

Please register to support the author

WhizNotes is a Shareware program. That means you are expected to pay a registration fee to the author in order to continue using this software beyond the initial trial period of thirty days. Remember, the author is not compensated for his efforts unless you register. With your support, it is possible for the author to continue providing enhancements for WhizNotes.

Registered version of WhizNotes also gives you several benefits:

Find out more about what you get on registration by clicking on the following topics:

[What you get when you Register](#)

[How to Register](#)

What you get when you Register

Please don't be deceived by the simple user interface of WhizNotes. For example, the feature to rearrange the list of topics by drag & drop looks simple, but is a result of long gruelling hours of innovative development and testing. State-of-the-art object oriented techniques are used where complex objects work behind the scenes to present a deceptively simple user interface to you. Note that all the major features of WhizNotes are available **unrestricted** in this shareware version to help you honestly evaluate the program. Please honor this trust and register as soon as possible if you like it.

Of course, some goodies are reserved for registered users. Here is what you get with the registered version:

- **Latest version:** You will receive the most recent version of WhizNotes on a disk.
- **Legality:** You get a license for unlimited use of the software. Your name will be stamped in the EXE file and will appear in the About box of the program. **If you do not register, your license to use the software expires after 30 days.**
- **Support:** Free support is included with your registration; please see the support policy later in this topic.
- **Updates:** As a registered user you will get timely updates by following a simple procedure. See details later in this topic.
- You will get a **data-bank** of illuminating questions and answers in a special **WZN** file.
- **The Registration Reminder screen will not come up** in the registered version. This gives you many advantages. You can double-click on a **WZN** file in the **File Manager** or some other Shell and directly go to WhizNotes for looking at the file. In the registered version, even if WhizNotes is already running it will open the file for you. Other advantages of this feature are given in the tips included with the registered version.
- You will get an add-on **data conversion tool** as a bonus that will allow you to export the topics in non-help RTF format for use with your favorite word processor. You can use all the WhizNotes formatting statements which were originally meant for help users only. Also, help users will get an easy way to convert their help to a printable document.
- The following additional utilities are available with the registered version:
 - **FIXWZN.EXE** - to fix corrupted WZN files.
 - **CONVINC.EXE** - to convert the #define statements in INC file to any other language based on a template that you supply (for advanced help generation users).
- The message "This help file has been created with unregistered copy of WhizNotes" will not appear when you generate help files with the Registered Version. In other words, you get the **license for unlimited commercial usage of WhizNotes** to generate help. You also get the license to distribute any WhizNote files that you create using WhizNotes. Note that WhizNotes encodes various levels of information into your help files so that a WhizNotes generated help can be recognized for detecting unlicensed commercial usage of WhizNotes. Also, once the above message is removed, the feature to use help macros in topic attributes starts working.
- Some **advanced help generation tips** are only available in the registered version. They are related to creating your own custom RTF macros, customizing global options for

help generation, and defining startup help macros.

- Sample WZN file provided with the registered version demonstrates some more advanced features of WhizNotes help generation. In addition, another sample WZN file is provided for demonstrating the use of advanced help features available in the registered version. For instance, it demonstrates how to customize the RTF header for using multiple embedded fonts in help.

Unlimited technical support by electronic mail:

Unlimited electronic mail support is available to the registered users, free of charge, directly from the author. This is the best way to get support. This is the only way to get support if you did not purchase the software from Advanced Support Group, Inc.

Limited phone support:

You can get limited phone support from Advanced Support Group only if you purchase the software from them. Please also note that only **preliminary** technical support by phone will be provided for by Advanced Support Group, Inc. There is no charge for this support for first three months for a total connect time not exceeding 30 minutes. After that, some charges may apply for frequent callers.

Get updates by a unique scheme:

Those of you who don't know the difference between an **update** and an **upgrade** should understand this concept. Usually an update is released when major bugs are found in the product and are to be immediately made available to the users. Updates are usually FREE. An upgrade is released when the next version contains lots of improvements over the previous version. Upgrades are usually charged as they represent considerable effort by the developer to improve the product.

While the above distinction may be clear for many slow changing programs, with WhizNotes, a next version number is usually an upgrade as it contains lots of improvements. The reason is that the mere concept of WhizNotes itself generates many new ideas. It's our policy to give next upgrade FREE. However, you can not determine by just the version number whether this is a FREE update or upgrade for you. Instead, leave it to us. All you have to do is to get the next shareware version and run its Setup program. If you are eligible for a FREE update, Setup will update your registered version for FREE. If it determines that you must pay a special discounted upgrade price to get the new disk or manual, it will give you a message accordingly.

This way you can get update/upgrade notifications at the low cost (or no cost) of a shareware version. This will also help us maintain WhizNotes at an affordable price for all levels of users. The only nominal cost involved for you is to get the next shareware version from any of the shareware vendors or BBSs. A list of upload locations is available in the registered version.

Send your questions & suggestions directly to the author:

You can send your questions or queries directly to the author by electronic mail at the following address on CompuServe:

Sanjay Kanade 71303,20

Non-CompuServe users can use the following address:

71303.20@compuserve.com

If you don't have access to email, you can contact Advanced Support Group, Inc. at the address mentioned in the order form.

There is no end to new ideas with WhizNotes:

I have received brilliant feedback and suggestions from the users, and I am amazed at the variety of uses that people have found for this program. There are many, many enhancements on the waiting list, and you can look forward to more and more useful features in future versions. I have ambitious plans to improve WhizNotes. But again, all this is not possible without your support.

If you find WhizNotes useful and register for it, you can take pride in the fact that you are promoting the cause of Shareware. Shareware means user can try the software before actually investing money to buy it. When you buy Shareware, it means that you really care for the software and its usefulness. You don't care for the shrink-wrapping or advertising that only tends to increase its cost.

If you like WhizNotes, please register as soon as possible and participate in an exciting development that has evolved based on the needs of users like you.

Thank you,

Sanjay Kanade
Author of WhizNotes
email: 71303.20@compuserve.com

Also see:

[How to Register](#)

Goodies for registered users

Add-on tool as a bonus:

A tool on the **Tools** menu allows you to export the selected topics in **non-help** RTF format and to copy it to the clipboard. **This allows the non-help users to use WhizNotes formatting facilities.** For example, you can create the bulleted lists using the syntax mentioned under the help topics. The advantage is that you can directly paste or open the exported RTF in your favorite word processor. **For the help users this is a convenient method to create a document suitable for printing.** For more details, please look at [Exporting selected topics in RTF format.](#)

Other advanced help topics:

The following topics contain advanced information, and were not included or partially included in the help for the shareware version:

[Creating your own custom statements](#)
[Global attributes to control help generation in general](#)
[Keywords, macros, and other characteristics of topics](#)
[Defining startup help macros](#)

Advanced help generation examples:

Please look at the file **advhelp.wzn**. It contains some interesting hints for advanced help generation. Generate help from it and learn how it was done.

Data bank of questions & answers:

Please do not forget to look at the file **techinfo.wzn**. This file contains answers to commonly asked questions.

Additional utilities:

1. A utility to fix corrupted WZN files is available. It is called **FIXWZN.EXE**. It has to be run under DOS. Just run it without any parameters and it will show you the syntax to use it. You will rarely need to use this utility as no case of corruption has been reported yet. Moreover, in addition to this utility, you can also recover part of your data from the back up file with WBK extension.
2. A new utility **CONVINC.EXE** is available for help generation users that allows you to convert the #define statements in the WhizNotes generated INC file to any other language by supplying a template. Just invoke convinc.exe under DOS without parameters and it will show you the syntax to use it. Also [Hints on using 'Convinc.Exe' utility with VB and Pascal](#) see for more details.

Technical Support

Do this before calling for technical support:

- **Consult online help by searching on keywords:**

Lot of work has gone into creating WhizNotes online help. Special care has been taken to include all possible keywords in the help so that you can search for the desired information quickly. Author will appreciate any suggestions on more keywords to be added for a help topic.

If you have a help generation question, please also look at the sample WZN files provided with WhizNotes. May be they already contain an example of what you're looking for.

- **Consult the databank of questions & answers:**

Please don't forget to look at the file **Techinfo.wzn**. This file contains the answers to commonly asked questions. Also look at the topic Tips for the Power User. If you are wondering whether you have the most recent version, please see Update policy for information on how to obtain updates.

Email is the best way to get technical support:

The best way to get technical support is to send an **electronic mail message** to the author at:

Sanjay Kanade 71303,20

Non-Compuserve users can use the following address:

71303.20@compuserve.com

Usually the author will respond by email within a business day. But please allow three business days for a response. If you don't get a response, please copy the message to the email address of Advanced Support Group.

Policy on phone support:

You can get a preliminary phone support from **Advanced Support Group, Inc.** only if you bought the software from them. For advanced usage and help generation related questions, it is better to send an email message to the author as indicated earlier. For preliminary support, you may call **Advanced Support Group, Inc.** at **(314) 965-5630** during normal business hours. There is no charge for technical support for first three months for a total connect time of 30 minutes. After that, some charges may apply (for frequent callers) at the discretion of Advanced Support Group, Inc.

Please note that certain Help related subjects are outside the scope of WhizNotes. For example, Help Macros can be defined with WhizNotes but their description and usage is not within the scope of WhizNotes documentation or support. Hence, please use your own judgment in deciding whether the problem directly falls within the scope of WhizNotes. This will help us in keeping the cost of WhizNotes within limits. Of course, an email query to the author is always welcome and is the most convenient form for you and also for us.

Mailing address:

If you don't have access to email, please use the following address for all your correspondence:

Advanced Support Group, Inc.
11900 Grant Place
DES PERES, MO 63131-4512
USA

Phone: (314) 965-5630
FAX: (314) 966-1833

Site licenses:

For site licenses, please contact the author.

Update policy

Those of you who don't know the difference between an **update** and an **upgrade** should understand this concept. An update is released when major bugs are found in the product and are to be immediately made available to the users. Updates are usually FREE. An upgrade is released when the next version contains lots of improvements over the previous version. Upgrades are usually charged at a discounted price as they represent considerable effort by the developer to improve the product.

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I have included the utility **PATCH.EXE** on the disk. Please see instructions on how to apply the patch at the end of this topic.

Keep sending your suggestions:

I have received brilliant feedback and suggestions from the users, and I am amazed at the variety of uses that people have found for this program. There are many, many enhancements on the waiting list, and you can look forward to more and more useful features in future versions. Thanks to all of you for your support.

How to apply a patch:

When trying out the patch, you are bound by the same **DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTY** and **LICENSE AGREEMENT** which is present in file **LICENSE.DOC** in your registered version or on the printed brochure. If you do not agree to the terms then stop here and do not apply the patch.

To apply the patch, all you have to do is to run the SETUP program given with the shareware version. It will determine that you have a previous registered version and whether you are eligible for a FREE update. If so, it will automatically patch the update for you. Otherwise, it will give you a proper notification.

Probable locations of the shareware version:

*Starting from this version, the shareware version of WhizNotes will definitely be available on the following anonymous FTP site: **ftp.secret.com***

Following is a list of network locations where previous version 2.1 was uploaded. You should look at one of the following places for the next shareware version. Since the file name will

change, first search for the keyword "WhizNotes". Of course, these are not the only locations. You may also find it on your local BBS or on one of the CDs published by Windows Magazine, PSL or ASP.

List of uploads for previous Version 2.1

- CompuServe - WINPROD forum (file WHIZNT.ZIP), BCPPWIN forum (file WZN211.ZIP).
- Exec-PC - MS-Windows File Collection, file WHIZN211.ZIP
- Delphi - PC/Compatibles Group, Win-OS/2-Geos-DM
- GEnie - Windows RoundTable, file WHIZN211.ZIP #2592
 - Library 11: Windows (Other Applications)
 - Borland RoundTable, file WHIZN211.ZIP #5798
 - Library 8: Programming Utilities
 - Programming & Programming Languages RoundTable, WHIZN211.ZIP #2699
 - Library 2: General Programs & Utilities
 - Microsoft RoundTable, WHIZN211.ZIP #6033
 - Library 1: General Information & Utilities
- America Online -Windows Forum, Applications/Text & Word Programs
 - WhizNotes 2.11: Super-notepad, file WHIZN211.ZIP
- wuarchive.wustl.edu - /pub/MSDOS_UPLOADS/win_desktop/whizn211.zip
- ftp.cica.indiana.edu - /pub/pc/win3/utills/whizn211.zip
- St. Louis Online - Main Board, WHIZN211.ZIP
- Satalink - Main Board, WHIZN211.ZIP
- Blue Ridge Express - WHIZN211.ZIP
- World Data Network - Main Board, WHIZN211.ZIP
- Ziff Author Upload Center - Main Board, WHIZN211.ZIP
- Night Owl's - Main Board, WHIZN211.ZIP
- HH InfoNet - Main Board, WHIZN211.ZIP
- Online Pitstop - Main Board, WHIZN211.ZIP
- Global-Net - WHIZN211.ZIP
- Synergy Online - Main Board, WHIZN211.ZIP
- Detroit Download Central - WHIZN211.ZIP
- Newtown Express - Main Board, WHIZN211.ZIP
- Pier CD #7 - WHIZN211.ZIP
- Programmer's Corner - WHIZN211.ZIP
- Krystal Palace - Main Board, WHIZN211.ZIP
- Chicago Syslink - WHIZN211.ZIP
- Prime Time - Main Board, WHIZN211.ZIP
- Index - WHIZN211.ZIP
- Software Vault - WHIZN211.ZIP

Introduction

- Do you often feel overwhelmed with the bulk of information that you have to deal with?
- Do you constantly come up with new ideas, but have trouble recalling them later?
- Do you find it difficult to reorganize your thoughts when you decide to write up the first draft of a document?
- Do you wish that you could create your very own electronic reference notes on your favorite subjects; that too in the Windows hypertext help format?

Well, don't blame yourself for any of these situations as they are indeed the manifestations of your creative mind. Do not lose those precious thoughts away! Give your imaginative mind the proper writing tool that it deserves. Give it WhizNotes and see your productivity soar as never before!

Welcome to the world of WhizNotes:

WhizNotes is a Windows program that can be used on Windows 3.1 or Windows 95. Once you start using WhizNotes, you might wonder how you ever managed without this versatile tool. After knowing more about WhizNotes, you will find that it does not fit into any single category of programs that you have known so far. It may look like a PIM (Personal Information Manager) at first glance. But, it is also a research tool, Windows Help generation tool, an organizer, a study aid, a thinking aid, and so on. Its variety of uses are only limited by your imagination.

Let us take an example of a document preparation process that is starting from scratch. We all know how painful it can be to prepare that *first draft* of a document. You may have all the ideas on how to go about writing that document but all your thoughts seem tangled to begin with. WhizNotes helps you overcome this inertia effectively and easily. How? It lets you classify your information into separate topics instantly. WhizNotes provides powerful topic management facilities. Therefore, you can concentrate on the subject matter of the document without worrying about its structure.

WhizNotes' information management facility is also a great help in making notes of any kind, whether you are a student, a writer, a programmer or anyone with a need to get more control on your random information.

Also a Help generation tool:

To top it all, WhizNotes allows you to turn your notes into Windows hypertext help, provided you have the Windows help compiler.

The philosophy of WhizNotes:

Want to know more about the concepts behind WhizNotes? Why not take a look at [The philosophy of WhizNotes](#).

To mention a few of the more important features, WhizNotes gives you an ability to:

- Put any type of text in one or more topics.
- Choose any descriptive topic name, even with embedded blanks and special characters.
- Group all these topics together in a WhizNote file that serves as a folder for these topics.

This way, you can create as many groups as you want by simply using different WhizNote files. To get a better idea of the grouping flexibility provided by WhizNotes, please take a

look at the [Examples of WhizNote files](#).

- Print a neat listing of one or more topics including a table of contents.
- With just a click on the menu, generate Windows hypertext help, provided you have the Microsoft help compiler.

Features of WhizNotes:

For more details, please look at the [Features of WhizNotes](#).

The philosophy of WhizNotes

When you start writing, what seems to be more important to you: the text content of your document, or its appearance?

You will agree that the *text content* is more important in the initial research phase of a writing project. After all, the *text content* is the soul of a document. If it is not thought out properly then no matter what you do with the document's appearance, it would not be effective.

When you begin to write, your foremost aim is to put your creative thoughts into words. You are not worried about the appearance of the document at this point. Rather, you want an uninterrupted flow of thoughts to your text.

This is also true when you are learning a new subject and making notes, planning something, or just involved in creative writing or thinking.

Creativity and randomness:

Preparing a document from scratch is a creative process. You must have noticed that these thoughts occur to you in a random manner.

For instance, when you are working on one part of the document, you may suddenly get an idea about the same or an altogether different subject. Also, while studying a particular topic, in a flash, you may solve an earlier problem that had been nagging at the back of your mind. Well, the ways of a human mind are mysterious. It seems to work in the background, that too on multiple problems at a time. How can you cope with this train of random ideas effectively?

First of all, it is important that you are able to record these ideas as and when they occur. That is not enough! You should also be able to group, identify, retrieve and print your random notes easily. Most of us resort to bits and pieces of paper when dealing with such problems. Isn't it an era to expect more from your computer?

Do word processors really help you in this creative phase?

You will notice that most of the modern writing tools and sophisticated word processors tend to concentrate on only one aspect of documentation: its appearance and appearance only.

A number of excellent word processors are available today. But, unfortunately, there is not much help around when it comes to preparing the document's soul: its subject matter.

