

GHelpDeluxe

Steve Hargreaves

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Chapter 1

GHelpDeluxe

1.1 GHelp V2.0

```

                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)

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

AmigaDOS sort and list commands in your C: directory (for GenGuide)

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
- Clean GadTools interface
- Allows progressive searching for keywords
- 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

- Make the GUI font adaptive (maybe). Your workbench prefs system font will be ↵
used. If there is a
problem opening the prefs, Xen.font size 8 is searched for and used.
- Dunno, suggestions?

New in Deluxe Version

Where do I start:-

- Completely re-written from scratch
 - GUI instead of an AmigaGuide index
 - 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 GHelpGen to C:
Copy GHelpGUI to C:
Copy GHelp 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:-

"Open" - will open the selected Guide
"Search" - Opens the search requester

"All" - Re-displays the complete list of available guides

"Generate Index" - (re)generates the index used by GHelp. Note, use this wisely. ↵
If you have a
large hard drive, it can take a while, and you can't quit it. See below for ↵
usage.

"Delete" - Deletes the selected guide. Confirmation is required.

"Generate Index"

The boxed section below the "Delete" button controls how the index is generated.

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

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, and cannot be aborted. Be ↵
aware of this
before you click on the button. Once you do, there's no going back.

NB. The old index is overwritten by this process.

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

Searching:-

When you select search, you will be given a requester to type your keyword. This ↵
MUST be between 3 and
32 characters, and must match (part of) the word that you are searching for. ↵
Wildcards are not
supported, but 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.

eg. Suppose that you wanted to search for a document giving details of how to ↵
print from Turboprint
using Ghostscript. You could search first for "print". All documents containing ↵
the word print will be
listed. You would then search for "Turboprint". Documents found by the first ↵
search will be searched,
and the Guide List updated accordingly. Finally, searching for "Ghostscript" will ↵
limit the Guide List
to only those Guides containing all three words.

This is only a quick (and rather convoluted) example. I'm sure there are faster ↵
ways to find the

above. Experience and knowing what is on your own hard drive will enable you to choose the best keywords.

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.

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

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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 of the GUI ↔
elements of GHelp.

Thanks to Gérard Cornu for SearchGuide.