Getting Started with $20 Help

When the Help Codes are hidden, double clicking on underlined text will take you to the linked topic.

 - Do this first to configure your system
- a 5 minute tutorial to show you the ropes

Getting started on your own.
- turning your text into a help file - 7 easy steps
- some quick tips about composing in a hypertext.

New Topic - This is for use in the tutorial.

Quick Start
Do this first to configure your system

1. To use $20 Help first select "Templates..." from the "File" menu. Click on the check box next to "20help2.dot" in the "Global Templates" list box. Click on "OK".

2. Select "Toolbars" from the "View" menu. Click on the check box next to "$20Help" in the list box. Click on "OK".

3. To see (or not see) hidden codes click on the "Show/Hide Help Codes" button on the $20 Help toolbar.

4. Click the "Project Editor" button. On the Project Tab, click on the browse button next to Help compiler location. You need version 5.05 of the Help compiler. If you experience difficulty using the protected memory version (hcp.exe), try using hc.exe. Click on "Show Help for $20 Help" and select the Help compiler topic for more information on getting a copy.

5. Click the "Build Project" button. Select "Total Build" from the list.

6. In a moment, the screen will go blank and the Help compiler will echo any errors it encounters to the screen. A copy of this error log will be in the directory where this file is located and is called "README.LOG".

If there are no errors, you're ready for your next step.

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On Your Own
Turning Text into a help file - 7 easy steps

Follow these steps if you already have text that's ready (or nearly so) to become a Windows Help file.

1. Import your text into Word 6. It's easiest to work in normal view at this stage.

2. Put a HARD PAGE BREAK between topics. Ignore soft page breaks. Every topic must be on its own page and end with a hard page break.

3. Select the contents of your first topic. Select from the first character of the text to the last. Do not include the hard page breaks before or after the topic in your selection. Ignore soft page breaks. Click on the "Make Topic" button, and then give the topic a name. Do the same thing for the rest of your topics.

4. Once you have a topic created, you can make jumps to it by selecting the jump text and clicking on the :"Make Jump", "Make Pop-Up", or "Make Secondary Window Jump" buttons. Select the topic name you want to jump to from the list.

5. Open the Help Project Editor. You must have at least one topic defined before opening the project editor. You can add or remove topics later. You must set the path to the Help compiler before you can build the help file. Using the other tabs in the dialog box, set any other options you wish to use. You can edit any of the settings later, including keywords and build tags. Save your setting before exiting. Topics are automatically added when the dialog box is opened. Click on "Show Help for $20 Help" for more information.

6. Click the "Build Project" button. Select one of the "Total Build" options from the list. Depending on the size of your help file, you have time to run to the caffiene machine or maybe even lunch. The total build translates your Word document into an .RTF, builds the.HPJ, runs the Help compiler and then opens the Help file, if there are no errors.

    7. Click on "Show Help for $20 Help" for more information.

Composing in Hypertext

If you're starting from scratch composing your help file, $20 Help as you've already seen, allows you to compose in hypertext.

We strongly recommend that you do the tutorial.

Since you'll undoubtly be making more changes to the document than if you just imported text, read the sections in the help file about removing topics and jumps. You can create compiler errors by leaving or partially removing hidden text. Turn on "Show/Hide Help Codes" before editing jumps.

Jump Start

This is a quick tutorial to give you a idea of what's involved in creating a help file. It should take you about 5 minutes to complete these instructions and another 5 to build the help file again.

This process will add a new topics and a couple of new jumps to the help file that you created with Quick Start (you did do this didn't you?, if not do it first).

Create a new topic. Scroll this document to just after the following page break. Select from "New Topic" down to (but not including) the final page break of this document. Do not select the hard page break before "New Topic". Click on the "Make Topic" button and name the topic "NewTopic".

New Topic

Now that you've created a new topic, its time to create a few jumps.

Jump Start - Select the bold text at the beginning of this line. Click on "Make Jump" button. Select the QuickStart Topic. You can now click on the green text to go back to the start of this turorial.

Pop-Up - Select the final two lines of this document. Click on the "Make Topic" button. Enter "Sample_Pop" as the topic name. Select bold text at beginning of line. Click on the " Make Pop-Up" button. Select "Sample_Pop" from the topic list and click on "OK".

Secondary Window - Select the bold text "New Topic" at the end of the first page of this document. Click on the "Make Secondary Window Jump" button. Select "NewTopic" from the list of topics. Click OK. Select "SecWind" as the secondary window. Click OK.

Now Open the Help Project Editor. Click on the Keyword tab.

Type "Tutorial" in the text box in the "Add Keyword to Master List" section of the dialog and click on "Add". Select "NewTopic" in the list of all topics. Click "Link Topic". "NewTopic" will now show up in the list of topics linked to the keyword "Tutorial".

If you like, you can define a title for the topic by clicking on the Topics tab. This is how the topic will show up when the user chooses the keyword "Tutorial" in the search window of WinHelp. When you are done, close the dialog and save settings.

Click the "Build Project" button. Select "Total Build" from the list. In a few minutes, you'll be able to view your changes to this help project.

Pop-Up
This is a sample of what a pop-up looks like.