

Module 13: Adding Online Help



Overview

What You Need to Create Help Files

Creating Help Text Files

Building the Help Project

**Programming a Visual Basic Application to
Access Help**



What You Need to Build WinHelp Files

A Word Processor That Can Save Files in Rich Text Format (RTF)

The Windows 3.1 Help Compiler

Windows and Windows Help 3.1

Implementing Help

Plan the Help System

Write the Text for the Help Topics — (*.RTF)

Enter All the Required Control Codes into the Text Files

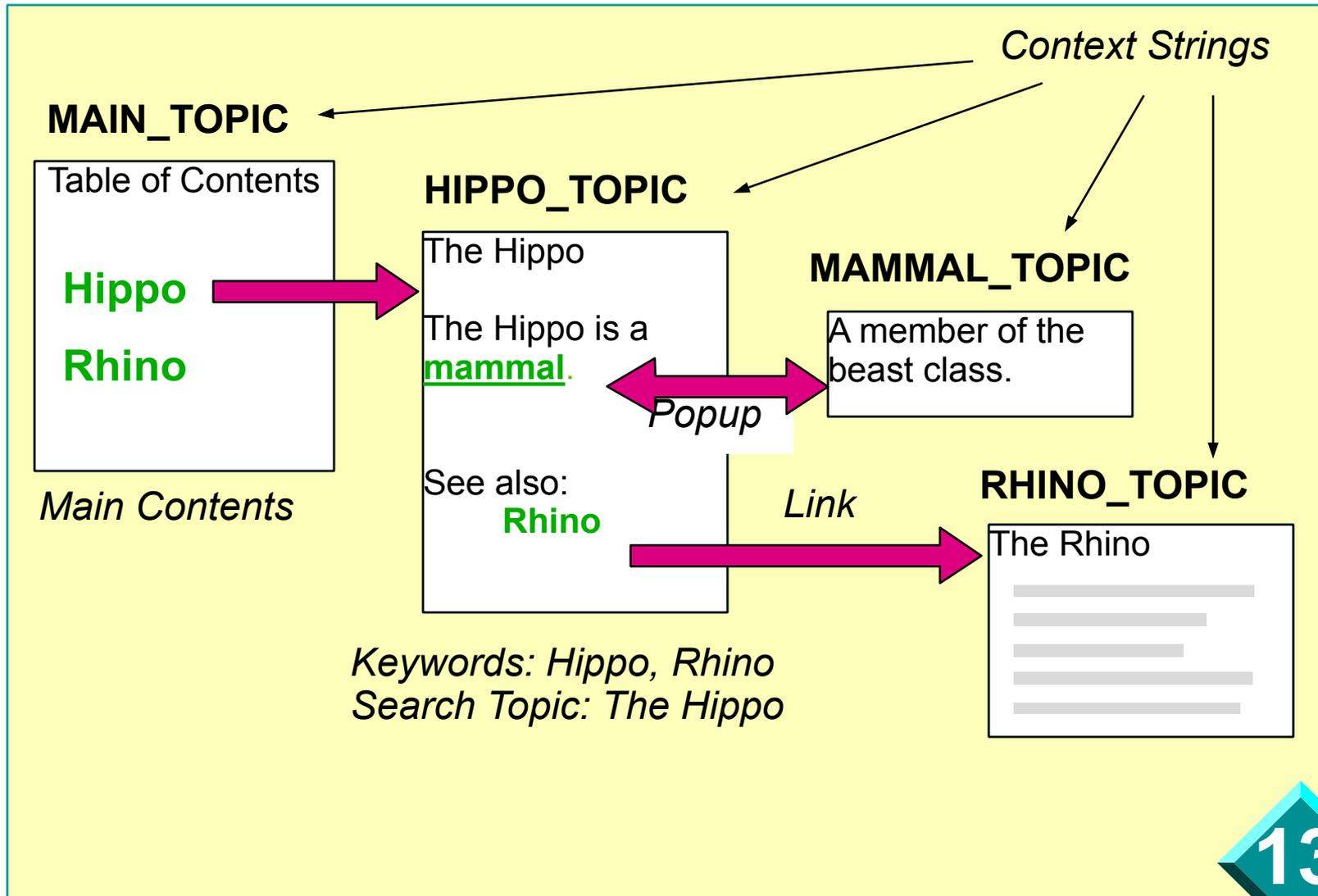
Create a Project File for the Build (.HPJ)

