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Subject: Re: Documentation

Posted by [davidf](#) on Thu, 15 Apr 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Richard G. French (rfrench@wellesley.edu) writes:

- > Several postings have hinted at this topic, so I thought I would raise
- > the issue directly, in the hopes that we might have some effect. David
- > F., you said not to get you started, and so this is my attempt to get
- > you started!

I'm not taking the bait. Had you included the word "color" in there you would have had a better chance. :-)

- > What helpful suggestions can we give RSI about its documentation?
- > Here is my list:
- >
- > 1) Enable help to be read using NETSCAPE.

Until the latest version of IDL (I think) the IDL distribution came with an HTML version of the help files. Since this was not well publicized, almost no one knew it was there. (Although a lot of people complained that the IDL distribution was eating up an unbelievable amount of their disk space with each new release.) So I think the decision was made to NOT include it in the normal distribution.

But as I understand it, the HTML files are still available. If not on the CD-ROM itself, then certainly from RSI. I'd poke around their web page a bit.

Cheers,

David

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

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Subject: Re: Documentation

Posted by [Pavel Romashkin](#) on Thu, 15 Apr 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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"Richard G. French" wrote:

- > What helpful suggestions can we give RSI about its documentation?
- > Here is my list:

Hi,

Have you recently checked RSInc's web site? They are in need of people to accomplish things like it, and with not enough people they can't go through existing documentaiton and revamp it. I almost quit reporting documentation bugs to them - they keep including them in future documentation, to be published in their new releases (they like it, too, if you report glitches fully and provide the right way to write the documentation; I wonder if they just copy-paste bug reports in their manuals?). Documentation in my opinion is the hardest part to create properly. I think we should pinpoint the problems (and possibly provide solutions, because for us it is nothing - once you located a bug, you most likely worked around to fix it) to RSInc, because they are unable to implement full-scale changes based on our wish lists.

Thank you,  
Pavel

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