User-Installable Help Example

This document describes the user-installable help example, which is found in \DELPHI\DEMOS\USERHELP. For the remainder of this document, the default path of \DELPHI will be assumed for your installation of Delphi.

Introduction

Delphi includes a uniquely powerful new Help Search Engine, called MultiHelp, which enables component writers to provide context sensitive help for the custom components they write and distribute. MultiHelp allows the help file for one or more custom components to be "installed" into the Delphi help suite, providing the user of your components a seamless path into your component's help file. The user can access your help file in three ways:

    - by selecting your custom component on a form and pressing F1
    - by pressing F1 in the Object Inspector with your component selected
    - by selecting the Topic Search menu item in Delphi

It is important to note that adding context sensitive help for your components requires no code changes to the components themselves. You need only adhere to some simple conventions when creating the help file itself. Refer to the Component Writers Guide for more information on how to write help files which can then be installed into Delphi's help system.

Files Comprising the Demo

The demo is made up of the following files:

`STEREO.PAS`	- source code for the custom controls
`STEREO.RES`	- resource file for custom controls
`STEREO.DCR`	- tool palette icons
`STEREO.HPJ`	- project file for `STEREO.HLP`
`STEREO.RTF`	- source for `STEREO.HLP`
`STEREO.HLP`	- help file for the custom controls
`STEREO.KWF`	- keyword file for `STEREO.HLP`
`USERHELP.WRI`	- this file

Installing the Demo

To see this demo, you should perform the following steps:

Step A - Install the Keyword File

    1. Exit Delphi if it is running
    2. Make a backup of \delphi\bin\delphi.hdx
    3. Run the HelpInst application from \delphi\help
    4. Open \delphi\bin\delphi.hdx
    5. If the existing KWF files report "not found" then add \delphi\help to the search path by selecting Options|Search Path.
    6. Select the Keywords|Add File menu choice and select stereo.kwf from \delphi\demos\userhelp
    7. Select File|Save
    8. Exit HelpInst
    9. Since WinHelp will need to be able to find STEREO.HLP, you'll need to do one of the

following:
>
> a. Copy STEREO.HLP from \delphi\demos\userhelp to \delphi\bin
> - **or** -
> b. Add "stereo.hlp=\delphi\demos\userhelp" to WINHELP.INI in the Windows
>   directory

Step B - Install the Custom Components

1. Launch Delphi
2. Select Options|Install Components
3. Select Add
4. Select Browse
5. enter \delphi\demos\userhelp\stereo
6. Select OK

Step C - Activate the User-Installed Help

1. Drop a TStereoButton and a TStereoSpeaker from the Samples page onto a form.
2. Select the TStereoButton and press F1 - the help screen for TStereoButton is shown
3. Select the IsOn property in the Object Inspector and press F1 - the help screen for
   TStereoButton.IsOn is shown
4. Select Help|Topic Search from Delphi's main menu, and search for Stereo - the contents
   screen for STEREO.HLP is now available.