When recording the random pieces of information or ideas, we may often take help of the good old *pen and paper*. Why don't we use a simple text editor like **Notepad**? There may be many reasons:

- Because the underlying operating system supports limited number of characters in the filename and we won't be able to recognize our ideas if we keep each one in a different file. Moreover, certain special characters are prohibited in the filename. Note that new Windows'95 supports use of long file names but it only solves part of the problem. There is no way to link information with hypertext jumps.
- It is even more of a problem to group these cryptic file names and remember where we kept them.
- Printing or looking at all of them at once as a single entity also requires more effort.

- The methods to organize these pieces of information are not very convenient under the operating system, especially when you have to link one information with another.
- Even if you use some of the file system utilities that allow you to assign a descriptive text to your files, it does not help when all these windows are open for editing in a program. You still have to manage these windows by recognizing file names in the titles, which is a painful process.

So what do we end up doing? We usually give up and try to work in a single large document file. This forces us to think in a way that is just not the way we think.

Why doesn't your computer help you when it can do more? Certainly, it can do better than those pieces of paper! Well, you need not be frustrated any more. WhizNotes comes to your help with powerful topic management capabilities. It gives you maximum flexibility in organizing your thoughts.

A word on outlining:

Although WhizNotes can also be used for single-level outlining, its primary use is different and precedes that of an outliner. There is a fine line between the research and the outlining phases of your writing project. The research phase belongs in your creative mind, whereas outlining is more of a rational process where you have already selected what ideas belong and what don't belong, and you are trying to prioritize them in a sequence and in a hierarchy. According to many creative writing authorities, you should not engage in outlining too soon, otherwise your first draft is going to suffer. Instead, you should give equal importance to all your random ideas occurring in the research phase with no sequence assigned to the notes whatsoever. In WhizNotes terms, you will be placing each of these ideas in a different topic and will keep the topics in the sorted order. As your research progresses, with time to nurture them--many of these ideas will take a better shape in your creative mind, and you will also gather some new ones. This is the phase where WhizNotes is extremely useful, and there is no other program quite like it.

Using WhizNotes to author a help system:

If you think help files are only created by programmers for providing online help, you are severely limiting your point of view. You should look at [Advantages of Help Generation](#).

When you are writing a help system you will feel an even greater need for creating information in pieces and by topics. Also, you will constantly need to establish jumps between your topics and to move from topic to topic to verify the need for the explicit relationship that you created. WhizNotes makes it incredibly simple to do that by allowing you to drag and drop topic names on top of other topics. This inserts jump statements which allow you to move from topic to topic by double-clicking on them. Later when you create the Windows help, these statements are converted into Windows hypertext jumps. The ability to create information in pieces and reorganize it in pieces is vital for any help authoring. Many so called help authoring tools fail to simplify this most important aspect of help writing. They are using a different paradigm; they require you to remember and pre-plan lots of information about your topics, and are often used in the later stages when you have completed the most painful groundwork for your help writing--planning your topic contents and the relationship between them. WhizNotes helps you right from the early stages of the help development: the stages that require a major and most painful chunk of your total effort.

Also see:

Features of WhizNotes

What is auto-indent?

if **auto-indent** is **on** and you press **Enter** at the end of a line to go to the next line, the caret is positioned aligned with the first non-blank character on the preceding line. This is called auto-indent as it indents the next line at the same level as the preceding line. It is very convenient for any type of text editing. Hence, you are advised to always leave auto-indent **on**.

What is a topic?

A topic is the smallest unit of information that you want to classify and keep as an individual entity. In other words, it is a note that you want to identify by a distinct name. WhizNotes allows you to keep related topics in a single WhizNote file where they can be easily identified and accessed.

WhizNotes does not restrict you in any way to choose names for your topics. Topic names can be as long as 255 characters, and can contain embedded spaces and special characters. So, even a descriptive phrase can be a topic name. Once you get this flexibility to choose the names that you want, you will never want to be without it.

Also see:

[What is a WhizNote file?](#)

[Creating a new topic](#)

[Opening a topic for editing](#)

[Renaming a topic](#)

[Deleting a topic](#)

[Operations on multiple topics](#)

What is a WhizNote file?

A WhizNote file is a collection of many topics. You create such files with the help of WhizNotes. These WhizNote files have the extension **.WZN**.

It is up to you to group any topics you want into one **WZN** or WhizNote file. This way you don't have to remember each of your topic names. All you need to remember is the WhizNote file name that serves as a folder name.

Also see:

[What is a topic?](#)

[Examples of WhizNote files](#)

[Creating a new WhizNote file](#)

Opening an existing WhizNote file

To open an existing WhizNote file, select **File-Open WhizNote....** A standard file-open dialog will be presented where you can select the desired WhizNote file to open.

Once you select a file and press OK, you will see that a gray WhizNote window appears that lists the topics contained in this file.

You can open, delete, and add topics to this WhizNote file.

Please note that WhizNotes allows you to keep multiple WhizNote file windows open at the same time. You can even drag topics from one WhizNote file to another.

Also see:

[What is a WhizNote file?](#)

[Opening from File Manager](#)

Saving a WhizNote file

To save a WhizNote file, select menu **File-Save WhizNote**. If you have topic windows open and have made changes to them, you can remain assured that all the changes have been recorded in the WhizNote file.

If the WhizNote window is **Untitled**, a standard **File-save dialog** appears that allows you to choose a name and location for the WhizNote file.

Please note that all the attributes of the topics, for example, their word wrap and auto-indent attributes, are remembered in the WhizNote file along with the topics. This is indeed very convenient, so that once you create a topic with a certain attribute, it stays that way. Also, the "desktop options for the WhizNote" are also saved to the WZN file during this operation.

Please note that a save operation is not actually performed if you have made no changes to the WhizNote since the last save. It is considered a change if any of the topic contents, topic name or order has changed. The change in options is not considered a change as they are not so important. For details, please see [Desktop options for a WhizNote](#).

You can also **Save all modified WhizNotes** by another menu option.

Also see:

[Save WhizNote as.. menu option](#)

Opening from File Manager

WhizNotes automatically makes an association for **WZN** files in the **File Manager** for you. So, if you double-click on a **WZN** file, it will be opened for you by WhizNotes. In the registered version, even if WhizNotes is already running, it will open the file for you.

You can also associate extensions for other text files with WhizNotes. The above facility will then extend to the text files as well. However, currently WhizNotes can not open text files larger than 32K bytes.

Save WhizNote as.. menu option

You will use this option when you want to save a WhizNote file by some other name.

Also see:

[Creating a new WhizNote file](#)

[Saving a WhizNote file](#)

Edit menu copy operations for a WhizNote window

You can copy the contents or names of selected topics to the clipboard using the edit menu operations: **Edit-Copy topic contents** or **Edit-Copy selected names**.

Opening a topic for editing

To open a topic, you have to first select the topic in the WhizNote window. Then you have three choices available to open a topic for editing:

- **Double-click** on the topic name.
- Or, press **Enter** key.
- Or, select menu **File-Open Topic....**

You can open more than one topic with the last two methods, provided you have selected them. For details on how to select multiple topics, please see [Operations on multiple topics.](#)

If you look at the WhizNote window, you can recognize the open topics by a red pen that appears on the topic names. Opening an already open topic brings its topic window on top.

You can always close all the topics by selecting the menu **Window-Close All Topics.** Similarly, you can also minimize all the topics to organize your desktop.

Renaming a topic

To rename a topic, just select the topic in the WhizNote window then select menu **File-Rename Topic....** A dialog box appears that allows you to change the name of the topic.

Rename operation is also available from an open topic window.

Ordering your topics in the topic list

This feature allows you to customize the order of the topics appearing in the topic list. The default behavior is to view the list of topics sorted alphabetically. But you can uncheck the menu item **Edit-Sorted list of topics** and then rearrange the topics in a desired sequence by moving one or more topics to the top, up, down, or bottom. Using a mouse, you can even drag and drop topics to reorder them.

To move your topics use either of the following methods:

- The Edit menu commands to move the topics.
- The keyboard shortcuts for these commands as mentioned on the above menu.
- The arrow buttons on the right which represent move to Top, Up, Down, and Bottom respectively.
- **Drag and drop** the selected topics using the mouse. The selected topics will occupy the position pointed to by the drop. You can drag the mouse cursor above or below the list to scroll it, if the target topic is not visible.

Searching for a topic

You can search for a topic in two ways:

- If you remember one or more beginning characters of a topic name, you can select menu **Search-Select Topic Beginning With....** A dialog box appears that allows you to select a topic by typing the beginning characters. For more details see [Select Topic Dialog Box](#).
- If you remember an embedded word or phrase within a topic name, you can search for it by selecting menu **Search-Find....**

Also see:

[Search/replace operations](#)

Search/replace operations

You can use menu **Search-Find...** to search for text in the topic names and contents. In the search dialog, if you specify **Also Search Topic Contents** then the search goes through each topic name and the topic contents. If a topic contains the search text, the topic window is opened for you showing the text found. If you continue the search by pressing **F3** (menu **Search-Find Next**) then it continues through the rest of the topics in the WhizNote file.

Replace operation:

If you are using an unsorted list of topics, you are allowed to perform a global replace through the topics by selecting the menu item **Search-Replace...** If you are doing a replace through topics with no prompt, and for all occurrences then depending on your search specification, it may be a long operation. A **Cancel replace dialog** is provided that allows you to cancel this operation. **It is suggested that you should perform a "Save WhizNote" just before starting such a global replace. This way if you make a mistake, you can discard all the changes by closing the window and can reopen the file to start again.**

Inserting a jump to another topic

When you drag a topic from a WhizNote window onto one of the open topic windows, a dialog box appears that allows you to insert a WhizNotes Jump. Using this jump, you can literally jump to the indicated topic by double-clicking on it. Also, when you generate a Windows help file from WhizNotes, this jump is translated into a **Windows Help jump**. Try and see how it works. Then you will understand it better.

You can also drag and drop multiple topics, for instance, when creating a "Contents" topic for help generation. Each jump statement is inserted on a new line, preserving the indentation if any. You can also do an undo if you change your mind just after such a drop.

For your information, when you print topics containing jump statements, the jumps are converted into double-quoted topic names so that your printout does not look strange.

Also see:

Insert Jump Dialog Box.

Operations on multiple topics

WhizNotes allows some operations on multiple topics. For example, you can delete a number of topics at once by selecting them all and choosing the delete operation.

How to select multiple topics:

To select multiple topics use standard Windows guidelines. For instance, you can select multiple topics by pressing the control key along with a mouse click. You can also select a range of topics by selecting the first topic in the range and then moving to the other end of the range and pressing the SHIFT key with the mouse click. For more details on how to select multiple topics in a list box, please refer to your Windows documentation.

WhizNotes currently allows the following operations on multiple selected topics:

- Open topics.
- Delete topics.
- Move or rearrange topics.
- Print topics.
- Copy topics to another WhizNote by dragging them with the mouse.
- Export topics to text file.
- Copy names or contents of the selected topics to the clipboard.
- Export topics as non-help Rich Text Format (in registered version only).
- Force word-wrap on topics.
- Give word count for topics.
- Reset selected topics to default sizes.

Opening multiple WhizNote and topic windows

WhizNotes uses Windows Multiple Document Interface that gives you many features for managing your open windows, whether they are WhizNote file windows or topic windows.

You can go on clicking on topics to open them and you can go on opening other WhizNote or text files. The **Window** menu gives you many features by which you can move between the windows, can iconify, tile or cascade them, or even close all windows or only the topic windows. For details, see Multiple Document Interface.

You can also drag a topic from one WhizNote window to another by using the mouse. See Copying topics from one WhizNote to another

Manipulating external text files

After using topic management facilities of WhizNotes, you won't go back to managing your text in separate text files on your disk. However, WhizNotes also allows you to view or edit external text files. This helps you exchange text with them using standard clipboard operations.

- You can create a new text file by selecting menu item **File-New Text File**. Then you can save it by any name of your choice by selecting **File-Save As...**
- You can open any text file by selecting **File-View/Edit A Text File....** You will notice that the File menu remembers the last 8 WhizNote or Text files that you visited. You can just click on one of those file names to reopen them quickly.
- Similarly, you can also save one of your topics to an external text file. See [Saving topic to an external text file.](#)
- Currently, WhizNotes only allows you to view/edit text files of upto 32K characters in size.
- Word wrap and auto-indenting is also available when editing external text files. However, word wrap can not be remembered within a text file. Rather, you have to remember which file is to be viewed with word wrap option. This is similar to Windows **Notepad**.

Also see:

[Importing topics from a text file](#)

[Exporting Selected Topics to a Text File](#)

[Importing whole text files as topics](#)

Saving topic to an external text file

To save a topic to an external text file, open the topic window by double-clicking on the topic. Then select menu **Save to text file...**

Special saving for word wrapped topics:

Please note that the file will be saved in exactly the same format as you see it on your open window. For example, if you have word wrap feature **ON** for a topic then the lines will be split exactly as you see them split on the window.

If instead, you want to export a topic with **word wrapping on a specific column** or **no word wrapping**, you should use **Export feature** instead of a save.

Copying topics from one WhizNote to another

If you have one or more WhizNote windows open, and you want to copy a topic from one WhizNote to another, do the following:

- Bring both windows into view. For better visibility, you can minimize the unneeded windows and use menu **Window-Tile** for better view of the desired windows.
- Select a topic in one window by clicking on it. Then, while keeping the left mouse button pressed, drag the mouse cursor onto the other WhizNote window and release it.

You will see that the topic gets copied to the other WhizNote file.

Dragging multiple topics:

You can also use Windows standard key combinations with the mouse-click to select multiple topics and drag them onto the other WhizNote. For details on how to select multiple topics, please see [Operations on multiple topics](#).

This dragging feature is indeed very convenient:

For instance, you can make one of your WhizNote files a wastebasket or an archive. You can drag and drop old topics onto this basket and then delete them from the original WhizNote.

Printing from a topic window

This is the feature that you will use most often when printing a single topic, say a letter. No special headers or footers will be printed except for the page numbers. This is what you usually want when printing a single topic.

To print from a topic window, open the topic window by double-clicking on it. Then select menu **File-Print**. A standard print dialog will appear that will allow you to choose the standard printing options or to setup a printer.

Printing one or more selected topics

If you select menu **File-Print Topic...**, the following actions will take place, depending on whether you have selected a single or multiple topics in the WhizNote window.

Printing a single selected topic:

The topic will be printed, and proper headers and footers will be inserted by WhizNotes when printing.

Printing multiple selected topics:

You will be asked for a title for your printout; the topics will be printed, and proper headers and footers will be inserted by WhizNotes. In addition, a table of contents will be printed at the end. For details on how to select multiple topics, please see [Operations on multiple topics](#).

You can also print all the topics by choosing menu **File-Print All Topics**.

Using Quick draft printing for convenience

Have you ever used **Generic Text Driver** for printing? If not, you are missing considerable savings in printing time, especially if you are using slower printers. Usually, when printing a draft copy of your text, you want the quickest possible printing. The Generic Text Driver is the answer. If you setup your printer to use Generic Text Driver, you can select it for quick draft printing whenever needed. But wait, if you use Generic Text Driver with **Notepad** or other text editors, you may see that the page-breaks do not occur properly. This seems to be a problem with the Generic Text Driver, so that the programs see a larger page-size than actual.

WhizNotes works around this problem:

For your convenience, WhizNotes takes extra care to implement a work around for this problem. With WhizNotes, you will not see wrong page-breaks when using the Generic Text Driver. Start using it and save valuable review time.

Inserting date/time in your text

You can insert the **date** or **date/time** in your text by selecting the menu items **Edit-Insert date...** You also have an option of choosing whether a long or short format date is inserted. WhizNotes picks up the format of the date and time from your current selections in the **International** settings of the Control Panel.

Toolbar/Statusbar

Frequently used menu operations are available on a toolbar just below the menu. To know the operation associated with a button, just press it and its menu equivalent will be shown on the status bar at the bottom.

You can choose to view or not to view the toolbar and statusbar by the **options menu**.

Options menu

The options menu allows you to control the following attributes:

- **Toolbar**

Uncheck this menu item to remove the toolbar. You may rarely want to do that since toolbar is so useful. Also see: [What is toolbar?](#)

- **Statusbar**

Uncheck this menu item to remove the status bar.

- **General desktop options**

See [General desktop options](#).

- All other menu items are meaningful only when you are working on a WhizNote file or a topic. For details, please see [Desktop options for a WhizNote](#).

Setting up the Help Compilation environment

By default, WhizNotes sets up the environment to invoke the help compiler **HC31.EXE**. If you want to invoke a next version of the help compiler for which the file name is different, please look at the following information. Otherwise, you may skip the rest of this topic.

Changing the name of the help compiler file that is used:

Let us assume that the name of the new released help compiler executable is **HCP.EXE**. Before doing help generation in WhizNotes, you must use Windows **File Manager** to **associate** the file extension **HPJ** with **HCP.EXE**. If the help compiler is not on your DOS path, it is better to type in the full path name of the help compiler in the File Manager association.

This works because WhizNotes has been programmed to use **HC31.EXE** only if you have not already setup the association of extension **HPJ** yourself. This means that WhizNotes will be able to invoke future versions of the help compiler, provided you make the proper association for the **HPJ** extension in the File Manager.

Once you have setup this environment, you are ready to generate Windows help from your WhizNote files.

Also see:

[How to help-compile in background](#)

How to create recorder macros for help statements

Have you ever looked at a tool **Recorder** in your Windows accessories? This amazing tool can help you to enter often used text quickly by using the keyboard shortcuts. A WhizNote recorder file has been provided for you as a sample. The file name is **WHIZNOTE.REC** and it is located in the WhizNotes program directory.

Here are the steps to use it to simplify your text entry:

- Start the recorder program and open the file **WHIZNOTE.REC** from the file menu.
- You will see that it contains predefined macros for entering WhizNotes statements: **[~bold..]**, **[~italic]** and a few other statements. Once you open this file in **Recorder**, the macros are ready for use in WhizNotes.
- For example, select some text which you want to be bracketed by a **[~bold...]** statement. Then press **Ctrl-B** which is the short-cut key for running the macro BOLD. You'll be delighted to see how that simplifies your typing.

