WYSI-Help Composer Tutorial - Facts about California

In this tutorial you will create a hypertext file covering three major cities in California. All the components needed are included; your task is to put the hypertext file together using WYSI-Help Composer.

Part 1 of the tutorial will guide you through the basic features of WYSI-Help Composer. In Part 2 you will be introduced to more advanced features. If you are new to WYSI-Help Composer, Part 1 of this tutorial will take about half an hour. If you have been using an earlier version of WYSI-Help, Part 1 should not take more than ten minutes. We recommend you complete Part 1 since it forms the basis for Part 2.

Part 1 Basic Features of WYSI-Help Composer

1. Open WYSI-Help Composer

Double click on the WYSI-Help Composer Icon in the Program Manager to launch the WYSI-Help Composer.

2. Open a File

From the WYSI-Help Composer **File** menu, choose **Open.**

Select **TUTOR.DHF** from the list of available files and click **OK**. This file is a partially developed Facts about California hypertext file. It includes text, some hypertext links and bitmaps.

3. Create a Hypertext Link

When **TUTOR.DHF** opens, double click on **San Francisco** in the **Topics** list to edit the topic about San Francisco. (If the topic **San Francisco** is not visible, use the scroll bar on the right of the topics list to browse through the topics.)

The topic text for San Francisco now appears in the editing window. Scroll down to the last paragraph of the topic.

In the editing box and select the words *Golden Gate Bridge* in the last paragraph. Golden Gate Bridge will now be highlighted.

From the **Link** menu, choose **Hypertext...** to create a hypertext link. WYSI-Help Composer will automatically create a new topic called **Golden Gate Bridge.**

Click on the **Edit** button in the **Hypertext...** dialog box to edit the topic about Golden Gate. Move your cursor into the editing window and type "The Golden Gate bridge is 8981 feet long and the bridge's towers are 746 feet high."

You've finished creating the hypertext link. Now, when the user clicks on the word Golden Gate in the compiled help file, the topic you just created about Golden Gate bridge will open. If you would like to use a pop-up link instead of a hypertext link, choose **Pop-up** instead of **Hypertext...** from the **Link** menu.

Note: The topic you have just edited will remain on the screen. You will see the results of the link you just made later on in the tutorial. For now, continue on with the tutorial.

4. Creating and Inserting a HotSpot Picture

From the **Edit** menu, choose **Edit Hypergraphic.** This will launch Microsoft's HotSpot Editor. The HotSpot Editor is used to add hot zones to pictures. When the user moves over a hot zone in the help file, the cursor changes into a hand and if clicked, the associated help topic will open.

In the HotSpot Editor, choose **Open** from the **File** menu. Select **USA-CAD.BMP** from the list of available files. This will open a map of California.

After the map is loaded, locate San Francisco (you may use the scroll bar), and draw a box over the word San Francisco. To do this, position the cursor just to the left of the word San Francisco and press the left mouse button. Keeping the left mouse button pressed down, move your mouse diagonally across the word San Francisco. Size the box so it covers the word San Francisco. The box will be a hot zone in the help application.

Now double click on the hot zone box to link it to an existing help topic in the WYSI-Help Composer. Double clicking on the hot zone box will open the **Attributes** dialog box and WYSI-Help Composer's list of available topics.

Double click on the word **San Francisco** in the list of available topics. This will move the topic name, **SAN FRANCISCO,** into the *Context String* text box. The hot zone is now linked to the topic: San Francisco.

Click **OK** to return to the main window of the HotSpot Editor.

Use the same method to create hot zones for Los Angeles, and link this hot zone to LOS ANGELES topic.

After you have linked all three cities, choose **Save As...** from the HotSpot Editor **File** menu and save your hypergraphic as **USA-CAD.SHG**.

From the HotSpot Editor **File** menu, choose **Exit** to quit the HotSpot Editor and to return to the WYSI-Help Composer.

In the WYSI-Help Composer, double click on topic: **Main_index,** which appears in the **Topics** list. You will now edit the main index of your help file. Place your cursor in the editing window below the underlined text "California, the Golden State". This is where the hypergraphic will be inserted.

