com/
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Subject: Re: Embedding a PDF (or similar) display window in an IDL widget
Posted by CLM on Wed, 30 Jan 2013 17:50:46 GMT

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On Wednesday, January 30, 2013 12:46:09 PM UTC-5, David Fanning wrote:
> CLM writes:
>
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>
>> Haha. Funny. Too late for that. This is to be the help document for over a million lines/
hundreds of programs of existing IDL code.
>
>
>
> Oh, dear! :-(
>
>

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

Perhaps I am being too ambitious. I can always use plain text if worse comes to worse, but I'd really like to display embedded figures and whatnot, too.

Clearly it can be done, because IDL did it for their help but they aren't making it easy to figure out.

Subject: Re: Embedding a PDF (or similar) display window in an IDL widget
Posted by David Fanning on Wed, 30 Jan 2013 18:00:07 GMT

CLM writes:

>
> Perhaps I am being too ambitious. I can always use plain text if worse comes to worse, but I'd really like to display embedded figures and whatnot, too.
>
> Clearly it can be done, because IDL did it for their help but they aren't making it easy to figure out.

Well, maybe it can be done. But, I'm nearly certain it ain't gonna be done using the current widget toolkit. Maybe in the new one.

Cheers,

David

--

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

Subject: Re: Embedding a PDF (or similar) display window in an IDL widget
Posted by Michael Galloy on Wed, 30 Jan 2013 18:00:11 GMT

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On 1/30/13 10:50 AM, CLM wrote:
> Clearly it can be done, because IDL did it for their help but they
> aren't making it easy to figure out.

The IDL help browser is not written in IDL.

Mike
--
Michael Galloy
www.michaelgalloy.com
Modern IDL: A Guide to IDL Programming (http://modernidl.idldev.com)
Research Mathematician
Tech-X Corporation

Subject: Re: Embedding a PDF (or similar) display window in an IDL widget
Posted by CLM on Wed, 30 Jan 2013 20:09:19 GMT

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Thanks all. I'll stop smacking my head against the wall now and come up with a plan B.

Subject: Re: Embedding a PDF (or similar) display window in an IDL widget
Posted by Russell Ryan on Thu, 31 Jan 2013 04:59:59 GMT

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On Wednesday, January 30, 2013 3:09:19 PM UTC-5, CLM wrote:
> Thanks all. I'll stop smacking my head against the wall now and come up with a plan B.

Ok, I don't think this is really worth your time. But if you're hell-bent. Maybe you can convert the pdfs into jpegs (or something). Then read the jpegs (or whatever) using IDL (see the astronomy library at GSFC for reading various image formats). Then display the image with tv (or IDLgrImage or whatever). You could place text using xyouts (or IDLgrText). Again, this seems like it's going to be more work than it's worth...

Subject: Re: Embedding a PDF (or similar) display window in an IDL widget
Posted by David Fanning on Thu, 31 Jan 2013 05:06:03 GMT

rryan@stsci.edu writes:

> Ok, I don't think this is really worth your time. But if you're hell-bent. Maybe you can convert the pdfs into jpegs (or something). Then read the jpegs (or whatever) using IDL (see the astronomy library at GSFC for reading various image formats). Then display the image with tv (or IDLgrImage or whatever). You could place text using xyouts (or IDLgrText). Again, this seems like it's going to be more work than it's worth...

I just think it would be infinitely easier to expand the definition of
"widget window" to include a separate browser window. It won't be that
hard for people to make the adjustment. :-)

Cheers,

David

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

Subject: Re: Embedding a PDF (or similar) display window in an IDL widget
Posted by lecacheux.alain on Thu, 31 Jan 2013 08:28:19 GMT

Le mercredi 30 janvier 2013 21:09:19 UTC+1, CLM a écrit :
> Thanks all. I'll stop smacking my head against the wall now and come up with a plan B.

If you are using Windows, the plan A might consist in using a COM bridge to a PDF (or MS-Word) ActiveX plugin existing in your system. Please refer to the WIDGET_ACTIVEX routine for embedding an external window in your own widget tree and, more generally, to the documentation on IDLcomIDispatch object class.
Maybe also possible (just a guess) with another OS by similarly using the IDL java bridge.
Not so simple, but being worth your million lines ...
alain.

Subject: Re: Embedding a PDF (or similar) display window in an IDL widget
Posted by CLM on Mon, 04 Feb 2013 20:51:09 GMT

On Wednesday, January 30, 2013 11:59:59 PM UTC-5, rr...@stsci.edu wrote:
> On Wednesday, January 30, 2013 3:09:19 PM UTC-5, CLM wrote:
>
>> Thanks all. I'll stop smacking my head against the wall now and come up with a plan B.
>
>
>
> Ok, I don't think this is really worth your time. But if you're hell-bent. Maybe you can convert the pdfs into jpegs (or something). Then read the jpegs (or whatever) using IDL (see the astronomy library at GSFC for reading various image formats). Then display the image with tv (or IDLgrImage or whatever). You could place text using xyouts (or IDLgrText). Again, this seems like it's going to be more work than it's worth...

I am giving it a try converting from pdf to png - Plan B.
I am familiar with the astrolib (I am at GSFC).
Thanks.

Subject: Re: Embedding a PDF (or similar) display window in an IDL widget
Posted by CLM on Mon, 04 Feb 2013 20:53:04 GMT

On Thursday, January 31, 2013 3:28:19 AM UTC-5, alx wrote:
> Le mercredi 30 janvier 2013 21:09:19 UTC+1, CLM a écrit :
>
>> Thanks all. I'll stop smacking my head against the wall now and come up with a plan B.
>
>
>
> If you are using Windows, the plan A might consist in using a COM bridge to a PDF (or MS-Word) ActiveX plugin existing in your system. Please refer to the WIDGET_ACTIVEX routine for embedding an external window in your own widget tree and, more generally, to the documentation on IDLcomIDispatch object class.
>
> Maybe also possible (just a guess) with another OS by similarly using the IDL java bridge.
>
> Not so simple, but being worth your million lines ...
>
> alain.

Will this work with MAC and linux? Unfortunately my team members use multiple platforms, so it needs to work on everything.