Here are short-cut keys for macros predefined for you in this file.

- Ctrl-B Bold
- Ctrl-I Italic
- Ctrl-l Start bulleted list
- Ctrl-n Start numeric list
- Ctrl-m Item
- Ctrl-e End list

Note: Remember that these macros can only be used in WhizNotes. If you switch to another application, be sure to disable the **Option-Shortcut keys** in the recorder, otherwise you may see strange results. Also, you can change the shortcut keys for these macros in recorder.

Keep recorder running for convenience:

If you like this feature, it is better to always run **Recorder** when using WhizNotes. To add it to a program manager group, simply drag the file **WHIZNOTE.REC** from File Manager onto a group and an icon will be inserted for you. For convenience, change properties of the icon in Program Manager to start the Recorder minimized.

How to define your own macros:

Here is a brief description of steps to define a macro like BOLD. For details, please look at the description of Recorder in Windows manual.

1. Start the Recorder program as described above.
2. Place the caret anywhere on a WhizNote topic. This is just to indicate that the macro is for use with WhizNotes.
3. Now go to the recorder and select menu **Macro-Record**. A dialog box will come up that will allow you to define the shortcut key and a name for the macro. As soon as you press start, you should see the recorder minimized and the caret on the topic window. The icon for recorder will be blinking to indicate that the recording has started.
4. Now press the keys in the following order:
 1. Shift-Delete This means the macro will first CUT the selected text when run.
 2. [~bold These characters will be typed.
 3. Space This is to separate bold statement from the following text.

4. Shift-Insert We are pasting back the text that we cut.
5.] This is the closing bracket.
6. Ctrl-Break This will stop the macro recording. Now you can save the macro.

Now you can test the macro to see that it works. This way you can enter more macros in the file **WhizNote.rec**. You can make more such files for even other applications but remember that at one time only one recorder file can be used. Remember that you have to first start the recorder with the proper file before using it in an application. It is better to place an icon for Recorder with your favorite recorder file in the Startup group of the program manager so that it is always available for you when needed. You can enable and disable its macros by using the menu **Option-Shortcut keys**.

Caution:

- For your macros, choose a shortcut key that is not already defined as an accelerator on the WhizNotes menu, otherwise the accelerator may stop working.
- If you add more macros to the **Whiznote.rec** file, better save it elsewhere or change its name so that you can restore it. This is to prevent losing your new macros if you were to reinstall WhizNotes as the setup program will overwrite the file.

Temporary files created by WhizNotes

It is good to know that WhizNotes creates temporary files in a subdirectory of your working directory. Hence, it is best to ensure that the working directory, that you specify for WhizNotes in your Program Manager or other shell, is on a hard disk. By default, WhizNotes **Setup** sets up the working directory to the same directory where WhizNotes executable program is installed. But you can always change it in the **Program Manager** by using the menu **File-Properties**.

You should know that the temporary files are created in the working directory under a subdirectory named **WHIZTEMP**. Further, more subdirectories with names like NETWORKAA.AAA, NETWORKAA.AAB,... are also created in this **WHIZTEMP** subdirectory. You should never delete such directories when WhizNotes is running, as you may lose any changes that you are making. But if WhizNotes is not running, and you find such directories then it means that WhizNotes could not cleanup the temporary files in its last run due to some problem, usually a hang. In that case, you can delete these subdirectories yourself.

Exporting Selected Topics to a Text File

At a certain stage, after preparing your notes in WhizNotes, you may want to join one or more topics to create a single external text file. This is called an **export-text** operation.

To perform an export-text, please select menu **Tools-Export Selected Topics To Text File...** A dialog box appears that allows you to specify the following options:

- **Enter delimiter line:**

You can enter a delimiting line that you want to precede the start of each topic in the output text file. For example, if you enter */* TOPIC */* as the delimiter line then WhizNotes will put such a line in the output text file whenever it starts writing a new topic. Of course, if you want, you may not choose to put any delimiter by leaving the line empty in the dialog box.

Delimiter is especially useful, if later you want to import the same file back into a WhizNote. **Please also note that this is the only option which you should use on this dialog box if you foresee reimporting this text back into a WhizNote file. If you use any of the following options then topics may not be imported exactly as they looked before exporting.**

- **Break paragraphs into lines at a specified column:**

You can word-break paragraphs into lines at a specified column. This is very useful for preparing properly formatted files for MS-DOS viewing. For example, I often use this feature to prepare a README.1ST file from my topics.

- **Do not export topic name:**

You may choose NOT to export topic names before the text. You may want to do this if you simply want to merge text from selected topics into one big text file. For example, you may have earlier imported a whole, big text file that was split into multiple topics, and now you want to export the pieces to recreate the whole file. See [Importing whole text files as topics](#) for how to import big text files into a WhizNote.

- **Emit an underlining line of dashes:
Emit a blank line before and after the topic name:**

These are additional features to nicely format the exported file for viewing with external commands like DOS **Type**.

Also see:

[Importing topics from a text file](#)

Importing topics from a text file

The **Import topics** dialog appears when you select menu **Tools-Import Topics from a file**. Import itself is a fairly advanced operation. You should clearly understand what happens here. Hence, the following discussion attempts to give you lots of details on finer points of importing. For a first reading, you may skip the details as necessary.

A delimiter line:

First of all please look at [What is a delimiter](#) to understand the meaning of a **delimiter line**. When importing topics from a text file, you must enter a delimiter line so that WhizNotes can separate out the topics. Once you specify a proper delimiter line, the import feature will import topics into the WhizNote window.

Please note that if a WhizNote has already been exported to a text file with delimiters then it is ready for import automatically. Try it out. See the topic [Exporting Selected Topics to a Text File](#) for details on how to export.

If you are taking an external text file and want to break it into topics then, and only then, you need to do some extra work to insert your delimiter and topic names at the proper places in the file. Please also see [Knowing a little programming helps when importing](#).

Join lines to form paragraphs:

This is an extremely useful feature when importing text prepared by non-word-wrap editors which introduce a hard carriage-return character at the end of each line of a paragraph. If you were to rejoin these lines manually, it is a tedious process, as you must have realized by now when using previous version of WhizNotes. Although it is difficult to find out which lines can be joined, WhizNotes uses a special technique to recognize the lines belonging to a paragraph. Of course, it may not always work, especially, if left margins are present in the text file in the form of spaces. That is why, after performing any import, you should examine the imported topics to correct any undesired joining of lines.

Those of you who are used to preparing a lists of items with a hyphen in the first column will be delighted to know that WhizNotes does not join items of such a list.

Append topics with duplicate names:

What happens when a topic name to be imported already exists in the WhizNote file? Well, you have two choices: the default behavior is that WhizNotes will make up a new topic name by appending a sequence number for the new topic. However, if you check this box, WhizNotes will try to append the new topic's text to the already existing topic. If it runs out of space for a topic, it will create another similar topic name and continue. This is very useful for making topics out of email messages based on the **subject** where a subject may repeat quite often.

Also see:

[Importing whole text files as topics](#)
[Exporting Selected Topics to a Text File](#)
[Tips for the Power User](#)

Importing whole text files as topics

Allows you to import external text files, each as a separate topic. If the files are larger than the allowed topic size, they are split into multiple topics.

There are two ways to perform this import operation:

1. Select menu item **Tools-Importing whole text files as topics...** A standard file open dialog will come up where you can select multiple files to be imported.
2. **Drag** multiple files from the **File Manager** and **drop** them on the WhizNote window.

You will see that files will be imported and split into multiple topics if they are large. You can use this feature for several purposes. I use it often to take advantage of the convenient WhizNotes printing. I can drop all my source files on a WhizNote window, rename them to more descriptive names and rearrange their order. Then I get a neat printout from WhizNotes with a table of contents at the end. You may find other uses for it as well.

Just to let you know, the large files are purposely split into multiple topics at less than maximum topic size, so that you can add more information to these topic-pieces. The sequencing of the pieces uses a special numbering convention with enough gaps, so that you can insert more pieces. Although you may not want to write these pieces back to form the original file, you can do so if you select them all and then export with a **blank delimiter line** and the option **Do not export topic name**.

Also see:

[Importing topics from a text file](#)

[Exporting Selected Topics to a Text File](#)

Exporting selected topics in RTF format

You can export a WhizNotes document in the **Rich Text Format** using this feature. If you select one or more topics and select menu **Tools-Export selected topics as non-help RTF** then WhizNotes writes the selected topics to an RTF file that has the same name as the WhizNote file, but its extension is **RTF**. You can open this file in your favorite word processor and can further edit it as needed.

After the RTF file is created, WhizNotes also gives you an option to copy the RTF text to the clipboard so that you can directly paste it in your word processor.

If you are using the help generation feature then this is an excellent way to convert your help into a printable document.

Even for those of you, who are not using WhizNotes for help generation, this is an excellent way to assemble your notes into the RTF format. Here is an opportunity to use special WhizNotes formatting statements, like **[~startlist]** to prepare bulleted lists, which were previously available only to the help users. You can use most of the RTF facilities given to the help users and can even create your own RTF macros. See [Details of WhizNotes help generation statements](#) for more information.

Note: The term **non-help** means that WhizNotes does not include the help-generation related footnotes in the document. Hence, the document becomes a clean printable document.

Also see:

[Details of WhizNotes help generation statements](#)

Limits setup in WhizNotes

At present WhizNotes has the following limits:

- Please note that WhizNotes is a single user program. Two users can not use the same WZN file on a network at the same time. If they do, their changes may be lost. WhizNotes safeguards this to some extent by opening WZN files in exclusive access mode so that two users are prevented from accessing the same file simultaneously. However, this won't be effective unless you install SHARE.EXE.
- A topic can contain up to about 32K characters of text. However, since WhizNotes encourages you to divide your document into topics of manageable size, this is not really a limit. In fact, you can have very large WhizNotes files made up of these topics.
- The topic name can be up to 255 characters in length. However, there is no restriction on using special characters, even blanks, embedded in topic names. If you are generating help, it is better not to include a semicolon in the topic name. If you do, the only problem is that the help keyword for the topic name will not be generated correctly.
- WhizNotes allows you to keep maximum 50 windows open at the same time.
- The **list of topics** in a WhizNote window can have maximum 32K topics.
- Currently, WhizNotes only allows you to view/edit text files of upto 32K characters in size.

Trademarks

In this help document, the following words have been used:

- Borland is a registered trademark of Borland International.
- Microsoft is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation.
- "Windows" refers to the Microsoft Windows operating system. "Windows" is a trademark that refers only to this Microsoft product.
- "MS Word" refers to "Microsoft Word" which is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation.
- Microsoft Help Compiler is a product of Microsoft which is distributed with many Windows Software Development Kits (SDKs).
- Turbo C++, Turbo Pascal, and Borland C++ are Borland products.
- Visual C++ and Visual Basic are Microsoft products.

draft copy

A printout which is solely produced for checking the text content of a document. It is faster because it is usually produced by sending a stream of characters to your printer. There is no font selection involved.

Examples of WhizNote files

A WhizNote file is a collection of many topics. You create such files with the help of WhizNotes; they have the extension ".WZN".

It is up to you to group any topics you want into one WZN or WhizNote file. This way you don't have to remember each of your topic names. All you need to remember is the WhizNote file name that serves as a folder name.

A topic within a WhizNote file can be any independent text note that you want to recognize by name. Please also note that topic names appear in sorted order in the list of topics so that you can easily locate them by name. Of course, you have the option of rearranging the sequence of your topics if you uncheck the menu item **Edit-Sorted list of topics**.

Example:

A WhizNote file "WEEKREPS.WZN" may contain various weekly reports as individual topics, having the following names:

- 01/02/93 - Weekly report (sent on 01/05)
- 01/09/93 - Weekly report
- ...

As you can see, the ability to choose any topic name and to group these topics makes WhizNotes extremely useful. You need not care about how the topics are kept or which directory they belong to. All you need to remember is the name of that particular WhizNote file that contains them: "WEEKREPS.WZN" in this case.

More examples:

- A WhizNote file "LETTERS.WZN" keeps your letters as individual topics, with names like *Martin - letter sent on Dec 14*".
- A WhizNote file "UTILSLIB.WZN" is used by a programmer to keep notes on various C utility functions or C++ classes that he is developing or plans to develop. Again the flexible naming scheme allows topic names like:

```
int getDelimitedText(char *textBuffer)
```

- A writer uses a WhizNote file "PHRASES.WZN" to quickly note any phrases or ideas he might find useful in a writing project; he may use topic names like *Possible beginning para*.
- Two consultants, on a project, share ideas by passing a WhizNote file called "prodidea.wzn" and thus exchange information on related topics.
- ...

Isn't it wonderful to be able to identify all your information by such convenient topic names and to group them together in WhizNote files?

It may be interesting for you to know that--as the WhizNotes author--I myself have been keeping track of enhancement ideas and bug reports using WhizNote files. This way I never lose any single piece of information that I want to remember. Also, I created this WhizNotes help exclusively by using WhizNotes along with the Windows help compiler. WhizNotes allows you to convert any *WhizNote file* into Windows hypertext help, provided you have the

Windows help compiler. To find out more, please see [Basics of Help generation](#).

Also see:

[The philosophy of WhizNotes](#)

Features of WhizNotes

WhizNotes helps you take maximum advantage of the random creative thought processes that occur when you are preparing a document, doing research, or studying a new subject.

Let us look at the features of WhizNotes at a glance.

Choose any name for your topic:

Flexibility in choosing topic names is one of the most convenient features of WhizNotes. After using this facility of descriptive and clear names, you will never go back to keeping your text in cryptic filenames on the disk.

With WhizNotes, you can make topics having very long names, up to 255 characters long. Also, there is no restriction on the set of characters that you can use in the topic names.

This flexibility in choosing names can be put to hundreds of different uses. For example, if you are a programmer you may as well make function prototypes as your topic names to facilitate direct access to the documentation for your function library.

Easily group related topics together:

WhizNotes also provides a convenient grouping facility. You can combine related topics into a single file. Such files are called WhizNote files. One WhizNote file may contain many topics and you can have different WhizNote files for different subjects.

Easily locate a topic:

The WhizNote file window lists topics in a sorted order. This makes it easier to locate a topic. You can choose to view the list of topics sorted by topic names or you can rearrange the topics in any desired sequence.

Search functions are also available to quickly locate topics or to search for text in topics.

Insert hypertext jumps between topics:

You can insert JUMP statements by dragging and dropping a topic name onto an open topic window. Then you can double-click on such jump statements to move to the inserted topic. Later if you convert your notes into help, these jump statements are converted into Windows hypertext jumps.

Drag and drop topics from one WhizNote to another:

You can have multiple WhizNote files open at the same time and you can copy topics from one WhizNote file to another by just dragging and dropping the topic names.

Use flexible Multiple Document Interface:

WhizNotes provides the standard Multiple Document Interface similar to many applications. Hence, you can learn it quickly and start using it immediately.

Help Generation:

If you have a Windows help compiler, you can convert your WhizNote files into Windows

hypertext help. Creating jumps from one topic to another is as easy as a simple drag and drop. In fact, this WhizNotes help has been created by exclusively using WhizNotes along with the Windows help compiler. No other word processor was required! If you have ever tried to create Help files before, you already know how time consuming it is. WhizNotes makes Help creation incredibly simple.

Although there are other help authoring tools available, there is a big difference. They provide little help in the most difficult task of help authoring: research and topic organization. Most of them require the use of a separate RTF editor like Microsoft Word; again, word processors are not text management tools, but text presentation tools.

With WhizNotes it is different. WhizNotes primarily addresses text organization and topic management. It will save your valuable time when you start your help authoring project for researching and establishing your topics. Help generation is a side-feature of WhizNotes, and it does not require the use of any other RTF editor! Of course, you can use one in addition to WhizNotes to improve upon your work by using WhizNotes export capabilities. WhizNotes does not restrict you in any way.

Insert Jump Dialog Box

When you **drag** a topic from the list of topics onto one of the open topic windows then this dialog box appears. You can select a **jump** or **reference (popup)** to be inserted at the caret position. The dialog box remembers your preference so that next time you can just hit **Enter** to insert the proper statement.

What is a Jump statement?

Using this jump, you can literally jump to the indicated topic by double-clicking on such a statement.

This is very convenient for navigating between topics.

A WhizNotes jump statement looks like this: **[~JUMP topicname]**.

Also, when you generate a Windows help file from WhizNotes, this jump becomes a Windows help jump.

What is a Reference?

The double-click on a reference also works similar to a jump but, in the generated help, this is converted to a popup link.

A WhizNotes reference statement looks like this: **[~REF topicname]**.

Message

Do you see how easy it is to include bitmaps with hotspots into your help files!

Multiple Document Interface

WhizNotes uses the standard Multiple Document Interface **MDI** similar to many Windows applications. This similarity helps you to learn it quickly and easily.

For instance, if you have used **Program Manager**, **File Manager**, or **MS Word** then you are already somewhat familiar with **MDI**.

WhizNotes **MDI** allows you to:

- Keep multiple topics as well as WhizNote windows open at the same time.
- Use a menu located consistently at the top of the main window regardless of the current window being used (what menu options you see are all relevant and applicable to the window that is in focus or active).
- Easily locate a window by the **Window menu**.
- Minimize or maximize windows as a convenience in organizing your desktop space.
- Tile or cascade windows.
- Arrange icons for minimized windows.
- *In addition to the standard MDI features, WhizNotes implements some enhancements. For example, you can close all the topic windows without closing the WhizNote windows. You can also minimize all the topics to unclutter your desktop*

For more information, please look at the description of document windows in the beginning of your Windows manual. "Document window" is another term for MDI which is used frequently in Windows documentation.