Build the Help Resource File (.HLP)

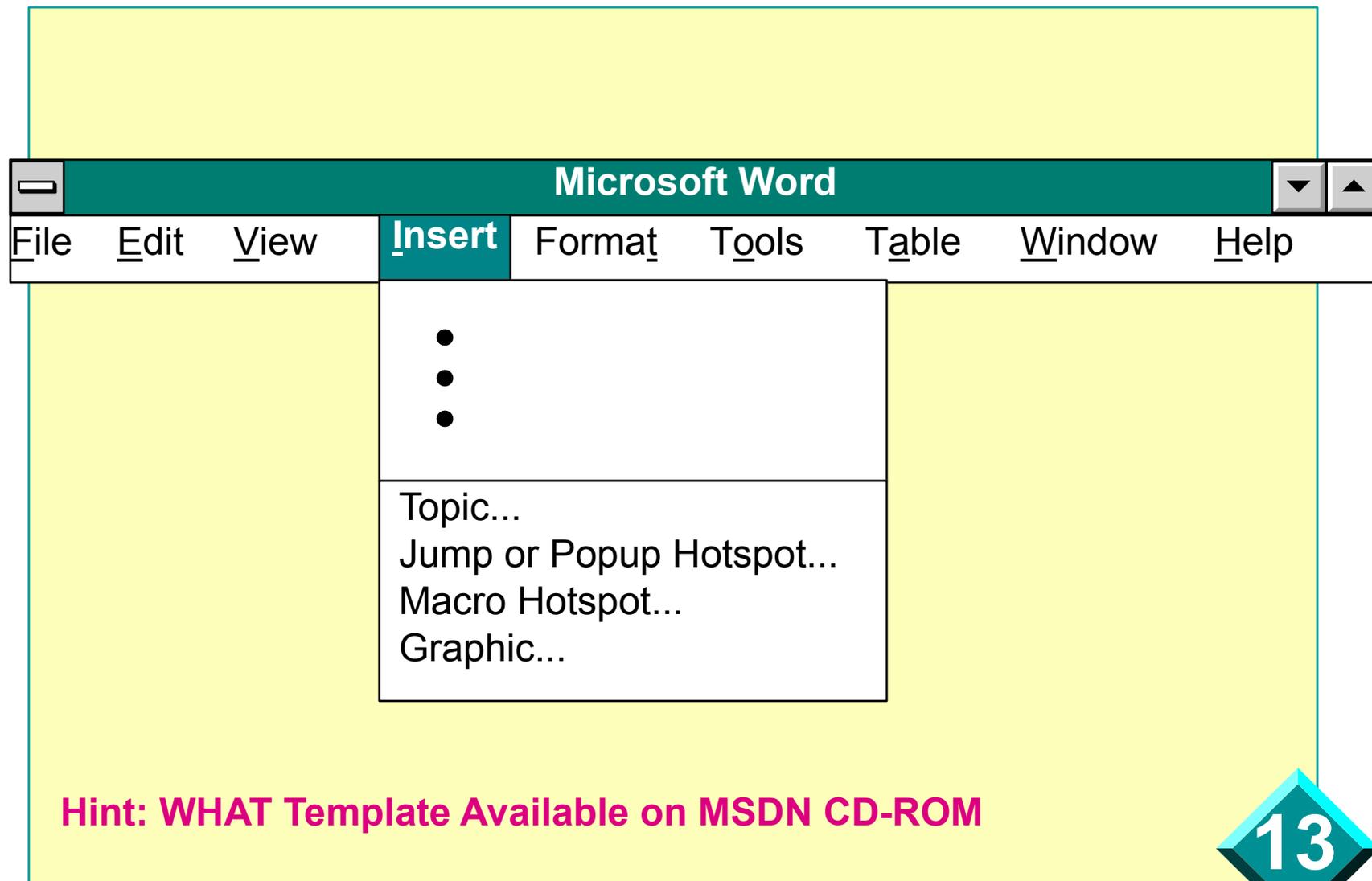
Test and Debug the Help System

Program the Application So That It Can Access Windows Help

Help File Parts and Terminology

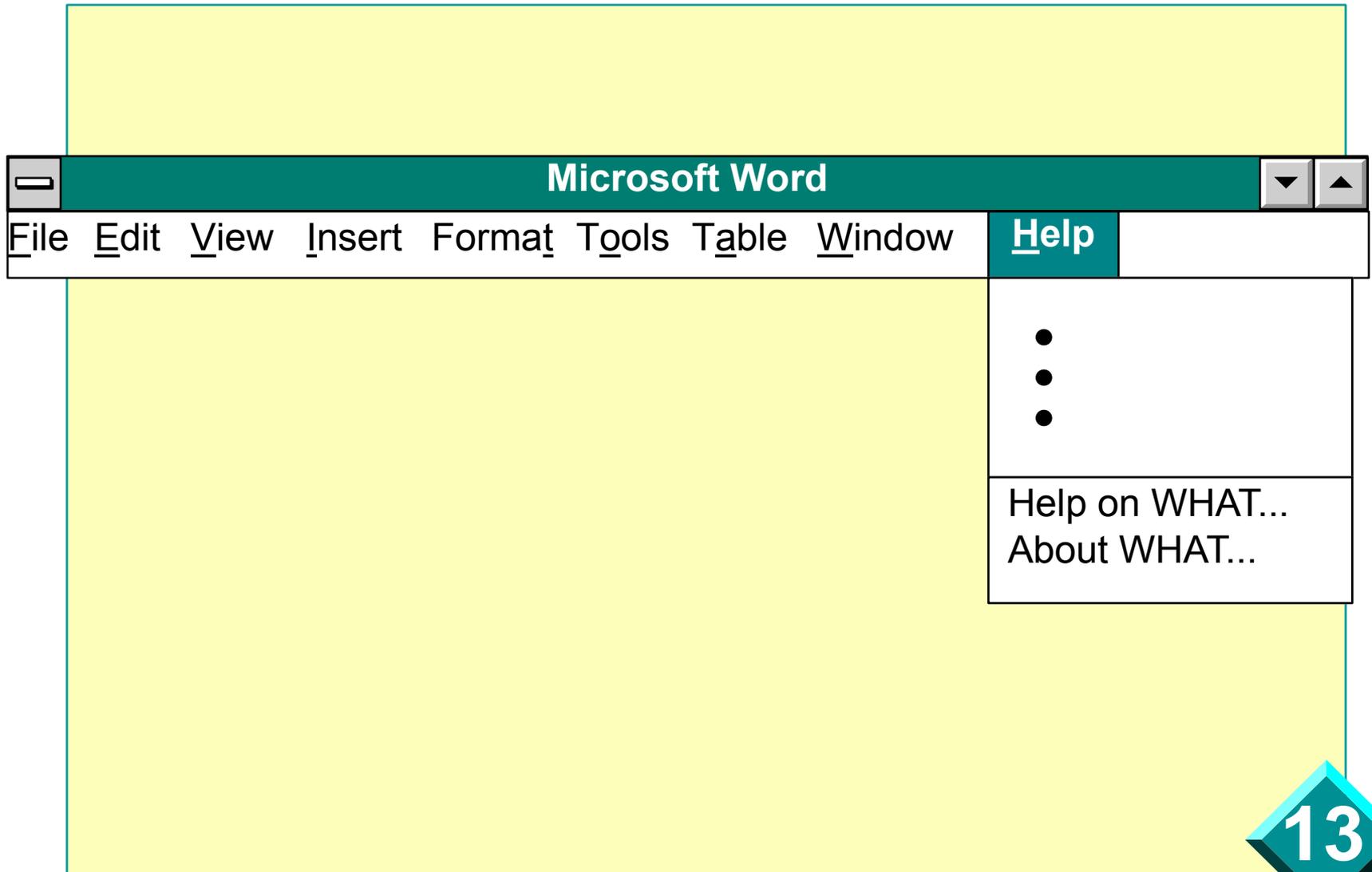


Creating the Help Topics Using the WHAT Template



Hint: WHAT Template Available on MSDN CD-ROM

Getting Help on the WHAT Template



Inserting a New Topic

Microsoft Word

Insert Topic

Title: Commands

Context String: CMD_TOPIC

Keywords: commands;Intro;Cmds

Browse Sequence:

Build Tag:

Entry Macro:

Comment:

