
Subject: Re: 3.0 help system

Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 28 Feb 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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Mark Fardal <fardal@shapley.colorado.edu> writes:

> does anyone know how to pop up the old IDL 3.0 help window? I
> miss the access to the user-library documentation and it's much
> quicker than the new (ok, not so new now) version.

I don't know how to do that off-hand, although I think there is
a way.

I find that I am using MK_HTML_HELP to make help files
of everything I'm interested in. Then I always have my
own hypertext links. It seems like I've always got
Netscape running anyway. All the IDL library routines
conform to the format required to get them into
an html document.

I even have the IDL Programming Tips handy. I must have
referred to them three times already today. I just can't
seem to remember everything I write down there. :-)
Then, if I need something else I just jump over to Russ
Welti's or Ray Sterner's site, where they have
everything that I haven't written down documented. This
way I'm covered and I never forget anything.

Now, were did I see that thing about IDL 3.0 help windows....

Cheers,

David

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Subject: Re: 3.0 help system

Posted by [Robert Moss](#) on Sat, 01 Mar 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

```
>  
> Mark Fardal <fardal@shapley.colorado.edu> writes:  
>  
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>
```

You can place your own documentation into the old system by using the MK_LIBRARY_HELP procedure. Place the out put from this into the \$IDL_DIR/help directory (or make links to it there). Then access the help from within IDL by using

```
idl> widget_olh
```

It occurs to me that MK_LIBRARY_HELP may no longer be documented... It has similar inputs to MK_HTML_HELP, which is documented. If I recall correctly, its something like

```
MK_LIBRARY_HELP, input_dir, output_file [, /VERBOSE]
```

Make sure output_file ends in ".help" if you want widget_olh to work (Obviously I'm talking about Unix systems here.. not sure about things like Windoze)

--

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