Printing all the topics of a WhizNote file

If you select menu **File-Print All Topics...** then the following actions will take place:

You will be asked for a title for your printout. All the topics in your current WhizNote file will be printed, and proper headers and footers will be inserted by WhizNotes. In addition, a table of contents will be printed at the end.

Select Topic Dialog Box

In this dialog box, as you type the beginning characters of a topic name, it selects the corresponding topic in the WhizNote window that matches the beginning characters. When you press OK on this dialog, the selected topic is immediately opened for editing.

This feature works better when you are viewing the list of topics in a sorted order.

text content

The subject matter or thoughts expressed in a document.

WhizNotes Jump

A WhizNotes jump is a hypertext jump statement that allows you to double-click on the jump and go to the topic window indicated. This is a very convenient feature. Also, when you create Windows help from your notes, these jump statements are converted into Windows hypertext jumps.

What is a delimiter

When you want to import topics from a text file in such a way that certain portions become separate topics then how can WhizNotes identify the boundaries of these topics? First of all, the text file should have multiple topics in such a manner that each topic name appears on a separate line by itself and the text for the topic appears on the following lines. But how can WhizNotes recognize the end of the topic text and the line containing the next topic name? For this purpose the **delimiting line** is used. Try to understand that the text file must have a unique identifier line preceding each topic name. Otherwise, it is not possible for WhizNotes to make out the end of one topic and the beginning of the next one.

For example,

Your text file may look like this:

```
/* A TOPIC */  
First Topic Name  
...  
...text for the topic...
```

```
/* A TOPIC */  
Second Topic Name  
...  
...text for the topic...
```

Here, the line `/* A TOPIC */` identifies that a new topic is starting, and the next line contains a topic name. Such a line is called a **delimiter line**. In above example, the line containing `/* A TOPIC */` is a delimiter line. A delimiter must be present in the text file to use the import topics facility.

Also see:

[Importing topics from a text file](#)

Knowing a little programming helps when importing

When splitting external files into topics for importing, knowing a little programming will help you a lot.

For example, suppose you have a collection of email messages where you want to make the subject a topic name. But the subject actually appears on the third line, whereas you want the topic itself to include the first line which contains FROM part of your email message. If you know basic programming, you can write a program that takes the third line and prepends it with a delimiter before the mail message. Once you do that, your mail messages can be imported as separate topics.

Even if you don't know programming, you can perform some tricks to insert delimiters and topic names with Windows accessory **Recorder** and a text editor that can edit large text files. The hint is to use the clipboard. Try it out and if you can't do it, send me a email message and I might help you there. If enough users require it, I might include the details of this trick in the documentation.

Also see:

[What is a delimiter](#)

[Importing topics from a text file](#)

How to insert bitmaps into your help files

You can insert bitmaps (pictures) into your text with the following bitmap statements:

- [**~ BITMAP bitmapfilename**]

To insert the bitmap at the current position in the text.

- [**~ BITMAPLEFT bitmapfilename**]

To left justify the bitmap. Any following text will wrap around this bitmap on the right side.

- [**~ BITMAPRIGHT bitmapfilename**]


To right justify the bitmap. Any following text will wrap around this bitmap on the left side.

Note: Users who have been using `bmc`, `bml` and `bmr` statements, as described in earlier versions of WhizNotes should note that their old coded statements in that format will also work. But they should start using the new `BITMAP` statements as they are easier to remember.

Bitmaps with hotspots:

There is another amazing tool in your Windows SDK called HotSpot editor **SHED.EXE**. Hotspot Editor allows you to edit your bitmaps to include hotspot links in them. When a user clicks on a hotspot link, he can jump to a hypertext topic related to that hotspot. This can be very useful to provide proper help for different parts of a picture.



For example, click on this bitmap  to get a message.

For details, look at the help documentation for **SHED.EXE**.

Please note that when defining hotspots for your bitmaps, you will need Context strings that WhizNotes assigns to the required topics. For obtaining the Context strings, simply select the option to generate the C header file when creating help. In the generated **.INC** file, you will find the Context strings for each topic as the identifier following the **#define** statement. Please note that WhizNotes generates meaningful Context strings so that they are easy to identify; moreover, you can override these Context strings if you don't like the ones generated by WhizNotes.

Making bulleted and numeric lists

To make up the bulleted lists in the generated help, you use the following statements, **each on a separate line** by itself:

- [~STARTLIST] To start the list. Use it on a separate line by itself.
- [~ITEM] On the preceding line before each item.

Use it on a separate line by itself. Item can be as long as you want even with multiple paragraphs. The indentation will be retained for the whole item.
- [~ENDLIST] To end the list. Use it on a separate line by itself.

For example, the above bulleted list was created by using the statements as described. You can even nest lists within lists! Although it is not WYSIWYG, you will like this way to prepare lists once you start using it. There are no irritating hidden control characters or indentation markers to deal with, and the text you type as items is free format text.

To specify a numeric list, simply use [**~STARTLIST NUMERIC**] instead of just [**~STARTLIST**].

For an example, see the sample WZN file.

Saving key strokes when entering WhizNotes statements:

You'll find a file **Whiznote.rec** in WhizNotes' program directory. Using this file with Windows **Recorder**, you can simply select some text and type a special key combination to enclose the text in a WhizNotes statement like above.

For instance, you can quickly enter above WhizNotes statements by following this procedure:

- In **File Manager**, double-click on file **Whiznote.rec** which is present in WhizNotes' program directory. This will start the program Windows **Recorder** with this file.
Or,
Open the file **Whiznote.rec** using Windows **Recorder**.
- Now in WhizNotes, press the following keys for quickly entering the list statements:
 1. **Ctrl-L** - to enter [**~startlist**]
 2. **Ctrl-M** - to enter [**~item**]
 3. **Ctrl-E** - to enter [**~endlist**]

Isn't it convenient! For more details on how to create such recorder macros, please see [How to create recorder macros for help statements.](#)

Indenting text

Sometimes you would like to indent text just by itself, in the generated help. To do that, use the following type of statement on a separate line by itself:

- [~INDENT+] To indent one step to the right.

Any paragraphs that you type after this will remain indented. You can repeat this statement to move further by one step at a time.

- [~INDENT-] To move back the indentation one step to the left.
- [~INDENT0] To remove all indentation.

Use this statement when you want to make the text appear as it was originally, without indentation. Note that a zero has been used instead of + or -.

Global attributes to control help generation in general

For advanced help generation, you may require use of certain global help generation attributes provided by WhizNotes.

What you have to do is to make a special topic named **~HelpAttributes** and define a **GlobalHelpOptions** statement using the statement syntax given below. Only one **GlobalHelpOptions** statement is allowed in a **~HelpAttributes** topic.

Syntax for specifying topic specific attributes:

```
GlobalHelpOptions
{
    ContentsTopicName = "Contents",
    StartingContextNumber = ""
    RTFBeforeTopicTitles = "",
    RTFAfterTopicTitles = "",
    CustomRtfHeaderInfo = "",
    CustomHpjFile = "",
}
```

ContentsTopicName:

The only relatively simple attribute here is **ContentsTopicName** that allows a foreign language user to specify a different topic as the Contents topic name. WhizNotes will interpret the contents of that topic as the help **Contents**.

StartingContextNumber:

You can use this attribute to control the range of context numbers generated for the help topics in C header file (**INC file**). You may want to do this when you are providing context sensitive help and want to force assignment of context numbers to some help topics by using a **HelpTopic** statement (see [Keywords, macros, and other characteristics of topics](#)). If you do not use this attribute then the default value used by WhizNotes is the constant **0x100** or **hexadecimal 100**.

Advanced attributes:

All other keywords are for advanced users. You can use them only if you know **RTF** well enough and also know how to customize an **HPJ** file. For example, you can use a different format for the topic titles by using **RTFBeforeTopicTitles** and **RTFAfterTopicTitles**. You can replace the whole RTF header to provide your own font table, color table etc. See how to do that in the sample file **advhelp.wzn**. This, together with your own RTF macros, can give you full control. If you specify a **CustomHpjFile**, WhizNotes will copy it and use it instead of generating one for you. So you are responsible for making sure that it complies with WhizNotes naming requirements and other features.

Also see:

[A note on quoted values](#)

Window menu

There is a new option to minimize all topics on the Window menu. There is another one for horizontal tiling of the windows.

General desktop options

This dialog comes up when you select the menu item **Options-General desktop options....**

This dialog allows you to specify the **tabsize** and **font** for the editor windows used to view external text files. Since the text files themselves have no space to remember the font and tabsize, this is the place where you can specify these attributes, and WhizNotes will remember them.

Another option allows you to automatically open the last used topic when the WhizNote file is opened.

Obtaining word count

You can obtain the word count on the selected topics by menu **Edit-Give word count**. The word count is also available from an editor window where it applies to the text present in that window.

The word count is shown in a message box. You can copy the contents of the message box to the clipboard by selecting the message text and pressing standard key combinations **Ctrl-C** or **Ctrl-Insert**. You can then paste this text in a file to keep track of how your word count progresses and how much writing you are able to accomplish.

What is word-wrapping?

It is suggested that you should always keep the word-wrap **on** for all your documenting needs, including the help authoring. If you turn word-wrap **on**, you don't have to press **Enter** key to go to the next line. The text automatically wraps around the right edge of the window if the last word can not fit. This is convenient so that you can enter a whole paragraph without pressing **Enter**. Please remember that if word-wrap is **on**, the only time you hit **Enter** key is to change the paragraph.

You may need to put word-wrap **off** only when editing program files and other external text files that may not require or recognize the word-wrapped text. For example, if you are editing a **readme.txt** file that has to be viewed by DOS command **Type**, you should turn word-wrap **off**.

New WhizNote

Creates a new WhizNote window. A WhizNote window is a folder where you can keep a collection of your notes or topics. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

Also see:

[What is a topic?](#)

[What is a WhizNote file?](#)

[Creating a new WhizNote file](#)

Open WhizNote...

Presents a file-open dialog to let you open a WZN or WhizNote file that you have created earlier. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

Also see:

[What is a topic?](#)

[What is a WhizNote file?](#)

[Opening an existing WhizNote file](#)

[Opening from File Manager](#)

Save WhizNote

Saves the current WhizNote file with all its topics. Even the changed topics are saved without asking you for a confirmation to save. *Note that a Save is not performed if nothing has changed.* **Hence, when working on a WhizNote window, you should perform this operation from time to time to save your changes.** This operation is also available on the toolbar.

Also see:

[Saving a WhizNote file](#)

Save WhizNote as...

Allows you to save the current WhizNote file by another name.

Also see:

[Saving a WhizNote file](#)

Close window

Closes the currently active window.

Close WhizNote

Closes the currently active WhizNote window along with all the child topics. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

Close parent WhizNote

Closes the the parent WhizNote of this topic along with all the child topics. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

Save all modified WhizNotes

A Save WhizNote is performed for all WhizNote windows which have changed since the last save. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

Open topic

Opens one or more selected topics for editing.

Also see:

[What is a topic?](#)

[Opening a topic for editing](#)

Rename topic...

Allows you to rename the current topic.

Print selected topics...

Prints selected topics after asking preferences from you.

Also see:

[Printing one or more selected topics](#)

[Operations on multiple topics](#)

Print all topics...

Prints all the topics after asking preferences from you. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

Also see:

[Printing one or more selected topics](#)

Print...

Prints the text from the current window. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

Also see:

[Printing from a topic window](#)

View/Edit a text file...

Presents a file-open dialog to let you open an external text file for viewing or editing. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

Also see:

[Manipulating external text files](#)

New text file

Allows you to create a new text file similar to Windows notepad. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

Also see:

[Manipulating external text files](#)

Force word-wrap for selected topics...

Allows you to change word-wrap **on** or **off** for selected topics.

For instance, after importing a number of topics from a text file you may want to change word-wrap attribute for all of them at once. If this option were not there you would have to individually open each topic and change its word-wrap attribute.

Also see:

[Operations on multiple topics](#)

Word wrap

Allows you to turn word-wrap **on** or **off** for this topic. Check this menu item if you want the word-wrap **on** and uncheck it if you want the word-wrap **off**.

Also see:

[What is word-wrapping?](#)

Select all

Selects all the text in the current window. If the current window is a WhizNote window, all the topics in the list are selected.

Insert date/time

Inserts current date and time at the caret position. You can control the format of the date and time by properly setting up your choice in the **International** settings under Control Panel.

Insert date

Inserts current date at the caret position. You can control the format of the date by properly setting up your choice in the **International** settings under Control Panel.

Copy selected names

Copies the names of selected topics to the clipboard.

Also see:

[Operations on multiple topics](#)

Sorted list of topics

Uncheck this menu item if you want to change the order or sequence of the topics in the list. Check it to view the list in alphabetically sorted order.

Note that the **move topic** operations are only allowed on an unsorted list of topics.

Also see:

[Ordering your topics in the topic list](#)

Move selected topics up

Moves the selected topics up in the list. If you are using a mouse, it is more convenient to use the **arrow buttons** on the right of the topic list. These arrow buttons represent move to Top, Up, Down, and Bottom respectively.

The moved topics appear bunched together after the move. A move is allowed only when you are viewing the list in unsorted order.

Using a mouse, you can even drag and drop topics to reorder them.

Also see:

[Ordering your topics in the topic list](#)

Move selected topics down

Moves the selected topics down in the list. If you are using a mouse, it is more convenient to use the **arrow buttons** on the right of the topic list. These arrow buttons represent move to Top, Up, Down, and Bottom respectively.

The moved topics appear bunched together after the move. A move is allowed only when you are viewing the list in unsorted order.

Using a mouse, you can even drag and drop topics to reorder them.

Also see:

[Ordering your topics in the topic list](#)

Move selected topics to top

Moves the selected topics to the top of the list. If you are using a mouse, it is more convenient to use the **arrow buttons** on the right of the topic list. These arrow buttons represent move to Top, Up, Down, and Bottom respectively.

The moved topics appear bunched together after the move. A move is allowed only when you are viewing the list in unsorted order.

Using a mouse, you can even drag and drop topics to reorder them.

Also see:

[Ordering your topics in the topic list](#)

Move selected topics to bottom

Moves the selected topics to the bottom of the list. If you are using a mouse, it is more convenient to use the **arrow buttons** on the right of the topic list. These arrow buttons represent move to Top, Up, Down, and Bottom respectively.

The moved topics appear bunched together after the move. A move is allowed only when you are viewing the list in unsorted order.

Using a mouse, you can even drag and drop topics to reorder them.

Also see:

[Ordering your topics in the topic list](#)

Use long date format

Allows you to use the long date format when inserting the date using the menu items **Edit-Insert date** and **Edit-Insert date/time**.

The long date and short date formats are selectable in the **International** settings of the Windows Control Panel.

Give word count for selected topics

Displays the total number of words in the selected topics including the topic names.

Also see:

[Operations on multiple topics](#)

Give word count

Displays the total number of words contained in the text of this window.

Select topic beginning with...

Allows you to position to a topic quickly by typing the beginning characters of the topic name.

Also see:

[Searching for a topic](#)

Test Help

Invokes the help file that you last generated from this WhizNote.

Export selected topics to text file...

Allows you to join a number of topics to form a single text file. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

Also see:

[Exporting Selected Topics to a Text File](#)

Export topic to text file...

Allows you to export the current topic to a text file. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

Also see:

[Exporting Selected Topics to a Text File](#)

Import topics from text file...

Allows you to import the topics from a specially formatted text file. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

Also see:

[Importing topics from a text file](#)

Import whole text files as topics...

Allows you to import external text files, each as a separate topic. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

If the files are larger than the allowed topic size, they are split into multiple topics.

Also see:

[Importing whole text files as topics](#)

Export selected topics as non-help RTF...

Converts selected topics to a non-help RTF format for use in your word processor. The term **non-help** means that WhizNotes does not include the help-generation related footnotes in the document. Hence, the document becomes a clean printable document.

If you are using the help generation feature then this is an excellent way to convert your help into a printable document.

Even for those of you, who are not using WhizNotes for help generation, this is an excellent way to assemble your notes into the RTF format. Here is an opportunity to use special WhizNotes formatting statements, like **[~startlist]** to prepare bulleted lists, which were previously available only to the help users. You can use most of the RTF facilities given to the help users and can even create your own RTF macros.

Also see:

[Exporting selected topics in RTF format](#)

[Details of WhizNotes help generation statements](#)

General desktop options...

Allows you to change the desktop options. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

Also see:

[General desktop options](#)

Desktop options for this WhizNote...

Allows you to change the options of viewing and controlling the current WhizNote. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

Also see:

[Desktop options for a WhizNote](#)

Reset selected topics to default sizes

If you have customized positions for your topics by moving or resizing them, you can force them to become normal topics by using this menu item.

Also see:

[Desktop options for a WhizNote](#)

Toolbar

Check this menu item to see the toolbar at the top of the main window. Uncheck it to remove the toolbar.

Also see:

[What is toolbar?](#)

Statusbar

Check this menu item to see the status bar at the bottom of the main window. Uncheck it to remove the status bar.

Prepare distributable WZN with latest options

Forces the saving of WhizNote options in the WhizNote file so that you can distribute it to another user.

For details, see [Desktop options for a WhizNote.](#)

Close all topics

Closes all the open topic windows.

Minimize all topics

Minimizes all the open topic windows. This clears some space on your desktop and you can have a better view of other open windows.

Tile horizontal

If you have **only two** windows open then **Tile horizontal** is convenient to view them together, horizontally aligned.

Previous

Moves to the previous open window.

Next

Moves to the next open window.