From the **Insert** menu, choose **Hypergraphic...** and select **USA-CAD.SHG.** Click **OK** and the hypergraphic created earlier will appear in the WYSI-Help Composer editing window.

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5. Using the Spell Check

Your help file is almost ready. However, before compiling the help file you should do a spell check.

Choose **Spell Check...** from the **File** menu.

If the spell checker finds incorrectly spelled words, it will suggest a replacement. You can either ignore or replace the suggested words using the **Ignore** and **Replace** buttons in the dialog box. If the spell checker does not recognize a word, you can add it to your personal dictionary by using the **Add** button. If you want to quit the spell check, click on **Done**.

After the spell checker has completed checking your current topic, a dialog box appears asking if you want to continue the spell check. Click on **All Topics** to check all topics of your help file. After the spell check is complete, click **OK** to return to the WYSI-Help Composer main window.

6. Compiling the Help file

Before the help file can be used, it has to be compiled using Microsoft's Help Compiler.

Choose **Save** from the **File** menu.

Click **OK** to convert the file to RTF-format (Rich Text Format). This step is necessary to compile the help file.

Another dialog box appears asking if you want to convert the file into HLP format. Click **OK** and the file will be compiled. The compilation takes place in a DOS window and takes a while to do.

After the compilation is completed, press any key to return to the WYSI-Help Composer main window.

Note: A message accompanied by a beep will be displayed advising you that the compile process is completed. Please ignore the hourglass displayed.

From the **File** menu, choose **Execute Help File** to see what your help file looks like.

Congratulations! You have now completed the first part of this tutorial.

Part 2 The Advanced Features of the WYSI-Help Composer

Part 2 of the tutorial will guide you through the advanced features of WYSI-Help Composer. Going through the Part 2 will take about 30 - 60 minutes.

1. Importing an Existing Text Document

What to do when you need to import your old help files or text from another document?
No problem. Save your old help file, text or hypertext file in .RTF-format and use WYSI-Help Composer's automatic RTF-file import feature. RTF (Rich Text Format) is a standard text file type, supported by most word processors. For example, if you have a Word for Windows text or hypertext document, you can import it into WYSI-Help Composer. First save it as an RTF file in Word for Windows. Then import it into WYSI-Help Composer. To import your WYSI-Help files (created in earlier versions of WYSI-Help), we recommend you import them as RTF-files.

In this part of the tutorial you will import **CALHIST.RTF** to WYSI-Help Composer. **CALHIST.RTF** is a three page text document about the history of California. The goal is to create different topics for each chapter of the document. (If you wish, you can open the **CALHIST.RTF** document with your word processor before importing it.)

From the WYSI-Help Composer **File** menu, choose **New** to create a new help file. From the **File** menu, choose **Open**.

Click on the **List Files of Type** menu in the **Open** dialog box and select the **RTF** file type.

After selecting the RTF file type, choose **CALHIST.RTF** from the list of available files and click **OK**. The *Document Import* dialog box appears with choices for importing RTF-files. On the right is a list of the all the styles used in the document. Styles are used to delineate chapters and sections in a document. Similarly, these same styles can be used to delineate topics in a Help File.

To select the Style of titles, double click on *Times New Roman Bold 14*. A double arrow will appear to the left of the chosen style. Now, click on **Titles** in the **Select View** box to get a listing of the actual titles of the chapters in the original .RTF document. Five titles will be displayed, starting with **Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo...**.

Double click on **Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo...** to select it to be imported and then click on **Expand to Level** to select all the available topic titles. The text contained in the **Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo...** chapter will be imported into the **Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo...** topic, the text contained in the **Spanish Coastal Expeditions** chapter will be imported into **Spanish Coastal Expeditions** and so on.

Click on **Import**. When a dialog box appears asking if you want to save conversion rules click **No** unless you want to use the same conversion rules later on. When the import is complete, the new topics will be displayed in the **Topics** list.

