

GHelpDeluxe

Steve Hargreaves

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Chapter 1

GHelpDeluxe

1.1 GHelp V2.4

```

      GHelp
    by Steve Hargreaves

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1.2 Introduction

Introduction

When you've had an Amiga for a while, and you've installed software all over the place, despite your best efforts, you finish up with AmigaGuide documents and ReadMe files scattered across your hard drive(s). Now this is fine, until you come to want a specific guide, or aren't sure exactly which guide you are looking for. Wouldn't it be nice to have all your AmigaGuides and ReadMe's available from a single hotkey, and to be able to search for keywords throughout them all. That's where GHelp comes in.

Quite simply, GHelp consists of three programs that work together as a package.

GHelpGen searches your hard drives (the exact search paths are configurable) and creates an index

which is used by GHelpGUI

GHelp is a small commodity that sits in the background waiting for you to press ↵
your (user definable)
hotkey combination.

I know that there are other programs available on AmiNet to do something similar, ↵
but those that I've
tried either don't work, or, they don't provide the complete solution that GHelp ↵
does.

All I can say is, Try it. If you like it, tell your friends and me, if you don't, ↵
tell me.

If you can see a way to improve it, tell me, but see the To Do section first to ↵
get an idea of where I
am going with this.

Steve Hargreaves.

1.3 Distribution

Distribution

GHelp is TreatMe ware

This package may be distributed via whatever means you want, provided
the archive remains intact and none of the files in it are modified.

If you like it, please treat me, either send me something that you have done, or ↵
a keyfile for your
(own) registered work, or even just an acknowledgement. If you want to make a ↵
more fiscal
contribution then email me and I'll let you know how :o)

And if you have nothing to send, just drop me an email to let me know whether or ↵
not you are using
GHelp :o)

Disclaimer

By using this product, you accept the full responsibility for any damage
or loss that might occur through its use. The author cannot be held responsible ↵
.

1.4 System Requirements

System Requirements

An Amiga

MUI

SearchGuide (Optional - but required for SearchGuide support)

A few Amigaguide documents
Not essential, but a hard drive - it isn't really very useful without
An AmigaGuide viewer (Multiview is the default)

1.5 Features

Features

- It's a commodity
- Configurable through tooltypes if run from Workbench, or from the commandline
- Now with an MUI interface
- Allows progressive searching for keywords, multiple keyword searches and basic boolean operations ↔
- Let's you delete files (useful if, like me, you find you have more than one copy of the same AmigaGuide file) ↔
- Very small commodity
- Free
- It works (or at least, it does here)
- Can now utilise SearchGuide by Gérard Cornu if found in C:

1.6 Limitations

Limitations

None at the moment (compared with what I set out to achieve). If you spot any, please let me know. ↔

1.7 To Do and New

To Do

- Build a word list to speed up searching
- Dynamic updating of index (Yeah, I wish - but maybe I can allow updating rather than re-generating) ↔
- Dunno, suggestions?

New in Deluxe Version

Where do I start:-

New in V2.6

- GHelpGen re-written to be completely self contained. AmigaDOS List and Sort commands no longer used. ↔
The re-write has also resulted in an increase in speed of 15 - 20% when generating indices. ↔
 - GHelpGen can now be aborted if you wish.
 - Introduced multiple keyword and boolean searching
-

- Fixed a few more bugs in the GUI. Now fully MUI compliant operation, including full keyboard control, shortcuts, and bubble help.
- Fixed a few bugs in the internals. It should be pretty much bug free now.

New since V2.0

- Completely re-written from scratch
- GUI instead of an AmigaGuide index - in V2.4 rewritten again for MUI
- Search guides facility added
- Dispensed with the ARexx requirement
- The whole package is integrated to work together
- Much more modular
- Simple to use
- Now uses SearchGuide if it's found in your C: directory to allow searching within AmigaGuide files.
- Multiple indexes, allowing GHelp to be used as a Global file viewer (when used with a utility such as IDer as the default viewer)

1.8 Installation

Installation

Copy GHelp.ig to ENVARC:

Copy GHelpGen to C:

Copy GHelpGUI to C:

Copy GHelp (and icon) wherever you want (I suggest WBStartup)

If you are upgrading from GHelp, delete the file GuideGen from C:. You don't need it anymore. GHelpGen has taken over it's job.

If you want to use the SearchGuide facility, SearchGuide must be in C: SearchGuide is available from Aminet and various Amiga magazine cover CDs. I have written to the author of SearchGuide for permission to distribute the executable only with GHelp but I haven't received a reply. If he does reply, I would like to negotiate a special version of SearchGuide for use with GHelp.

1.9 Configuration

GHelp can be run from CLI or Workbench. The CommandLine template is as follow:-

GHelp VIEWER=path/file HOTKEY=hotkey

VIEWER - The path and filename of your preferred AmigaGuide viewer. Defaults to Sys:Utilities/Multiview if not provided.

HOTKEY - The hotkey combination to activate the guide. Default is "LALT HELP"

Configuration can also be made through tooltypes. The tooltypes supported are as
in the commandline.

1.10 Usage

Usage

Well, once it's running, just press the hotkey combination, and away you go.