Help Contents

Displays Contents of the online help. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

How to use Help

Displays help on **How to use the online help**.

Registration reminder

Shows the **Shareware registration reminder** dialog so that you can get information on how to order WhizNotes and what are the benefits of registering WhizNotes.

Search Help for...

Allows you to enter a **keyword** and see the help related to that **keyword**.

For example, to see the help related to **Drag & drop** select this menu item and type **Drag & drop**.

Your feedback is valuable:

Author needs your feedback to improve the keywords in WhizNotes help. When you aren't able to quickly find desired help by a particular keyword, please send that keyword to the author in an email message.

Introduction to WhizNotes

Shows you the [Introduction](#) help topic so that you can know the concepts behind WhizNotes.

Quick-start tutorial

Shows you a [Quick start tutorial](#) from online help so that you can quickly get acquainted with the basic features of WhizNotes.

New features

Shows you a list of new features so that you can find out What is new in this version of WhizNotes compared to an old version that you may have used.

Copy topic contents

Copies the contents of the selected topics to the clipboard. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

Also see:

[Operations on multiple topics](#)

Copy

Copies selected text to the clipboard. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

Paste new topic contents...

Allows you to add a new topic containing the text from the clipboard. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

Paste

Pastes text from the clipboard at the current position. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

Clear all

Clears or deletes all the text in the window.

Undo

Allows you to undo the effect of the last edit operation.

Find text in topic names/contents...

Allows you to search for text in the topic names and also in the topic contents. Starts the search forward from the current selection. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

When the text is found in one of the topic's contents, the topic window is opened up showing the found text. You can continue the search by pressing **F3** or by selecting menu item **Edit-Find next**.

Also see:

[Search/replace operations](#)

Find...

Allows you to search for text in the window. Starts the search forward from the current position. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

Also see:

[Search/replace operations](#)

Replace text in topic names/contents...

Allows you to search and replace text in the topic names and also in topic contents. Starts the search forward from the current selection. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

When the text is found in a topic, the topic window is opened showing the found text. Then a replace operation is performed on the text.

Also see:

[Search/replace operations](#)

Replace...

Allows you to search and replace text in the window. Starts the search forward from the current position. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

Also see:

[Search/replace operations](#)

Find next occurrence of text in topic names/contents...

Continues the previously specified search/replace operation from the current position. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

Also see:

[Search/replace operations](#)

Find next

Continues the previously specified search/replace operation from the current position. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

Also see:

[Search/replace operations](#)

Save topic

Saves the changed text of this topic for use in the next operation. Save is done only if the topic contents have changed since the last save. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

Note that **Save topic** does not actually save the topic into the WhizNote file. Rather, the save is done so that the new topic text will be used in the next topic-related operation, such as, print, export, import, create-help, and save WhizNote.

If you really want to save all the changed topics to the WhizNote file, you should select **Save WhizNote**.

Save file

Saves the file. Save is done only if the text has changed since the last save. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

Save to text file...

Saves the topic to an external text file.

Also see:

[Saving topic to an external text file](#)

Save as...

Allows you to save the file by a different name.

Tile

Tiles all the open windows so that you can view them side by side for convenience. Note that the minimized windows are ignored during this operation.

This operation is also useful when you want to drag and drop topic names on the open topic windows to insert jump statements.

Cascade

Cascades all the open windows so that you can view all the window titles and can conveniently locate any window. Note that the minimized windows are ignored during this operation.

Close all windows

Closes all the windows.

If the contents of any window have changed, you are asked for a confirmation to save the contents before closing.

Exit WhizNotes

An exit from the program WhizNotes takes place and the program terminates after closing all the windows. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

If the contents of any window have changed, you are asked for a confirmation to save the contents before closing.

Quickly opening a remembered file

Opens the file name selected on the menu.

WhizNotes remembers last 8 files that you have used at the bottom of the **File** menu. This is for your convenience so that you can quickly open a recently used file by selecting its name on the menu.

Locating a window by Window menu

Activates the window with the selected title.

WhizNotes presents the titles of open windows in a list at the bottom of the **Window** menu. This is for your convenience so that you can quickly locate a window by its title.

Context string

Windows help internally uses special identifiers for the help topics. Such identifiers are called **context strings**.

For more information, please see [Context strings](#).

Context strings

In many other help authoring systems, you have to think of a context string to be assigned to your help topic and remember it for use in some RTF statements.

WhizNotes internally manages the context string assignment and substitution for you so that you don't have to worry about this tedious process. Also, WhizNotes generates a context string based on the topic name itself so that context strings are easier to recognize for use by programmers who may want to use them in their programs to invoke the online help. To see the WhizNotes generated context strings, please select the option to **generate C header file** when creating help. The resulting **.INC file** will list the context string identifiers for each topic.

Advanced users also have an option of overriding a context string for special purposes. For details, please see [Keywords, macros, and other characteristics of topics](#).

A note on quoted values

Double-quotes in quoted values:

To use them you must repeat them for each single occurrence.

Continuation rules for quoted values:

Please note that with the exception of **ListBrowseGroup**, all quoted values can be continued on the next line by ending the double-quotes on the preceding line and starting them again on the next line. This is for your convenience.

This continuation rule only applies to the attributes defined in special topics **~HelpAttributes** and **~RtfMacros**. It does not apply to the text in your regular topics where a quoted value must be contained in one paragraph only.

About WhizNotes...

Menu **Help-About WhizNotes...** shows the About box for WhizNotes program. An **about box** shows you the version number of this program and other useful information.

Add another topic...

Allows you to add another topic to the parent WhizNote of the current topic, then presents a new topic window so that you can enter the topic text.

Also see:

[What is a topic?](#)

[Creating a new topic](#)

Add topic...

Allows you to add a topic to the current WhizNote, then presents a new topic window so that you can enter the text for the topic. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

Also see:

[What is a topic?](#)

[Creating a new topic](#)

Advantages of Help Generation

Windows help was earlier *exclusively* used for providing online program documentation. Not any more. WhizNotes makes help generation incredibly simple so that you can make help files for any type of information whether it is a collection of your recipes or your weekly reports. Also, these help files can be distributed to other Windows users who can immediately benefit from your notes and ideas. Anyone can use them on any system where Windows 3.1 or Windows 95 is installed. No special software is required to look at these help files.

With WhizNotes, help files become so simple to create that they assume an important role. In their natural hypertext form, they become a perfect vehicle for sharing information between people.

Arrange icons

Rearranges the icons of minimized windows.

Use this feature to tidy up your work space if you have moved the icons to arbitrary positions and the desktop looks cluttered.

Auto indent

Allows you to turn auto-indent **on** or **off** for this topic. Check this menu item if you want the auto-indent **on** and uncheck it if you want the auto-indent **off**.

Also see

[What is auto-indent?](#)

Basics of Help generation

If you have the Windows help compiler, you can convert your WhizNote files into Windows hypertext help with just a click on the menu **Tools-Create Help....** Creating jumps from one topic to another is as easy as a drag and drop. In fact, what you are reading now has been created by exclusively using WhizNotes along with the Windows help compiler. No other word processor was required! If you have ever tried to create Windows Help, you already know how tedious the whole process is. WhizNotes makes this process incredibly simple.

Don't forget to look at the [Terminology of help generation](#) to know the help features available in Windows help and WhizNotes.

To get a quick demonstration of Help Generation, see [Sample WZN file to demonstrate Help Generation](#).

You must have a Windows Help compiler:

To take advantage of WhizNotes help generation you must have the Microsoft help compiler. If you already have a Windows SDK or an equivalent, chances are that you already have the help compiler. See your SDK documentation for more details. If your help compiler filename is different from **HC31.EXE** then please look at [Setting up the Help Compilation environment](#) to see how to setup the environment to invoke the correct help compiler.

If you do not have the help compiler, you may contact Microsoft Corporation to find out how you may purchase one. Some users reported that Microsoft has put up a help compiler on WINSDK forum on CompuServe (file HCP.ZIP). I tried to contact Microsoft several times to find out whether they have decided to give it for free as a download. No one has replied to me. So it is upto you to get and try the help compiler from their forum. If you try out such a help compiler having a name different from **HC31.EXE**, you will have to setup your File Manager environment so that WhizNotes can use the compiler. All you have to do is to associate extension **HPJ** with the compiler's **EXE** file. For details, please look at [Setting up the Help Compilation environment](#).

Prepare your WhizNotes to take advantage of Windows help:

If you have inserted Jumps or Refs from one topic to another, WhizNotes converts them to proper Windows Help jumps and references (popups). This is very convenient. For details, see [Inserting a jump to another topic](#). There are many other WhizNotes statements that allow you to format your text for proper viewing under help. For more information, look at the [Details of WhizNotes help generation statements](#).

Generating Windows Help:

To create a Windows help file from your WhizNote window, select menu **Tools-Create Help**. A dialog box appears that allows you to choose various options for generating a Windows help file. For details, see [Help Generation Dialog Box](#).

After you have specified your preferences on the above dialog box, the help compilation is started in a DOS window. When the compilation terminates, your help file would have been created with the same filename as your WhizNote file but with an extension of **HLP**. WhizNotes gives you an opportunity to test this generated help. You can also test this help at any time by selecting menu **Tools-Test Help**. You may also directly test the help file by double-clicking on it in the File Manager. Please note that once you have created an **HLP** file, it is ready to be distributed to your customers and can be used on any PC where Windows

3.1 or Windows 95 is installed.

Note that WhizNotes encodes some information into your help files so that a WhizNotes generated help can be recognized for detecting unlicensed usage of WhizNotes.

Tip for advanced users:

Normally, all your help text requirements will be met by just using WhizNotes and the help compiler. But in case you want to use a text formatting feature not provided by WhizNotes, you can always edit the intermediate output file (RTF format) produced by WhizNotes by using a WYSIWYG RTF editor like MS Word. For details, please look at [Help Generation Dialog Box](#).

Even if you are a power user, instead of using other help tools, beginning the help documentation is much easier with WhizNotes. See [The philosophy of WhizNotes](#) to find out why I am saying that. WhizNotes does not restrict you in any way. Rather, it compliments any help creation process that you may already be using.

Also see:

[Advantages of Help Generation](#)

[Terminology of help generation](#)

[Setting up the Help Compilation environment](#)

[Details of WhizNotes help generation statements](#)

Basics of WhizNotes printing facilities

If you select a **File-Print...** type menu operation, WhizNotes selects a suitable printing format depending on which type of window is active.

Printing from a WhizNote window:

When you are viewing a list of topics, you have the option of printing either the selected topics or all topics. WhizNotes introduces special headers and footers for identifying a particular topic in the printout. A table of contents is also printed at the end.

Printing from an open topic window:

This is the feature that you will use most often when printing a single topic, say a letter. No special headers or footers will be printed except for the page numbers. This is exactly what you usually want when printing a single topic or a text file.

Forcing page-breaks:

Use a [**~PAGE**] statement in your text anywhere to force a page-break. Also, if you are viewing external text files and they contain Form-Feed control characters (^L) then WhizNotes will perform a page- break at such characters.

Create Help for the owner WhizNote...

Creates Windows hypertext help from your notes, provided you have the Microsoft help compiler. All the topics from this WhizNote are included in the generated help. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

Also see:

[Basics of Help generation](#)

Create Help...

Creates Windows hypertext help from your notes, provided you have the Microsoft help compiler. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

Also see:

[Basics of Help generation](#)

Creating a new topic

Creating a new topic is simple:

- If a WhizNote window is active, just press **Insert** or select menu **File-New topic...**
- If a topic window is active, just press **Insert** or select menu **File-Add another topic...**

A dialog box appears that allows you to choose a name for your topic. Please note that embedded blanks and special characters are allowed in topic names. So you can even choose a phrase for your topic name.

Once you select a topic name for your new topic, an editor window comes up that allows you to enter text into your topic.

You can also directly paste the clipboard contents as a new topic by selecting **Edit-Paste new topic contents**.

Also see:

[Using 'Separator' topics to organize the topic list](#)

Creating a new WhizNote file

To create a new WhizNote file, select menu **File-New WhizNote**. You will see that an untitled gray window appears that contains an empty list of topics. This is called a WhizNote file.

You can add one or more topics to this WhizNote file.

Please note that WhizNotes allows you to keep multiple WhizNote file windows open at the same time. You can even copy topics by dragging them from one WhizNote file to another.

Also see:

[What is a WhizNote file?](#)

[Creating a new topic](#)

[Saving a WhizNote file](#)

[Save WhizNote as.. menu option](#)

Cut

Cuts selected text to the clipboard. This operation is also available on the toolbar.

Dedication

This version of WhizNotes is dedicated to those sincere users who registered the earlier version and sustained my enthusiasm in developing it further.

I am also grateful to those who reviewed the program to let other users know about it, uploaded it to other bulletin boards, or sent encouraging remarks to me, often accompanied by valuable suggestions.

I hope you will love using this program as much as I loved developing it.

Sanjay Kanade
email: 71303.20@compuserve.com

Delete

Deletes the selected text in the window.

Delete selected topics

Deletes selected topics after a confirmation from you.

Also see:

[Deleting a topic](#)

[Operations on multiple topics](#)

Delete topic

Deletes this active topic after a confirmation from you.

Also see:

[Deleting a topic](#)

Deleting a topic

To delete a topic, just select the topic and click on the menu **File-Delete Topic** or press the key **Del**.

You can select multiple topics in the list of topics and delete them. For details on how to select multiple topics, please see [Operations on multiple topics](#).

Delete operation is also available from an open topic window. But the keyboard shortcut is **Alt-Del** combination, instead of only **Del**.

Desktop options for a WhizNote

Here are the options that you can specify to change certain behavior of a WhizNote window. This dialog comes up when you select the menu item **Options-Options for this WhizNote....**

Title for WhizNote window:

If you enter a title here, the filename in the title will be replaced by the title that you entered. This may be more convenient to identify the contents of your WhizNote file.

Characteristics of topic windows:

Rest of the options relate to how the topic windows operate. For example, you can specify the tabsize and font for the topic windows. Note that the tabsize and font applies to all the topics of the current WhizNote only.

Choices for viewing topics:

- Normally, when you open a WhizNote file and its topic windows, they are opened in a pre-determined cascaded position. This is convenient in most of the cases.
- Sometimes, you may want to resize or move a topic and have WhizNotes remember its position. For that, you should select **Open topics at their last customized position/size**. If you select this option then the position of WhizNote window along with any resized or moved topics will be remembered. As a result, next time those topics will always be opened in that position and size.

How can you recognize which topics have remembered this customized information? A double-headed arrow will appear to the left of a topic name in the list of topics. You can always "Reset any of these topics to their default sizes" by selecting them and selecting the menu item **Options-Reset selected topics to default sizes**.

- If you select the option **Open topics on top of previous topics** then a new topic will always cover an existing open topic of that WhizNote. This may be useful when you don't want to cover the list of topics by an open topic window. Using this feature you can easily simulate the **Pane** view provided by some Windows programs, if you like it.

Restore desktop when opening WhizNote:

If you choose this option then whenever a WhizNote is opened, the previously open topics are opened automatically at the same position. This is useful for finding out where you left off last time.

Where are all the options kept?

For your information, the desktop options for a WhizNote are kept in a file with the extension **DSK**. Whenever you do a **save WhizNote**, the options are also saved in the WZN file.

Please note that DSK files are for your environment only, and you can always delete them without losing any data; however, you may never want to delete

them as they keep your latest options for a WZN file. Also, when delivering a WZN file to someone else, you need not give its DSK file along with it. Just give the WZN file but make sure that the latest options have been saved to it. How do you ensure that? For this, another menu option is provided: **Options-Prepare distributable WZN with latest options.** Use this to force saving of options whenever you have to deliver a WZN file to someone.

What is toolbar?

Frequently used menu operations are available on a toolbar below the menubar. To know the operation associated with a button, just press it and its menu equivalent will be shown on the status bar at the bottom.

Show topics with no HelpTopic definitions

Shows those topics for which you have not yet defined **HelpTopic** statements.

It will select those topics for which the **HelpTopic** statements are missing. If you open a **~HelpAttributes** topic before performing this select operation then you can drag and drop the selected topic names onto the **~HelpAttributes** topic. This will facilitate entering **HelpTopic** statements for these remaining topics.

To know more about **HelpTopic** statements, see [Keywords, macros, and other characteristics of topics.](#)

Questions & Answers

A data bank of questions and answers can be found in the file **Techinfo.WZN**. If you have any questions, please look at this file first. Since it is a WhizNote file, you can also conduct a text search to locate information of interest to you.

Also see:

[Technical Support](#)

Defining startup help macros

If you are an advanced help generation user, you may want to execute some help macros when the help file is first opened. To do that, create a special topic with the name "**~StartupHelpMacros**" and put your help macros there, each on a separate line. When generating help, WhizNotes will insert these macros in the **[CONTENTS]** section of the help project (**HPJ**) file. Of course, you yourself are responsible for dealing with errors given by the help compiler, when you make a mistake in coding these help macros.

Example:

Suppose, you want to add a "Close" button to close the help window. Usually such buttons are added by executing the help macro "CreateButton" at the startup. To define it as a startup macro, create a topic named "**~StartupHelpMacros**" and add the following macro to it:

```
CreateButton(`bt_close', `C&lose', `CloseWindow(`main`))
```

This will make sure that the button is added as soon as the help is started. This way you can use any number of help macros as the startup macros, each on a separate line. Please refer to your Windows SDK help for more information on help macros and their syntax.

Tip for advanced users:

WhizNotes actually adds a **[CONFIG]** section at the end of the HPJ file and simply places the text of the topic "**~StartupHelpMacros**" after that. Hence, if you want to add any more sections to the HPJ file which are **not used by WhizNotes** then you can place them after the help macros. For example, you can add an **[ALIAS]** section at the end of the topic "**~StartupHelpMacros**" as the ALIAS feature is not used by WhizNotes.

