

---

Subject: S: catching the output of help,/mem into variable-programm ???

Posted by [alpha](#) on Tue, 28 Jan 1997 08:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Hello

as the topic says:

I want to catch the output of help,/mem in an variable...

is that possible...

???

any hint needed

Panther

---

---

Subject: Re: S: catching the output of help,/mem into variable-programm ???

Posted by [alpha](#) on Thu, 30 Jan 1997 08:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

davidf@dfanning.com (David Fanning) writes:

> Panther writes:

>> I want to catch the output of help,/mem in an variable...

>> is that possible???

> No....well, probably not. (I've been getting into too

> much trouble lately.)

> :-)

> David

hey... what about a little call\_external to C and smurf  
around with IDL\_HELP() or some thing like that...

NEVER SAY NEVER...

Panther ('s Guide to IDL ?)

---

---

Subject: Re: S: catching the output of help,/mem into variable-programm ???

Posted by [Peter Mason](#) on Sun, 02 Feb 1997 08:00:00 GMT

On 28 Jan 1997, HSR Sys-Admin wrote:

> I want to catch the output of help,/mem in an variable...  
> is that possible...  
> ???

Yes, it's possible, but you have to be really, really keen...

HELP,/MEM doesn't even write its output to a JOURNAL file, so the only way I can think of to catch its output is to redirect stdout when you start IDL, e.g., `idl > delete.me`

Then you'd have to open delete.me (read only) and search for and parse HELP,/MEM's output. (It might help to PRINT something just before you issue HELP,/MEM, to make its output easier to find. Also, setting !QUIET=1 might help to reduce the amount of junk to search through.)

I mean, it's a daft solution, but there it is.

Peter Mason

---