Place new topic at end of file

OK

Cancel

Inserting a Jump or Popup Link

Microsoft Word

Insert Jump or Popup Hotspot

Text: XYZ Command

Context String: XYZ_CMD

Hotspot Types

Jump

Popup

Unformatted

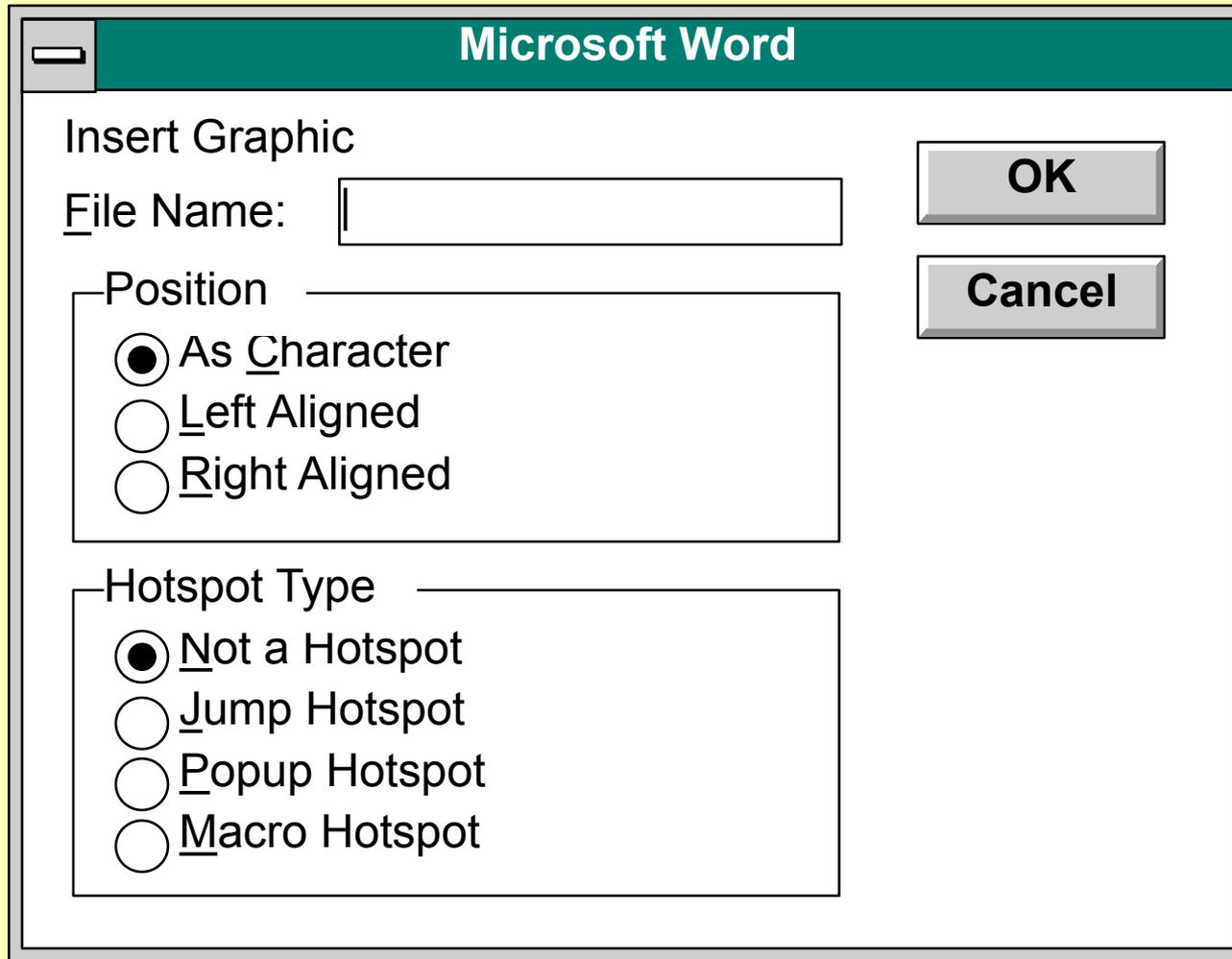
File Name:

Window Name:

OK

Cancel

Inserting a Graphic Stored in a File



Hotspots Created Using Hotspot Editor Tool



Modifies Bitmaps (*.BMP) to Incorporate One or More Hotspots
Hotspots Linked to Context Strings