On the other hand, if you want to heavily customize an HPJ file by changing an HPJ section that is **also used** by WhizNotes, then it is better to use the "customHpjFile option" mentioned in the topic [Global attributes to control help generation in general](#).

Also see:

[Keywords, macros, and other characteristics of topics](#)
[Inserting help macros](#)

Using 'Separator' topics to organize the topic list

Separators are special topic names beginning with characters "~~". These dummy topics allow you to divide the list of topics into separate visual sections. This allows for better visual organization of topics in the list. Separators are useful only if you are viewing the list in non-sorted order. In other words, separators act as **comments** and are ignored for all the important processing, such as when doing help generation, exporting RTF or printing **all** the topics.

To add a separator to the list, use a topic name that begins with characters "~~". For example, you may use a name like "~~ ----- List of procedures A" before a set of related topics.

Note:

Although **separator** topics are not intended to contain any text, you can still enter text into them. That's why separators are **not ignored** for all the other operations, such as "Print selected topics" and "Export selected topics to text file". This is for your convenience, so that you can print them selectively or export/import them from text files.

A note on this release

This release mainly fixes a Windows 95 related protection-fault in V2.1 which appeared only when performing help generation. Some other bug fixes have also been rolled into it. For details, please look at [Improvements since version 2.1](#).

WhizNotes V2.2 has been delayed for various reasons. It contains many enhancements, and the new features are being tested on Windows 95.

Hints on using 'Convinc.Exe' utility with VB and Pascal

Converting .INC file for use with Visual Basic

Here are the steps:

1. Create a template file called **VBTMPL.TXT** and put the following line in it:
Global Const %context-string = %context-number
2. Assuming that your .INC file is called **helpids.inc**, enter the following command on the DOS prompt. Ensure that you have put the utility **convinc.exe** on your DOS path or in the current directory:
convinc @vbtmpl.txt helpids.inc vbhlpids.txt
3. When the command finishes, your VB format constants are available in output file **vbhlpids.txt** for use in your Visual Basic program. Now you can put this file in your VB project file (.MAK) so that the constants are available to your program. You can put the IDH names of the constants as values for HelpContextId attributes in various dialogs and menus.

Converting .INC file for use with Borland Pascal

Here are the steps:

1. Create a template file called **BPTMPL.TXT** and put the following line in it:
%context-string = %context-number;
2. Assuming that your .INC file is called **helpids.inc**, enter the following command on the DOS prompt. Ensure that you have put the utility **convinc.exe** on your DOS path or in the current directory:
convinc @bptmpl.txt helpids.inc bphlpids.txt
3. When the command finishes, your pascal format constants are available in output file **bphlpids.txt** for use in your pascal program. You will have to copy the contents of this file in the "Const" section of your pascal program.

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71303.20@compuserve.com

Site License pricing structure

If you want to buy multiple copies for your organization, you can get a discount. The following details are also given in the file ORDER.DOC.

(INCLUDES ONLY ONE DISKETTE WITH PROGRAM AND DOCUMENTATION AND A SITE LICENSE TO ALLOW MAKING COPIES OF THE DISKETTE)

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100 to 199 computers	at \$20 each
200 to 500 computers	at \$15 each

WRITE OR CALL FOR PRICING ON QUANTITIES OVER 500.

email address of the author

How to help-compile in background

Do you know that in Windows 3.1 environment, you can control your DOS applications to run in a window and in background? You should take advantage of this feature so that you can switch to other applications when the help is being compiled.

This is simple to set up. Just start Windows PIF editor and open the file **_DEFAULT.PIF** which is in the Windows directory. Select the options: "Display usage: Windowed" and "Execution: Background". Then save the file. If you don't find **_DEFAULT.PIF** file then search for the keyword "Default PIF" in the PIF Editor's online help to see how to create it. If you face any memory shortage problems, please look at other options in the PIF Editor.

Electronic mail registration

This scheme is being worked out and will be in full operation only after a few registrations are successful by this method. The idea is that you can get a quick WhizNotes registration by email. Also, you have to pay only the basic price of US\$49.95 with no shipping and handling charges. Of course, you won't be getting a disk or brochure if you register by this method. But you will be able to make your own disk for reinstallation of the registered version.

Here is how it works:

1. First, you make sure that the About box of your shareware version shows your name and company information correctly. If not, please reinstall it with correct information. Also preserve the original SETUP.EXE and other files necessary to install the shareware version.
2. Get an **Email Registration Order Form** from the author: [email address of the author](#).
3. Place the order by one of the methods described in the **Email Registration Order Form**.
4. Send a *copy* of the **Email Registration Order Form** to the author by email and also attach a file **EMAILREG.TXT**. You will find this file in your installed Shareware version directory.
5. As soon as the order is confirmed, author will send an email message to you with the instructions to register your copy. Please note that these instructions will only work on the computer system where your shareware version exists. They won't work on any other system, making them quite safe for transmission by email. Once you install a registered version using this method, all you have to do is copy the registered version to a backup diskette. You can always use this diskette to reinstall or move your WhizNotes registered version to another computer.
6. **No disk or brochure is shipped to you.**

How to uninstall/move WhizNotes

Moving WhizNotes:

If you want to move WhizNotes to another directory, just create the new directory and copy all the files from the installed WhizNotes directory. Then delete the original directory.

Uninstalling WhizNotes:

Delete the directory where WhizNotes is installed.

Contents



Help for shareware version 2.13

[Dedication](#)

[A note on this release](#)

Introduction:

[Introduction](#)

[The philosophy of WhizNotes](#)

[Quick start tutorial](#)

[What is new in this version](#)

[Please register to support the author](#)

[What you get when you Register](#)

[How to Register](#)

Manipulating WhizNote files:

[What is a topic?](#)

[What is a WhizNote file?](#)

[Creating a new WhizNote file](#)

[Opening an existing WhizNote file](#)

[Opening from File Manager](#)

[Saving a WhizNote file](#)

[Desktop options for a WhizNote](#)

[Save WhizNote as.. menu option](#)

[Edit menu copy operations for a WhizNote window](#)

[Obtaining word count](#)

Manipulating topics within a WhizNote file:

[Creating a new topic](#)

[Opening a topic for editing](#)

[Renaming a topic](#)

[Deleting a topic](#)

[Using 'Separator' topics to organize the topic list](#)

[Printing from a topic window](#)

[Printing one or more selected topics](#)

[Ordering your topics in the topic list](#)

[Searching for a topic](#)

[Search/replace operations](#)

[Inserting a jump to another topic](#)

[Operations on multiple topics](#)

[Inserting date/time in your text](#)

Making use of Windowing features of WhizNotes:

[Opening multiple WhizNote and topic windows](#)

[Manipulating external text files](#)

[Saving topic to an external text file](#)

[Copying topics from one WhizNote to another](#)

[Options menu](#)

Printing WhizNote files and topics:

[Basics of WhizNotes printing facilities](#)
[Printing from a topic window](#)
[Printing one or more selected topics](#)
[Using Quick draft printing for convenience](#)

General utility features:

[Inserting date/time in your text](#)
[Toolbar/Statusbar](#)

Export/import features of WhizNotes:

[Exporting Selected Topics to a Text File](#)
[Importing topics from a text file](#)
[Importing whole text files as topics](#)

Generating Windows Help:

[Basics of Help generation](#)
[Setting up the Help Compilation environment](#)
[Terminology of help generation](#)
[Advantages of Help Generation](#)
[Details of WhizNotes help generation statements](#)
[How to create recorder macros for help statements](#)
[How to insert bitmaps into your help files](#)
[Sample WZN file to demonstrate Help Generation](#)

What you should know about temporary files created by WhizNotes:

[Temporary files created by WhizNotes](#)

Appendix:

[Limits setup in WhizNotes](#)
[Tips for the Power User](#)
[How to uninstall/move WhizNotes](#)
[Trademarks](#)

What is new in this version

Improvements since version 2.1:

For a list of improvements and bug fixes since version 2.1, please look at [Improvements since version 2.1.](#)

Improvements since version 2.0:

For a list of improvements and bug fixes since version 2.0, please look at [Improvements since version 2.0.](#)

Improvements since version 2.0

General improvements:

- Context-sensitive **F1** help has been implemented for WhizNotes' menus. Just select a menu item and press **F1** to get the help for it.
- Special topics called **Separators** are available to visually organize your list of topics into sections. For details, see [Using 'Separator' topics to organize the topic list.](#)
- Now you can open multiple topics at once by selecting them all and pressing the **Enter** key. Also, the maximum number of open windows has been increased from 25 to 50. The limit is still necessary so that you don't run into the problems of exhausting available memory.
- WhizNotes is now able to restore complete desktop for a WhizNote file if you check the "Restore desktop" option on the "desktop options for a WhizNote" dialog. Try this feature. You'll love it.
- Menu operations "Save WhizNote as..." and "Close WhizNote" are now also available when working on a topic window. You need not change focus to the WhizNote window to perform them. In addition, "Close WhizNote" is now also available on the toolbar.
- Now you can cancel certain long-running operations by pressing the **Escape** key. Such operations are search/replace, opening multiple topics and importing whole files. You can look at the status bar to recognize such operations which can be cancelled by the **Escape** key.
- Keyword search has been improved for WhizNotes help. Many new keywords have been added to help you find the desired information quickly.
- A new **Edit** menu item allows you to set or reset "word wrap" attribute for the selected topics.
- Now the replace prompt comes up in a position so as not to hide the selected text in the topic window.
- Message box has been improved to present the scroll bar only if needed.
- It was found that certain foreign characters did not display properly in the topic names on the **list of topics** and also on the **dialogs**. The font has been changed from **System** to **Arial** to solve this problem. However, the topic window titles still have this problem as they use the **System** font.
- The default size of WhizNote window has been changed to the standard size so that it stays within the main window even if the window is smaller.
- Now the caret is retained in view when you use Tile, Cascade and similar operations to rearrange the windows.
- When a "Save to text file" operation is performed from an open topic, now it asks for an option to break the lines or retain paragraphs.
- The save-confirm dialog now brings the window being saved to front.

Help generation related improvements:

- Now the generated INC file contains numbers in decimal instead of hexadecimal so that programs in many other programming languages can use it. Moreover, a new utility **Convinc.exe** is available with the registered version that allows you to convert the #define statements in the WhizNotes generated INC file to any other language by supplying a template. Just invoke convinc.exe under DOS without parameters and it will show you the syntax to use it.
- Some new information can be found in [Basics of Help generation](#) and related topics.
- Statements for inserting bitmaps into your help files have been simplified as described in [How to insert bitmaps into your help files](#). For your convenience, the old format statements will still work so that you do not have to change your earlier coded bitmap statements.

- Don't forget to look at the sample WZN file that demonstrates help generation. It has many more new examples.
- By now you must have seen how useful the **HelpTopic** statements are for advanced help generation. You might have wished for a way to find out the topics for which you have not yet defined the **HelpTopic** statements. A menu item on the **Tools** menu has been added just for this purpose. Please try it out.
- To give you more control on the Context Numbers generated by WhizNotes a new help attribute **ContextNumber** has been added. For details, see Keywords, macros, and other characteristics of topics.
- You can find some new tips in Tips for the Power User.
- There have been some changes in the **Context String** generation logic. Now the non-ascii (foreign) characters in the topic names are converted to underscores when generating context strings. Such characters are also not allowed in a context string that you specify. **A WhizNotes context string should be upto 255 chars long and should only contain 'ascii' alpha-numeric chars or '_' char.** WhizNotes forces this rule to avoid invalid identifiers in the C header file so as not to choke the C compiler. This might change a few calls in the programs for non-English users who are invoking help by specifying earlier generated context strings in their programs. *The inconvenience to these users is regretted.* But then, this change is for better and is going to avoid a number of problems for you in future.
- Now if you specify VisibleJumpText in a HelpTopic, it is used as an alias for topic name in the text of all the generated help: in topic titles, in jumps and references, and in the topic name keyword. This gives you an indirect way to organize your topic list in hierarchical levels. For details, see Keywords, macros, and other characteristics of topics.

Bug fixes:

- Earlier **Setup** program did not work correctly if the working directory was not same as its program directory. This has been fixed.
- The date inserted by **Edit-Insert date...** operations did not work properly after a certain time of the day (it was erroneously using GM time conversion). This has been fixed. *It is interesting that only one user caught and reported this problem.*
- Sometimes a "General protection fault" or "Virtual function called" error occurred when copying topics from one WhizNote to another by dragging and then renaming them. This has been fixed.
- For large WhizNote files, sometimes when opening the WhizNote file, the program used to go into a loop and cause a "General protection fault". This was found to be a problem in **.DSK** files and has been fixed. It is suggested that you delete all your **.DSK** files. They will automatically be created again.
- Search did not work properly for a WhizNote for which the option to customize topic-sizes had been selected. This has been fixed.
- Version 2.0 did not perform "import topics" operation properly if the text file contained empty topics, that is, topics having no text after the line containing the topic name. This has been fixed.
- For non-English version of Windows, some users reported strange problems where certain non-ascii characters caused problems in HelpTopic statements where the help generation reported errors like "Topic not found". This problem has been fixed. The problem was actually related to loss of information on upper-case-conversion in these languages.
- The "Contents" in generated help always listed the topics in the sorted sequence even if the list of topics was unsorted and custom-sequenced. The same problem existed for the topics listed in the **INC** file. This has been fixed so that now the topics are listed in the same order as the list of topics.
- The "Save as..." operation from a word-wrapped text file window used to break paragraphs into lines. This has been fixed.
- When the maximum size limit for a topic was reached, the saved text used to be

truncated for that topic. This has been fixed.

- In help generation, during INC file generation, the context numbers generated by WhizNotes skip one number near the beginning of the range. This does not cause any problem either for help generation or for providing context sensitive help. This trivial skip was deliberately not corrected so as to generate exactly same default context Ids as V2.0. Needless to say, just for compatibility reasons, this will remain as it is for all the future versions of WhizNotes.

How to Register

You can obtain a registered version of WhizNotes for only **US\$49.95 + \$4.50** for Shipping and Handling (USA & CANADA only). Shipping and Handling is **\$6.50** overseas.

Email registration: If you have electronic mail, you can get a quick registration by email. Also, you don't have to pay Shipping and Handling charges as no disk will be shipped to you. For details, see [Electronic mail registration](#).

If you want to buy multiple copies for your organization, you can get a discount. Please take a look at our [Site License pricing structure](#), also given in the file ORDER.DOC.

TO REGISTER BY PHONE:

Please call Advanced Support Group, Inc. at:

1-800-788-0787 (ORDER ONLY)

or

(314) 965-5630

You can make your payments with Mastercard, Visa, American Express, purchase orders, or at ASG's option, COD.

TO REGISTER BY MAIL, FAX, or COMPUSERVE:

Please use the order form in the file **order.doc**. You can also print the order form by pressing the button 'Print order form...' on the registration reminder screen (also available in menu **Help - Registration reminder...**).

Please send the order form to:

Advanced Support Group, Inc.
11900 Grant Place
DES PERES, MO 63131-4512

FAX: (314) 966-1833
Compuserve ID: 70304,3642
Internet:70304.3642@compuserve.com

Send questions/suggestions to the author:

The best way to contact the author is to send an electronic mail message to the author at:
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Non-Compuserve users can use the following address:
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You may also write to the author at the address of Advanced Support Group, Inc.

Also see:

[What you get when you Register](#)
[Site License pricing structure](#)

Tips for the Power User

It is suggested that you read this topic after using WhizNotes for some time, as it assumes a working knowledge of the program's features. Also, if you have used WhizNotes earlier, please don't forget to look at the new features mentioned in [Improvements since version 2.0](#).

Try desktop options for a WhizNote:

If you haven't tried it yet, please look at the dialog that comes up when you select menu "Options-Desktop options for this WhizNote...". There are 3 choices for opening the topics. If you like to work with the topics always opening at the last cursor position and size then the second option "Open topics at their last customized position" is best for you. You should also check the "Restore desktop" option.

Use File Manager to open WZN files:

For details, see [Opening from File Manager](#).

Use Windows Recorder:

For easier entering of WhizNotes formatting statements like [**~bold**], [**~italic**], etc you should use Windows accessory **Recorder**. A special file **Whiznote.rec** is provided that allows you to simply select text and press a key combination for enclosing the selected text in a [**~..**] statement. For details, see [How to create recorder macros for help statements](#).

Drop files from the File Manager onto a WhizNote window:

You can insert a copy of external text files as topics by either selecting menu **Tools-Import whole files** or by dragging them from the **File Manager** and dropping them onto a WhizNote window. You can print a set of files this way using the nice printing features of WhizNotes. Before printing, you can rename the copied topics to assign them more meaningful names. If the files you are printing are program files, it is better to select a fixed font before printing.

Use keyboard accelerators for convenience:

Many menu items have keyboard **accelerators** or short-cuts associated with them. You should use them to your advantage by memorizing the accelerators for the most often used functions.

For example, for adding a topic, simply press **INSERT** key. For deleting a topic, press **DELETE** key.

DOS text files:

For viewing DOS text files containing special graphic characters, use the **Terminal** font. Also, to convert word-wrapped text to DOS line-based text file, use the special export feature to word-break at a specified column. This is very useful to prepare a file like README.TXT that is usually viewed by a **Type** command at the DOS prompt.

Use "Window" menu to organize your desktop:

The Multiple Document Interface features available in Window menu are indeed very convenient. You should try them and use them whenever possible. For example, when you are dragging a topic from a WhizNote onto a topic window, you should **minimize** the unneeded windows and then **tile** the ones that you want to work with. This makes it more convenient to perform a drag and drop. You may also use Window menu to quickly locate an open topic window.