Save your help file as **CALHIST.DHF**. There is no need to convert to RTF or HLP.

2. Importing Topics: The next step is to import the new topics from the **CALHIST.DHF** file into **TUTOR.DHF**.

From the **File** menu, choose **Open** and select the **TUTOR.DHF** file. Click **OK** to open it.

Now choose **Import Topics** from the **Topic** menu. When the **Open** dialog box appears, choose **CALHIST.DHF** and click on **OK**. When the **Topics to Import** dialog box appears, select the **San Francisco** and **SF weather** from the list on the left by holding down the **Ctrl** key and clicking on the topics.

After you have chosen all the topics to import, click on **Import**. This will import the topics to the **TUTOR.DHF** file.

Save the changes now but do not convert the file to RTF or HLP format when prompted.

3. Automatic Link Generation

Now we will look at one of WYSI-Help Composer's major features, Automatic Link Generation. This feature scans your help file for specific text contained in a **Reference** list, and automatically creates hypertext links for that text. In our tutorial, we want all occurrences of the words "Mexico" and "Mexican" to be linked to the topic **Mexican and Russian Settlers.**

First, you need to activate **Automatic Generation** in the **Link Menu**. This menu item is activated when a check mark appears next to it. In the **Link** menu, select **Automatic Generation** to make the check mark appear.

Now you will add the reference words, Mexico and Mexican, to the reference list of a particular topic.

Select the topic **Mexican and Russian Settlers** in the **Topics** list and double click on it. This makes it the current topic.

From the **Link Menu**, select the **Edit Auto Links...** menu item. The **Edit Automatic Links** dialog box appears, with the cursor in the **Link Text** box. Type in **Mexico** and click on the **Add** button.

Place the cursor in the **Link Text** box again, highlight **Mexico** and replace it by typing **Mexican.** Click the **Add** button again.

Below the **Link Box** is a list of all of the reference words associated with the target topic **Mexican and Russian Settlers**. Click **OK**.

Select **Regenerate links** from the **Link** menu. In the dialog box that opens, all the reference words will be highlighted. To save time by not regenerating all of the lists, use the scroll bar to locate *Mexico* and *Mexican*. Highlight these two words by clicking on one, then pressing the Ctrl key while clicking on the other. Click on the **Ask for confirmation** box, to switch off the confirmation. Now click **OK**. After the links have been regenerated, click **OK** in the dialog box.

You can now preview the help file, using the **Preview Mode** available in the **File** menu, to see the new links you have created. Using the hypertext links in the help file, move from topic to topic to see that every instance of the text Mexico and Mexican is now a hypertext link.

4. Modifying the Layout of your Help File

Making your help files look good is very easy with the WYSI-Help Composer. You can easily size windows, set colors and add secondary windows. This is done with the **Project Editor**. The **Project Editor** edits the project file (.HPJ-file) which controls the parameters of the Help compiler when you compile your help file. In this next section we will modify the layout of our help file.

Resizing the help window: You will now resize the Main help window with the Project Editor.

From the **File** menu, choose **Project Editor**. The **Project Editor** dialog box opens with settings for your project file.

Click on the **Modify** button in the Windows area of the Project Editor dialog box. When the **Window Information** dialog box opens, click on the **Size Window...** button and drag the corners of the sample window that appears. Size the window to about half the size of your screen and move it to the left side of your screen.

When you are satisfied with the size of the help window, click **OK** to return to the **Project Editor**.

Secondary Window

The Project Editor also allows you to create secondary windows.

Click on the **Add...** button in the Windows area to add a secondary window. The secondary window will appear in your help file when the user calls it. The default name for this window is **SEC1**. This is the name that will be used to call the secondary window, so don't change it.

In the **Window Information** dialog box, type "Weather" in the **Title** box. Later you will link the weather information to the secondary window. Now size the secondary window as above. Make the secondary window wide and short and move it to the upper right corner of your screen.

When you are satisfied with the size of the secondary window, click **OK** to return to the **Project Editor**.