The GHelpGUI will appear on screen.

The interface operates as follows:-

The lister - lists all available AmigaGuides, or the results of your most recent
search.

Buttons (the numbers in brackets are keyboard shortcuts):-

"Open" (o) - will open the selected Guide
 "Search" (s) - Opens the search requester
 "All" (a) - Re-displays the complete list of available guides
 "Generate Index" (g)- (re)generates the index used by GHelp. Note, use this
wisely. If you have
a large hard drive, it can take a while. See below for usage.
 "Load Index" (l) - Load a different index from the default one.
 "Delete" (d) - Deletes the selected guide. Confirmation is required.

"Generate Index"

The "Filter Control" section controls how the index is generated.

The three checkboxes ("Guide Files" (u), "ReadMe files" (r) and "Doc files" (f))
provide a quick way to
include files of these types. Files are recognised by their suffix.

The "Default Index" (i) checkbox tells GHelp that you want to generate GHelp.index
in HELP: If you
want to generate a different index, make sure this box is not checked and you will
be presented with a
file requester to select a different name.

The string gadget "Other Filters" allows you to include additional files. This is
in standard AmigaDOS
format, supporting wildcards (#?). Separate multiple entries with a "|" character.

Paths determines where GHelp will search for files. To include everything, use "
DH0: DH1:" etc. Each
path should be separated by a space. Non-existent paths will be ignored. Sub-
directories are searched
automatically. You can search a specific directory by entering the full path.

Please note that Generating the index can take a while. Be aware of this before
you click on the button.

NB. The old index is now backed up before writing.

NB. The default index is stored in your HELP: assign. Please ensure that you have an assign to this on your system.

Clicking on the GHelp icon brings up the about window.

Searching:-

When you select search, you will be given a requester to type your keywords. This MUST be between 3 and

32 characters, and must match (part of) the word that you are searching for.

Wildcards are not required,

You can progressively narrow down your search by initiating searches one after the other.

Only Guides currently shown in the Guide List are searched if you select the "Listed Guides" button.

You may enter up to 5 keywords for each search, and add boolean operators:-

The default search mode is OR. If you search for Miami IBrowse then all documents containing either Miami or Ibrowse (or both) will be found.

AND: Adding a "+" immediately before a keyword forces GHelpDeluxe to exclude any documents not containing that keyword. eg: +Miami +IBrowse will only find documents containing both words. Note, searching for Miami +Ibrowse will yield the same results as just searching for IBrowse.

NOT: Adding a "-" immediately before a keyword forces GHelp to exclude any documents which include that keyword. eg Miami -IBrowse will find all documents containing the word Miami, but which do not contain the word IBrowse.

The boolean operators can be used in combination:-

Miami +Ibrowse -AWeb -FTP +News.

Searches are not case sensitive. ibrOWse is the same as IBrowse.

Wildcard searching is neither supported nor required. The way in which GHelp searches for keywords means that as long as the string is matched, a hit will be found:-

ibrowse, brow, browse will all find ibrowse. Of course, the more accurate your keyword, the lower the number of potential matches.

If you want to search all guides again for another keyword, click the "All" button before searching.

During the search, a window indicating progress will be displayed. You can abort the search (after the

current document) from here.

GHelp can also utilise an ingnored words file (a basic one is included in the archive). This must be located in ENVARC: and must be named GHelp.ig

You can add to this file by amending it ina text editor. Each ignored word should be on a separate line, with no blank lines in between. Amend the number at the head of the file to the total number of ignored words in your list, minus one.

The supplied GHelp.ig contains words found in most AmigaGuide documents.

Clicking the "Selected Guide" button (If available) will invoke SearchGuide to search within a specific AmigaGuide document. If the SearchGuide executable is not found in C: then this button will be disabled.

GHelp can be controlled through Exchange.

Useful Feature

Because GHelpGen allows you to specify your own search patterns, it is also possible to use it create an index of other files. eg. Images. Simply include the required patterns in the "Other filter" box. If you use Multiview, you will be able to view the files provided you have the appropriate datatypes just by clicking on the links.

This is a handy side effect of pattern matching. Because ALL matches to the pattern are shown, you can also use GuideGen to find duplicates of files across your system.

1.11 Author and thanks

Contact Info

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Other stuff by me

- Blitzdock - a dockbar utility
- PlaceMouse - place your mouse wherever you want at startup
- ScalosEject - an Eject popup menu item for supported drives usable for Scalos (See www.scalos.org)

- AmigaDraughts - Draughts on the Amiga - one or two player.
- CDEject - Similar to ScalosEject, but places an Eject Appicon on WB
- WBCycle - pretty up WorkBench window borders.

Thanks

Thanks to Nick Clover for his assistance testing and with some elements of ↵
GHelp.

Thanks to Gérard Cornu for SearchGuide.