Use word wrapping:

You should use word wrapping for any document that you want to later edit with a word processor. This will preserve your paragraphs. You should also use **word wrapping** if you are creating a document to be converted to a **Windows help** file.

There is a tricky point related to word wrapping: if you paste **non-word-wrapped** text from clipboard then you must remove the ending **new line** characters on consecutive lines in a paragraph, for word wrapping to be effective. To do this, make your editor window as large as possible. Then on each line press **End** to jump to the end of line and press **Delete** till the next line joins the end of current line. The **new line (carriage return)** is only necessary at the end of the paragraph. To force a **new line** press **Enter** at the end of a paragraph. To avoid this tedious procedure, it is better to import such a text from a file using the special word-wrap feature of import.

Try export text feature:

Export text feature is useful when you want to make a text file by joining some of the topics. For details, see Exporting Selected Topics to a Text File.

Help generation tips for programmers/advanced users:

- A new utility **Convinc.exe** is available with the registered version that allows you to convert the **#define** statements in the WhizNotes generated INC file to any other language by supplying a template. Just invoke **convinc.exe** under DOS without parameters and it will show you the syntax to use it.
- When you include the **C header file (.INC)** generated by WhizNotes for providing context-sensitive help in your program, you may want to put **#ifndef** type statements to avoid multiple inclusion of this file. But, you can't do that in the **INC** file, as the help compiler does not like **#ifndefs**. For this purpose, use another intermediate **H** file, say **HELPIDS.H**, and put **#ifndef** statements in that file. Now you can use **HELPIDS.H** to **#include** any other **.INC** or **H** files.
- You will notice that after compiling your whole program, just for minor changes in your help text, the **INC** file is generated and causes recompilation of your program's project file or make, even if you have not added, deleted or renamed any topics. To solve this problem, include a copy of the **INC** file in your project, instead of the original **INC** directly generated by WhizNotes. Use a file comparison utility regularly to check when the list of topics changes and you need to use a new copy in your project.
- You can also integrate the help RTF files generated by Visual C++ and Borland C++ with your WhizNotes help. For this, you need to customize WhizNotes generated **HPJ** file to add the names of these RTF files in the section **FILES**.
- For getting more control on **Context Numbers** assigned to help topics, please look at Keywords, macros, and other characteristics of topics.
- Now if you specify **VisibleJumpText** in a **HelpTopic**, it is used as an alias for topic name in the text of all the generated help: in topic titles, in jumps and references, and in the topic name keyword. This gives you an indirect way to organize your topic list in hierarchical levels. For details, see Keywords, macros, and other characteristics of topics.

Other useful features that may not be obvious to you:

- Whenever you save a WhizNote file, a backup file with the extension **.WBK** is created automatically. This is for your protection. In rare instances, if you need to recover your data from these backup files, you need to rename them to a **.WZN** file before opening them with WhizNotes.
- Perform a Save WhizNote frequently when editing. This is the only way your changes are saved to the **WZN** file.
- To clear your desktop, you can use **Window-close all topics** to only close all the topic windows.
- The topic names are case insensitive.
- If you double-click on a topic name that is already open, the topic window comes into focus.
- Use a [**~PAGE**] statement in your text anywhere to force a page-break. Also, if you are viewing external text files and they contain Form-Feed control characters (^L) then WhizNotes will perform a page- break at such characters.

Other advanced topics:

For getting a list of topics containing advanced usage information, please search this help on keyword "Power user" or "Advanced user".

Also see:

[Temporary files created by WhizNotes](#)

Quick start tutorial

The following steps will help you learn the main features of WhizNotes. After that, start using it and explore the Online Help as you go. **It would be convenient if you print the contents of this help topic before performing the steps so that you don't have to switch between WhizNotes and this help.**

Step 1. Creating a WhizNote folder and adding topics to it:

- Select menu **File-New WhizNote** to open a new WhizNote window. You will see that a gray window appears that contains an empty list of topics; such a window is called a WhizNote window.
- To add topics to this empty WhizNote window, select menu **File-Add Topic** or simply press the Insert key. You will be asked for a topic name. Enter any topic name, for example, "This is my first topic".

You will see that an editor window appears that allows you to enter the text for the topic. Try entering some text. Now close this topic. Add a few more topics by following the same procedure. You will see that they are automatically sorted when they appear in the list.

- You can open one or more topics for modification. To do that, select the topic that you want to modify by clicking on it. Then either press the Enter key, or double-click on the topic name. You will see that the topic-text that you earlier entered appears in an editor window where you can modify it.
- Try opening a number of topics and do not close their windows. Select the **Window** menu. You will see a list of all the open windows. You can recognize the currently active window by a check mark that appears next to its name. You can make any other window active by selecting it from the list, or you can directly click on the desired window to make it active. Try using other features on this Window menu. For example, try tiling, cascading, closing, and minimizing operations.
- Now select menu **File-Save WhizNote**. You will have to select a name for this WhizNote file. Select name "TUTORIAL.WZN", then close the WhizNote window. All your topics are now saved under the file TUTORIAL.WZN.
- To reopen the file TUTORIAL.WZN, select File menu. You will see that the name TUTORIAL.WZN appears at the bottom of the menu. This is for your convenience so that you can quickly open this last used file. Just click on it to open. See that the topics are listed when the window comes up.

Step 2. Copying topics from one WhizNote to another:

Let us open a new WhizNote and copy some topics to it.

Select menu **File-New WhizNote** to open a new WhizNote window. Click on 'Tutorial.Wzn' window to make it active. Select multiple topics by clicking on topics with the **control** key pressed. Now drag the mouse cursor while keeping the mouse button pressed. You will see that the cursor changes to the shape of multiple notes. Move this cursor to the second empty WhizNote window while keeping the mouse button pressed. Release the mouse button when you are on top of the empty window. This will drop the selected topics on the empty window. You just saw a demonstration of drag and drop copying. Now the use of this

second window is over so discard it by closing it and saying "No" to the save prompt.

Step 3. Inserting hypertext jumps between topics:

Let us try inserting a jump from one topic to another.

Open one of your topics from TUTORIAL.WZN. Position caret (blinking cursor) at a place where you want to insert the jump. Now drag another topic as described earlier but this time drop it on the open topic window. You will see that a JUMP statement gets inserted in the topic. What is the use of this jump statement? Well, double-click anywhere on this JUMP statement and see what happens. You will instantly go to the topic window indicated in the JUMP. Isn't it convenient!

Step 4. Creating Windows help:

Now if you have the Microsoft Help Compiler, try to **create help** from the **Tools** menu. Just enter a title for your help when asked, and press OK. The help compilation should go through successfully unless WhizNotes is unable to locate your help compiler. Look at the generated help. You will see that the earlier inserted jump statement gets converted to Windows hypertext jump. If you are interested in help generation, don't forget to see [Sample WZN file to demonstrate Help Generation](#) to get a quick demonstration. Even if you don't have the help compiler, please look at [Basics of Help generation](#) to find out more about where to get the help compiler.

Refer to online help frequently:

This is enough to get you started; but remember, we have barely scratched the surface of WhizNotes' abilities. Be sure to look at the contents in this help and explore other features as they interest you. You will discover more and more features that you can use to your advantage.

Terminology of help generation

Here is a list of terms to help you better understand the help generation features of WhizNotes:

Jump:

In Windows help, you can see some underlined phrases that allow you to go to a different topic window by clicking on them. These are called hypertext Jumps. For example, here is a jump: Window menu. WhizNotes allows you to insert jump statements by dragging topic names on top of the open topic windows. You can even test the link by double-clicking on such a jump statement.

Popup or a reference:

These are similar to jumps but are underlined with dashes. For example, here is a reference: Window menu. When you click on a reference, the indicated topic is opened as a popup window. This is suitable for small topics or definitions. In WhizNotes, the references are inserted similar to the Jump statements and the double-clicking also works like a Jump so that you can test the link.

Contents:

In Windows help, at any time, you can press on a button **Contents** and a table of contents appears. WhizNotes generates such a Contents topic for you by default where it includes all the topics from your topic list. This is often not desirable and you should make your own topic with the name "Contents" where you can include only the top level topics with proper formatting for better readability. WhizNotes will use your topic "Contents" if it is present. Foreign users may want to designate a different topic for Contents. This can be done by using advanced options called **GlobalHelpOptions** (Described in registered version help).

Keywords:

When using Windows help, you can use a keyword search facility where a dialog box appears showing you a list of phrases or words. On selecting a particular word, you are shown a list of topics related to that word. Such words or phrases are called **Keywords**. By default, WhizNotes assigns one keyword to each topic which is same as the topic name. If you don't want that, you can use help attribute definitions to avoid that. In addition, by using the help attributes, you can define more keywords for a particular topic. For details, see Keywords, macros, and other characteristics of topics.

Browsing sequences:

Look at the top of this help window. You will see push buttons >> and << that guide you through a series of related topics. These are called **Browse buttons** and the groups or series of topics are called **Browse groups** or **Browse sequences**. WhizNotes allows you to define Browse sequences by simply defining a list of topics in special topics which define **help attributes**. For details, see Browsing sequences of topics.

Help Macros:

This is a very powerful feature of Windows help. Macros allow you to customize the Windows help to include more buttons or features. WhizNotes allows you to define macros for topics as well as embedded macros in the text of topics. For details, search help for keyword **Help**

Macro.

Conditional help generation:

This is a very powerful feature of WhizNotes that allows you to select topics and topic text for generating a different version of the help from the same WhizNote file. Please do not confuse it with **Buildtags** provided with the help compiler. WhizNotes' Conditional help generation is more powerful and more convenient to use than the **Buildtags**.

WhizNotes statements:

These are statements like [**~bold...**], [**~startlist**] etc. which allow you to enhance the appearance of your help text. For details, please look at Details of WhizNotes help generation statements. .

Context string:

Windows help internally uses special identifiers for the help topics. Such identifiers are called Context strings.

Help Generation Dialog Box

This dialog box appears when you select menu **Tools-Create Help...** to generate Windows hypertext help from a WhizNote file. It allows you to select the following options for help generation:

Title for Help Window:

The title that you choose here will appear as the title of the generated Windows Help window.

Copyright Notice:

You can put your Copyright Notice here which will appear in the about box of the generated Help. For example, please look at the About Box of this help that you are reading.

Please note that you can enter a Copyright symbol by typing 0169 while keeping the ALT key pressed. **WARNING:** However, the copyright symbol might not appear properly in the generated help's about box (check and see. Does it appear as a 'registered' symbol?). To fix that you'll have to exit Windows 3.1 and run its setup to install multilingual font instead of regular OEM font. If you don't want to do that, you are better off using '(C)' instead of the copyright symbol.

Type of font:

Microsoft documentation recommends that you should use "MS Sans Serif" size 10 font for help documentation. If you specify "recommended font" then this is the font that will be selected by WhizNotes. If you want another font, select the "Same as Whiznote" option. In this case, the font will be same as the font for WhizNote: one that you specified in the "Desktop options" for the WhizNote.

Options:

Compress Help file:

If you check this box, you can generate a compressed Help file that requires less space but needs more time for creation. It is best to use this option when you are finally generating a help file to be distributed to your customers.

Note that WhizNotes encodes some information into your help files so that a WhizNotes generated help can be recognized for detecting unlicensed usage of WhizNotes.

Optimize for CD ROM:

With this option, the help file is optimized so that it is read more efficiently from a CD ROM. See your help compiler documentation for more details.

Remove browse buttons:

The browse buttons are identified by >> and << symbols on the help window. They are supposed to guide the user through a series of related topics. You should remove these buttons if you have not made special efforts to define the browsing sequence of topics as described in [Browsing sequences of topics](#).

Advanced Options:

To use the advanced options, you first need to understand what files are created by WhizNotes during the help generation process. For your information, the files with following extensions are generated by WhizNotes. All these files have the same name as your WhizNote file, but have different extensions:

- **HPJ** Help Project File
- **BAT** Batch file to run compilation
- **RTF** Rich Text Format (RTF) representation of your WhizNote
- **HPO** Output file for the help compilation

Just create RTF files...:

This is very useful if you are experimenting with implementing your own RTF macros, or you want to enhance WhizNotes generated help by using an RTF editor like MS Word. If you choose this option then WhizNotes just generates all the above files needed to run the help compiler, but actually stops just before running the compiler.

At this point, you can make whatever changes you want to the **RTF** and **HPJ** files generated by WhizNotes. Then you can uncheck this option and check the next one that allows to run the help compiler on the changed files.

Just run the help compiler:

After making your custom changes to **RTF** or **HPJ** files as mentioned above, for invoking the help compiler, you need not go to DOS to run the **BAT** file prepared by WhizNotes. You can just check this option and WhizNotes will only run the help compiler without disturbing the changed **RTF** or **HPJ** file. Earlier version of WhizNotes required you to go to DOS to perform this kind of custom generation.

Of course, if you were to uncheck this option later, remember that next help generation will regenerate the RTF and other files and will overwrite your changes.

Generate C Header file:

This option is for the programmers who want to integrate calls to the help topics in their program. A C language header file is generated that contains the #defines for the Context strings used by WhizNotes. For details on how to use this information for integration, please look into your Help compiler documentation or into the online help for Windows SDK. WhizNotes generates a file with extension **INC** which you can include in your programs. To invoke a particular help topic you need to call the function WinHelp() with HELP_CONTEXT parameter, giving a Context string from the **INC** file. For your convenience, the INC file contains the topic names in the form of comments. Also, at the top of INC file, you will find some useful tips.

A note for the programmers who found it difficult to use Context strings generated by the earlier version of WhizNotes: You will find that now WhizNotes generates more meaningful Context strings derived from the topic names, instead of number based ids. These are less likely to change with your evolving help project. Also, you can override them if you don't like the default ones. See Tips for the Power User for some tips on usage of Context strings. Also see Keywords, macros, and other characteristics of topics for information on overriding context string for a topic.

If you are using a language other than C or C++, the generated INC file may not be useful to you. In such a case, you can use **Convinc.exe** utility (only available with the registered version) to convert the constant definitions to another language. Just invoke **Convinc.exe** under DOS without any parameters and it will show you the syntax to use it.

Selectively generate by using tags:

This needs a fairly advanced discussion. For details, please look at [Conditional help generation](#).

Details of WhizNotes help generation statements

There are several types of WhizNotes help generation statements and attributes that you can specify in the text of your topics. The following discussion covers all the details of these statements and attributes. If you are serious about help generation, **you must read** all of the discussion in the following topics. I have seen many users missing on the features by not reading the help in detail. You may also want to look at the sample WZN file that demonstrates the use of these statements.

It is good to know that all the help statements and attributes used by WhizNotes are case-insensitive; for example, you can use "JUMP", "Jump", or "jump" when specifying jumps.

WhizNotes Help statements:

You have already seen statements like [**~JUMP ..**] and [**~REF...**] that can be inserted into your topic text by dragging topic names onto a topic; if not, please look at [Inserting a jump to another topic](#).

Such statements beginning with [**~** are called WhizNotes help statements. Here are more of them which you can use in the text of your topics:

[Making your text bold or italic](#)
[Making bulleted and numeric lists](#)
[Indenting text](#)
[Specifying jumps & references to other help files](#)
[Inserting direct RTF code](#)
[Conditional help generation](#)
[Inserting help macros](#)

Special note:

If you want ']' character to be part of your text then prepend it with a backslash. This applies to all WhizNotes statements.

WhizNotes Help attributes:

WhizNotes allows you to specify certain aspects of help generation by defining attributes in a special topic having the name of **~HelpAttributes**. If one topic is not enough, you can define more of these topics, provided their names begin with the characters **~HelpAttributes**.

You can define the following attributes in such topics:

[Browsing sequences of topics](#)
[Keywords, macros, and other characteristics of topics](#)

Also see:

[A note on quoted values](#)

Why text-based attributes?

You may wonder why I used text-based statements for these attributes and why didn't I give this facility in the form of GUI elements like the dialog boxes? There are several reasons, and

I am sure you will agree with me when you understand the guiding principle here:

1. I believe in the use of several tools. You may already be using your own editor which may be more powerful than the simple topic editor provided with WhizNotes. I don't want to restrict you when preparing your text. You can create your text using other editors and can import it in WhizNotes for final assembly.

Since all the specification is in text form, you are free to choose any text editor that need not be a word processor or WYSIWYG editor.

2. I am sure you will find ways to automate the generation of these attributes using your own clever little programs. For instance, you may use a database to keep track of the keywords which are used by several topics and generate these attribute statements using the database.

Since all the specification is in text form, it is easier for external customization like this. Soon, I may provide DDE interface to WhizNotes to dynamically alter topic text from other programs.

3. WhizNotes desktop is generic and there are users who are not interested in help generation at all. If most of the specification is in the form of topic text, the desktop remains generic and can be extended to provide other facilities in future.

Sample WZN file to demonstrate Help Generation

You will find a file named **Samplhlp.Wzn** in the directory where WhizNotes program is installed. This file contains examples of many Help generation statements described in online help.

To use this WhizNote file, simply open it and read the first topic **Read me first**. After reading the topic, close it and choose menu option **Tools - Create Help**. If you have the Help compiler on your path then you should see the compiler invoked in a DOS window followed by a message "Help was successfully created". Answer "yes" when asked to test this help, and see how it looks. You can also test it any time from menu **Tools - Test Help**. For your information, the file that is generated has the same name but a different extension: **HLP**. You can even directly **double-click** on such **HLP** files in the **File Manager** to look at their contents.

After testing the help, please compare the generated help with the formatting specified in the **Samplhlp.Wzn** file. Consult online help for these statements; experiment a little, and you will understand how to use them.

Those of you who do not have the Microsoft Help compiler should look at the following information to find out more about where to get the help compiler.