Summary of Help Control Codes

Asterisk (*) Footnote

Number Sign (#) Footnote

Dollar Sign (\$) Footnote

Letter "K" Footnote

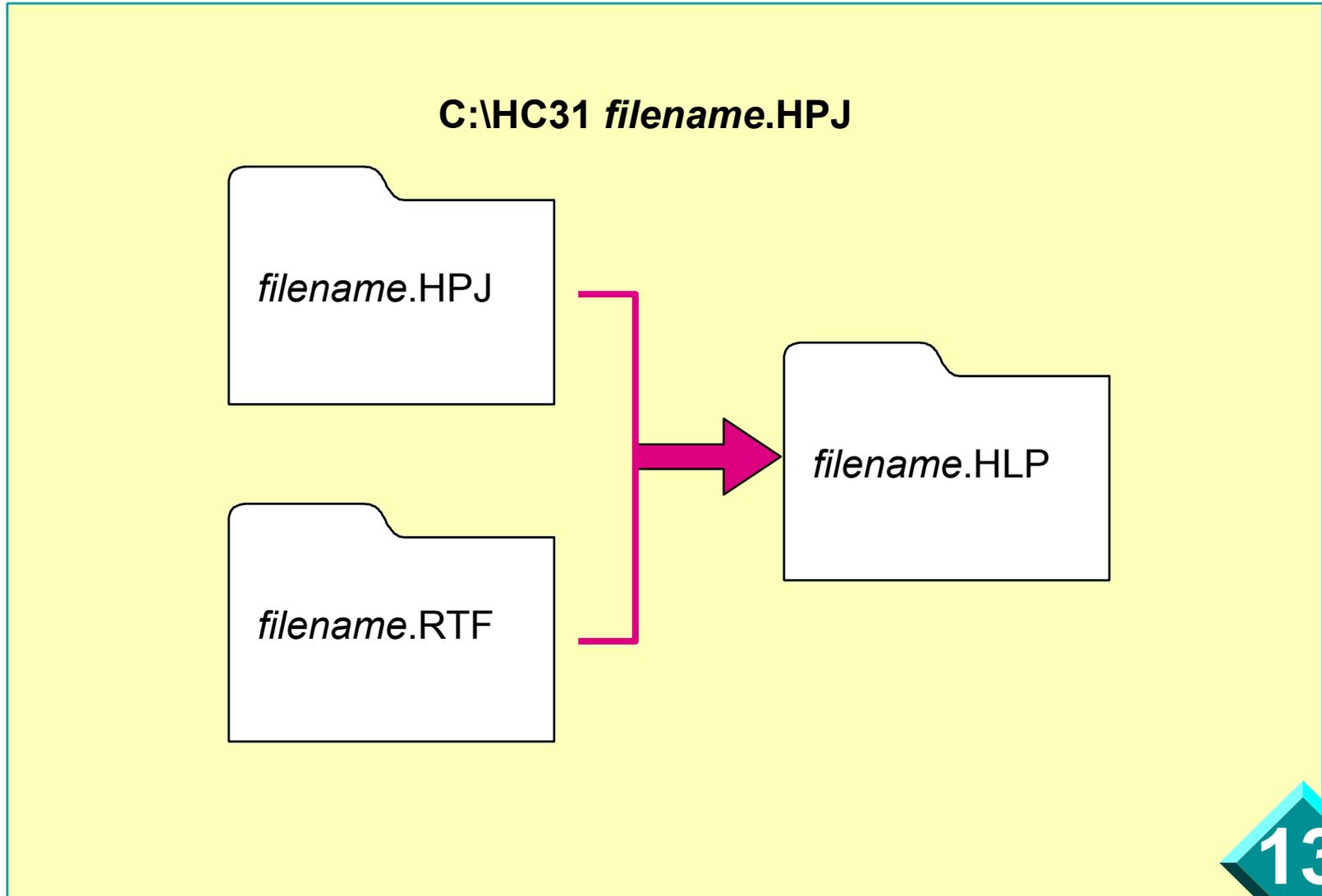
Plus Sign (+) Footnote

Strikethrough or Double-Underlined Text

Underlined Text

Hidden Text

Building the Help Project File



Help Project File Sections

[FILES]

myhelp1.rtf
myhelp2.rtf

[MAP]

main_topic 1
hippo_topic 2
rhino_topic 3
mammals_topic 4



HelpContextID

[OTHER]

Calling Help from Your Visual Basic Application

Automatic

Set HelpFileName from Options menu

Set **HelpContextID** property of controls

Help is automatically invoked when user presses
F1

Manual

Use the **WinHelp** function

— Or —

Use the common dialog control (Action = 6)

Summary

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