Modify Colors

You can select colors for your Main and secondary help windows.

Choose the window you wish to modify in the Windows area and click **Modify**.

Select the colors in the **Window Information** dialog box. Click on the **Fixed Region** parameter box. This box sets the color for the possible non-scrolling region, and the **Background** parameter sets the color for the help window. When you are satisfied with the color selections, click **OK**.

You are finished with the Project Editor. Click **OK** to close the Project Editor dialog box.

In addition to the **Project Editor**, WYSI-Help Composer supports functions that are related to the format of your help file.

Modify Style

This function lets you change the default text style for all your topics.

Enter some text into the editing window and select. This allows WYSI-Help Composer to automatically recognize which style of text you want to modify throughout the whole document.

Next, choose **Modify Style...** from the **Format** menu. When the **Modify Style** dialog box opens, click on **Modify**.

In the **Font** dialog box, choose the font attributes and the color you want to use. For example System 10 Bold works nicely in a help file.

When you are satisfied with the font style, click on **OK** to return to the WYSI-Help Composer main window.

Non-Scrolling Region

WYSI-Help Composer also allows you to add a non-scrolling region to your topics by using the **Non-Scrolling Region** command in the **Topic** menu. You can do this automatically when creating new topics by checking the **Non-Scrolling Region** box in the **Create a New Topic** dialog box.

Choose **Non-Scrolling Region** command from the **Topic** menu. In the Non-Scrolling Region dialog box, enter the number of paragraphs you wish to have in the non-scrolling region. Click on **OK**. The current topic now has a non-scrolling region.

Extended Link

In addition to hypertext and pop-up links, WYSI-Help Composer allows you to link your help file to external programs, sound, macros, other help files and secondary windows. We will now link the San Francisco weather to the secondary window created earlier.

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Select the **San Francisco** topic by double clicking on San Francisco in the **Topics** list. When the San Francisco topic is open, scroll down until you see the small picture of the sun. Select the picture by double clicking on it and choose **Extended Link...** from the **Link** menu.

When the **Extended Link** dialog box opens, choose **SEC1** from the **Target Window** list. **SEC1** is the default name for the first secondary window.

Click on **Find Topics** to see the list of available topics in your help file. Choose the **SF weather** topic by clicking on it and then click **OK** to return to the main window of the WYSI-Help Composer.

5. Using Macros

Macros are functions that can be invoked from a help file. These functions can be invoked when a user clicks on some text or graphics, when a specific topic is entered, or when the help file is opened. Instruction in the details of Macros is beyond the scope of this example. To learn more about using macros, refer to the Microsoft Software Developers Kit or other software developers tools.

In this tutorial, we will write an **Exit** routine. This routine creates a button that the user can click to exit the help file. It combines two macros entered in the Help Project File (.HPJ). Macros in the Help Project Files are called file macros.

From the **File** menu, select **File Macros...**.

In the **Help Macro Definition** dialog box, scroll down the **Macro List** until the **CreateButton** macro appears. Select the **CreateButton** macro and click on the **Add to current definition** button.

The parameters for the macros are displayed on the box beside the list. Add the parameters by placing the cursor in the **Current definition** editing field containing the macro until it looks exactly like: **CreateButton("exit","Exit","EXIT()")**. The first parameter, **"exit"**, is an internal ID and can be ignored, **"Exit"** is the caption on the button and "**EXIT()**" is the macro that is invoked when the button is pressed. At this point, click **OK**.

6. Testing Your Help File

The final step in this tutorial is to compile and test your help file. Save and compile your help file by choosing **Save** from **File** menu. Click **Yes** to convert to RTF and to HLP.

When the compile process is completed, choose **Execute Help File** from the **File** menu. When the help file opens, click on **San Francisco** to open the topic about San Francisco. Scroll down and click on the picture of the sun. A secondary window should open. Check out your automatic links Mexico and Mexican. Also test the Exit Macro located on the top of your help file.

Congratulations! You have now completed the second part of the WYSI-Help Composer tutorial.

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