Registered users will find another file **advhelp.wzn** which shows how to embed multiple fonts in your help file.

You may ask, **how to know whether the help compiler exists on your system?**

If you purchased any of the Windows Software Development Kits in C, C++, Turbo Pascal, Visual Basic (professional) or other languages then most probably you already have the help compiler. The file name is **HC31.EXE**. Try finding it using the File Manager.

Some users reported that Microsoft has put up a help compiler on WINSDK forum on CompuServe (file **HCP.ZIP**). I tried to contact Microsoft several times to find out whether they have decided to give it for free as a download. No one has replied to me. So it is upto you to get and try the help compiler from their forum. If you try out such a help compiler having a name different from **HC31.EXE** then you will have to setup your File Manager environment so that WhizNotes can use the compiler. All you have to do is to associate extension **HPJ** with the compiler's **EXE** file. For details, please look at [Setting up the Help Compilation environment](#).

Making your text bold or italic

Statement to specify bold text:

[~BOLD text]

When you use such a statement, the enclosed text appears as bold in the generated help. The text can even be a whole paragraph.

Statement to specify italic text:

[~ITALIC text]

When you use such a statement, the enclosed text appears as italic in the generated help. The text can even be a whole paragraph.

Saving key strokes when entering WhizNotes statements:

You'll find a file **Whiznote.rec** in WhizNotes' program directory. Using this file with Windows **Recorder**, you can simply select some text and type a special key combination to enclose the text in a WhizNotes statement like above.

For instance, you can quickly enter above WhizNotes statements by following this procedure:

- In **File Manager**, double-click on file **Whiznote.rec** which is present in WhizNotes' program directory. This will start the program Windows **Recorder** with this file.
Or,
Open the file **Whiznote.rec** using Windows **Recorder**.
- Now in WhizNotes, press the following keys for quickly entering the bold and italic statements:
 1. Select some text and press **Ctrl-B** to enclose the text in **[~bold ...]** statement.
 2. Select some text and press **Ctrl-I** to enclose the text in **[~italic ...]** statement.

Isn't it convenient! For more details on how to create such recorder macros, please see [How to create recorder macros for help statements.](#)

Specifying jumps & references to other help files

To specify jumps and references to other help files, use the following statements:

```
[~JUMPTOCONTEXT {visibleText = "visible-jump-text", contextString = "context-string", helpFile = "help-file-name"}]
```

```
[~REFTOCONTEXT {visibleText = "visible-jump-text", contextString = "context-string", helpFile = "help-file-name"}]
```

Explanation of parameters:

- **visibleText** - text to appear underlined
- **contextString** - Context string of the topic to jump to
- **helpFile** - (optional) name of the help file containing the above topic

Integrating RTF topics created by other help authoring systems:

You must have noticed that if you don't specify a **helpFile** then you can jump to a topic in the same help file. With WhizNotes generated help, you may rarely use this feature to jump to a topic in the same help file; but there are instances where it can be useful.

Let me give an example of when it would be useful. If you generated some of the RTF code using some other help generator (for instance, using the context sensitive RTF help generated by Visual C++ or Borland C++) then you can integrate these RTF files into your own help by including them in **HPJ** file in the section **FILES**. Then you can use the above statements to jump to topics defined in these RTF files.

Inserting direct RTF code

This option is for advanced help-generation users. If you are familiar with Rich Text Format, you can insert direct RTF code in your topic text by using the following statement:

[~RTF your-rtf-code]

Once you put your RTF code, you may get help compilation errors. In such a case, you can use **WZLOCATE.EXE** to locate a hex location within an RTF file. Help compiler usually gives hex locations in error messages.

Inserting help macros

Have you ever looked at the topic **Help macros** in your Windows SDK help? This is a powerful feature of Windows Help that lets you customize your help more like an application. WhizNotes allows you to easily insert help macros in your text by using the statement:

```
[~HELPMACRO {visibleText = "visible-text", macro = "macro-statements"}]
```

Explanation of parameters:

- **visibleText** - text to appear underlined
- **macro** - macro statements

When the user clicks on such a visible text in the generated Windows help, the help macro will be executed.

You can also specify a help macro to be executed whenever a topic is displayed. For details, see [Keywords, macros, and other characteristics of topics](#).

Please note that since WhizNotes uses double-quotes to enclose the parameter values, it is easier for you to use single-quote pairs in macros. Single-quote pairs consist of **left-quote** (`) and **right-quote** (') present on two different keys on the keyboard and their order is important. If instead, you want to use double-quotes in macros, you will have to repeat them for WhizNotes to evaluate them properly. Hence, it is more convenient to use single-quote pairs.

Example:

Try this macro in your topic text:

```
[~helpmacro {visibleText = "A clock program", macro = "ExecProgram(`clock.exe',0)"}]
```

Here is how it will look in the generated help: [A clock program](#). Click on it and it will start the clock program.

Conditional help generation

This is one of the most useful features of WhizNotes. Do not confuse it with the Build Tags as specified in the Help Compiler documentation. Rather, WhizNotes conditional help generation is even more powerful than the one provided with Build Tags for the compiler. Here is a discussion on when to use it.

Sometimes you may want to use the same WhizNote for generating various levels of help. For example, for a demonstration program you may need a little different text as compared to the registered version. Provided that most of the text is similar, how can you control which text in a topic is to be used and which topics are to be skipped? WhizNotes conditional help generation can do it for you. But you must understand that if you make logical errors in specifying condition statements, WhizNotes can not always catch your mistakes. So you are responsible for making sure that the statements for conditional help generation are logically correct.

There are three aspects of conditional compilation:

1. Specifying one or more **TAGs** (identifiers) in WhizNotes Help Generation Dialog to specify what all combinations you want.

Examples of tags are "Demo", "Registered", etc. When entering more than one tag in the dialog, please use semicolons to separate them.

2. Preparing topic text with the following statements to control what text gets included and what text gets excluded when a tag is present or not present. These are **[~IFTAG..]**, **[~IFNOTTAG..]**, **[~ELSE]**, and **[~ENDIF]**. C programmers should understand that this is similar to C directives **#ifdef**, **#ifndef**, etc. with one exception: WhizNotes also allows them to be embedded anywhere in the paragraph text.
3. If whole topics are to be skipped depending on whether a tag is defined or not defined then you may use similar named keywords when defining help attributes for topics. For details, please see [Keywords, macros, and other characteristics of topics](#).

Examples:

I will give you two examples of using conditional tags:

1. Suppose you want a line in your topic to read "This production version gives you the following additional facilities:" in the help for production version; and "This demo version restricts use of these features:" in the demo version of your program's help.

Here is how you would do this:

- Decide to use a tag "PRODUCTION".
- Prepare your text like this:

```
[~IFTAG PRODUCTION]
```

```
This production version gives you the following additional facilities:
```

```
[~ELSE]
```

```
This demo version restricts use of these features:
```

```
[~ENDIF]
```

- Now if you define the tag PRODUCTION in WhizNotes Help Generation Dialog and then generate help, you will get the first line; whereas, if you remove the tag from the dialog and generate help, you will get the second line. The use of ELSE part is optional. You could have used an **[~ENDIF]** there if you did not want any line to

appear for the demo version. Similarly there is an **[~IFNOTTAG...]** statement that may be useful for negative conditions.

2. You just want to change the word "production" to "demo" in the above example of the first line. To do that, use the statements in this manner:

This `[~IFTAG PRODUCTION]production[~ELSE]demo[~ENDIF]` version gives you the following additional facilities:

As I said earlier, this is a powerful feature that may save you lot of rework to maintain different help files for different versions. For more examples, please look at the sample WhizNote file.

Also see:

[Keywords, macros, and other characteristics of topics](#)

Browsing sequences of topics

What is a browsing sequence? If you look at the ribbon bar of this help window, you will notice two buttons >> and <<. Try to go in forward direction by pressing the button >>. You will see that on each press, it guides you through a series of related topics and when you reach the end of the group, the button is disabled. You can no longer proceed in the forward direction, you have to press the button << to move back through the topics. Of course, as a help author, it is I who decided what topics are related to each other and then placed them in separate groups in a sequence. How did I do that? I used WhizNotes' **ListBrowseGroup** statements to specify these groups.

WhizNotes makes it very simple to assign browse groups. All you have to do is to make a special topic named **~HelpAttributes** and define the browse groups using the statement syntax given below. If one topic is not enough, you can define more of these topics, provided their names begin with the characters **~HelpAttributes**.

Syntax for defining browse groups in WhizNotes:

```
ListBrowseGroup { "topic-name1", "topic-name2", ... }
```

You can define as many browse groups as you want; but remember, that in Windows help, a topic can not be present in more than one browse groups.

To avoid typing all the topic names, WhizNotes allows you to drag multiple topic names and drop them on your **~HelpAttributes** topic window. All you have to do is to enter the beginning and end of the ListBrowseGroup statement as shown above. After dropping the names you may have to rearrange them if you want a different sequence.

Special topic **~HelpAttributes** also allows you to define other attributes for topics and global help generation. For more details, see [Keywords, macros, and other characteristics of topics](#)

Keywords, macros, and other characteristics of topics

WhizNotes allows you to specify keywords, help macros, and other attributes of topics for generating advanced help. Such attributes need to be defined in a special topic named **~HelpAttributes**. You need to specify topic attributes using **HelpTopic** statements as described. If one topic is not enough, you can define more of these topics, provided their names begin with the characters **~HelpAttributes**.

Note that it isn't necessary to define **HelpTopic** statements for all your topics. Sometimes you may want to find out what topics do not have **HelpTopic** statements defined. To do that, use the menu item **Tools-Show topics with no HelpTopic definitions** (available in the registered version only).

Syntax for specifying topic specific attributes:

```
HelpTopic "topic-name"
{
    Keywords = "",
    TopicNameIsNotAKeyword = "NO",
    Macros = "",
    UseNonScrollingTitle = "NO",
    VisibleJumpText = "",
    SkipIfTag = "",
    SkipIfNotTag = "",
    ContextString = "",
    ContextNumber = ""
}
```

Most of the attributes are self-explanatory. Here is a brief description:

- **Keywords**

Keywords are words or phrases that you specify in the "Search" window of the generated help. By using keywords, a user can get a list of topics related to that keyword. In WhizNotes, by default topic name itself is a keyword for a topic. If you want, you can add more keywords by assigning them to this attribute. Make sure that if you are defining more than one keywords for a topic, you must separate them with a semicolon.

- **TopicNameIsNotAKeyword**

As already seen, WhizNotes generates a keyword same as the topic name, that is, it uses the default value "NO" shown here. Make it "YES" if you do not desire this for a topic.

- **Macros**

Note that this feature does not work in the Shareware version as it conflicts with Shareware version's own registration reminder message: "Unregistered copy".

- **UseNonScrollingTitle**

This is a very attractive feature of Windows help. For those topics, which you don't plan to use as popup or referenced topics, you can specify "yes" for this attribute. The result will be an attractive non-scrollable heading in the generated help. Try and see how it looks. You can even control the background color for the non-scrolling region by

specifying it in the HPJ file. See your SDK documentation for details. You will also find comments in the WhizNotes generated HPJ file to guide you to these colors definitions.

- **VisibleJumpText**

Don't you wish sometimes that for some jumps you want to present a different visible text to the user than the original topic name? You can do it in two ways. For occasional use, you may use JUMPTOCONTEXT statement described elsewhere in this help. But, for a particular topic, if you always want to use a different visible text then use **VisibleJumpText** attribute in a HelpTopic statement as described above. In this case, the text that you specify will be used like an Alias for the topic name: in jumps and ref statements, in topic titles, and in the topic name keyword.

You might ask: "If everywhere I have to use the alias, why do I need the original topic name?"

Well, as I have said again and again, users use WhizNotes in their own clever ways. Currently there is no facility in WhizNotes for organizing the topic list in levels (hierarchy). One smart user wanted to give topic names like "I_0.Who.There", "I_0.Who.Here" to simulate hierarchial levels between topics. But then he did not want such topic names to be actually used in the text of the generated help. Such a problem is solved by the above feature. Isn't it convenient!

- **SkipIfTag and SkipIfNotTag**

For understanding this you should first understand Conditional help generation. These attributes allow you to completely skip a topic depending on the presence or absence of a tag.

- **ContextString** (advanced usage)

WhizNotes generates Context strings based on topic names automatically. So if you are using them to provide context sensitive help for your application, you need not worry about changing your program when you add or rearrange your topics. But if you want, you can still override the default Context string by defining a value for this attribute. **The value should be upto 255 chars long and should only contain 'ascii' alpha-numeric chars or '_' char. WhizNotes forces this rule to avoid invalid identifiers in the C header file so as not to choke the C compiler.**

- **ContextNumber** (advanced usage)

If you choose to generate a C header file when creating help, you must have noticed that WhizNotes assigns a number to each topic in the **INC** file. This is called a **Context Number**.

Context numbers are not usually used directly by your program. For instance, when you are invoking a help topic from your program, you should provide a Context string in your call to the **WinHelp** function. This is a good programming practice so that if you add or delete topics from your help, you only need to recompile your program to work with the new help file. You won't have to change each and every **WinHelp** call in the program.

But, let me show you two conditions where you'd like to have more control on the context numbers assigned to topics:

1. You are providing context sensitive **F1 help** for your menu items and are calculating

the context numbers based on the menu-id. In such a case, you should pre-calculate the context number required for each menu's help topic and must assign it by a **HelpTopic** statement as described above.

2. Suppose you add new topics to a help file that you have distributed as online help for your program. Your program uses **WinHelp** calls to invoke some help topics. But now, you only want to distribute the new help file to the user. The new topics that you have added are not directly invoked by the program. If you are not careful, the **context numbers** assigned to earlier topics will change and your old program's executable will not be able to invoke the correct help topics. **To avoid such problems, you must always generate help from your WhizNote by keeping the list of topics in the custom-sequenced order (not sorted order).** In such a case, if you take care to add the new topics at the end of the list, your earlier calls will not be affected and the old program's executable will still work with the new help file.

Another solution is to force the **ContextNumber** for the program-invoked topics by using the **HelpTopic** statement as described above.

For actual examples of some of these attributes, please take a look at the **sample WZN file** provided with WhizNotes.

Also see:

[A note on quoted values](#)

Creating your own custom statements

If you know RTF syntax then after using [**~BOLD...**], [**~ITALIC...**], and similar WhizNotes statements, you may have wished that you could create some simple statements of your own. However, if you try to code RTF in a topic text then there is no way for WhizNotes to know whether you really intend it to be interpreted as RTF or not. Consequently, it processes it as a literal text. You can insert direct RTF code in your text using the statement [**~RTF...**]. In this case WhizNotes will not touch the enclosed text and will write it verbatim to the RTF file.

But, there is an even more powerful feature. You can define your own statements in a special topic with name: **~RtfMacros**. If one topic is not enough, you can define more of these topics, provided their names begin with the characters **~RtfMacros**.

Let us take a concrete example. Suppose you want to create a new statement called [**~BOLDITALIC...**] that will make the enclosed text both bold and italic.

Here are the steps to do this:

1. Create a topic by the name **~RtfMacros**.
2. Define the macro in this topic as follows:

```
RtfMacro BoldItalic { RTFBeforeText = "{\b|i",
                    RTFAfterText = "}"
                    }
```
3. Now try using the statement [**~BOLDITALIC...**] in the text of one of your topics. When you generate the help, you will see that your custom BoldItalic macro works!
4. You can make more such RtfMacros and extend the WhizNotes language. But remember that now you are entirely responsible for coding correct RTF in your definition.

You will have to understand any Help Compiler errors generated by your RTF code yourself.

Also see:

[A note on quoted values](#)

Improvements since version 2.1

- Email registration: If you have electronic mail, now you can have a quick registration by email, also saving on the Shipping and Handling charges. For details, see [Electronic mail registration](#).
- When performing RTF creation for help generation, a spurious protection error was reported by Windows NT/Windows 95 for each help topic, although on pressing ignore the help was generated OK. This has been fixed. This version is specially being released so that users upgrading to Windows 95 are not inconvenienced.
- Do you know that you can setup the help compilation to execute in a window and in the background? See [How to help-compile in background](#).
- Some users experienced printer hanging problems in some cases of multiple topic printing. This has been fixed.
- Some resource leaks occurring in V2.1 have been fixed.
- Some advanced help users tried to use the custom RTF header feature and reported a bug in help generation. This has been fixed.
- For registered users, an additional sample WZN file **advhelp.wzn** is provided that demonstrates the customization of RTF header for embedding multiple fonts in help. It also shows some other nice features.
- The default browse sequence in help generation was always in sorted sequence even if the WZN file was non-sorted. This has been fixed. The order of topics appearing in RTF file is also corrected for the non-sorted case.
- Some users used some performance monitors on their systems and found that WhizNotes seems to be doing something even if they iconize it. I want to inform you that this is not really a problem. WhizNotes inherits its message processing loop from some Borland libraries and the message loop tries to take advantage of the idle time when no other application is really using the CPU. What you see on performance monitors is the CPU usage due to this method of processing messages. Believe me, it does not affect any other "running" application at all, at least on Windows 3.1. However, since it might have some effect in a Windows 95 environment, I have corrected this problem in this version.
- It was found that the copyright symbol does not appear properly in the About box of the generated help in Windows 3.1. Instead a 'registered' symbol appears. However, on investigation this was found to be a Windows environment problem. To get the copyright symbol properly, you must setup Windows 3.1 to use multilingual font. You have to exit Windows to do that. If you don't want to do that, use '(C)' instead of the copyright symbol.
- On help generation errors, the topics did not open at correct error location if the desktop option for the WhizNote was not default open. This has been fixed.
- Now the open topics are saved but remain open when you select "Create help" menu action. This is more convenient.

