

GHelpDeluxe

Steve Hargreaves

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COLLABORATORS

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Chapter 1

GHelpDeluxe

1.1 main

```

      GHelp
    by Steve Hargreaves

~Introduction~~~~~ ~ ~ ~
~Distribution~~~~~ ~ ~
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~Features      ~~~~ ~ ~ ~
  To Do and New
  Limitations
~Installation~~~~~ ~~~
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  Existing Users
  VERY IMPORTANT

~Author and thanks

```

1.2 Introduction

Introduction

In the beginning there was Amigaguide, then came Multiview, and then it stopped. ↵
 We had the beginnings
 of a help system on the Amiga, but it was far too limited. There was no standard ↵
 as to where these
 documents were stored, there was no easy access to any one of them without ↵
 trailing through drawer
 upon drawer of your hard drive, there was no way to search your guides en masse ↵
 for keywords. In
 short, the system itself sucked.

Utilities started appearing that addressed some of these issues. You could build ↵
 an Amigaguide index
 of your guide files with some, you could perform a limited search of specific ↵
 guides with others. Some

worked, some didn't, and none provided the complete solution.

Then came GHelp. It started as another Amigaguide index generation program, but my ←
, how things change.

GHelp will provide you with a hotkey combination by which you can invoke a compact ←
, but extremely
powerful GUI. From here, you can generate and maintain an index of your amigaguide ←
documents, search
the whole list, or a selection to find those guides containing up to 5 keywords, ←
fully supporting
AmigaDOS pattern matching, or search a specific guide for a keyword (again using ←
full AmigaDOS pattern
matching) and produce an index to the specific nodes where the keyword is found, ←
together with a
context quote which maintains working links where required.

Basically, GHelp is the only complete solution to an integrated help system on the ←
Amiga. See the
feature list and the history for more details of what it can do.

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 acknowledgment. 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 ←
.

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1.4 System Requirements

System Requirements

An Amiga

MUI

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 ↩ AmigaDOS pattern matching.
- Let's you delete files (useful if, like me, you find you have more than one copy ↩ of the same AmigaGuide file) – Extended in V4.0 considerably.
- Very small commodity
- Free
- It works (or at least, it does here)
- Can search down to AmigaGuide Node level
- Fully supports AmigaDOS pattern matching
- Self checks the executables to ensure that they have not been tampered with

1.6 Limitations

Limitations

None that I know of.

1.7 To Do and New

To Do

- I'm open to suggestions at this point. I would like to change the gadget for ↩ selecting a different index to a cycle gadget, but there are problems refreshing the gadget ↩ if a new index is created. Unless I can find a solution to this (and I'm really struggling), then ↩ it will never appear.

It is likely that this will be the final version of GHelp (save for bugfixes and ↩ maintenance),

since I think that I've gone just about as far as I can with it. All features that I wanted to include are there, together with a few spawned by suggestions from users. If there's anything that you think should be included, let me know.

New in Deluxe Version

Where do I start:-

New in V4.0

- Eliminated Searchguide support. I have, instead, now included my own routine which will search down to node level in AmigaGuide documents, and present the results in an Amigaguide doc, including links to the matched nodes and a brief "In context" quote. Unlike SearchGuide, my version fully supports AmigaDOS pattern matching. GHelp also repairs most links within the quoted lines enabling them to be accessed directly from the results page.
- Fixed a most elusive bug in index generation which caused GHelp to hang. This has also allowed further code optimisations.
- Added full AmigaDOS pattern matching to keyword searching.
- Added full AmigaDOS pattern matching to index generation.
- Guidelist now supports multiple selection, allowing a restricted search of the Amigaguide database.
- New tooltype "SHOWSFX" - extended to filter guide/doc/readme suffixes, all suffixes, or show all suffixes.
- Now supports multiple config files.
- Index loading from anywhere on the gui.
- Added a remove button to remove files from the guidelist without deleting the file itself.
- Further internal optimisations to the code.
- The last search term is now stored in, and retrieved from the config file.
- Finally solved the problem of the Index generation page not being re-sizable, by changing one of the mui classes.
- Considerably improved index/guide management
- Since one of my other utilities was recently hacked and infected with a virus, GHelp now checks itself for signs of tampering. If it appears that either GHelp or GHelpGUI have been tampered with then you will be notified and the program will exit. If this does happen, please contact Me immediately. YOU SHOULD ALSO RUN A VIRUS CHECKER IMMEDIATELY.
- Added an installer script.

This is just about as complete a solution to the lack of a decent help system on Amiga as I can think of. (Having said that, I'll probably think of something else as soon as I upload it - I usually do).

I intend to continue development, but I'm running out of ideas. If anyone wants to suggest further enhancements, or report bugs, please let me know.

New in V3.1

- Slightly changed the GUI - GHelpGen is now a separate page of the same window.
- Added tooltype "SHOWSFX". You can now decide whether or not the list will show the .guide/.doc/.readme suffixes or not.
- Fixed a bug in the AND operator. If the keyword wasn't on the first line of the guide, it was treated as not found - Oops.
- Problems occurred on some systems which I've narrowed down to an insufficient stack size. GHelp now sets its' own stack internally.

New in V3.0

- GHelpGUI and GHelpGEN are now in a single executable, resulting in a smaller size, faster operation, and less duplication
- Cleaned the GUI up. Now more intuitive to use, and added additional GUI features (progress bars, proper Busy windows etc.)
- Indices no longer have to be rebuilt from scratch. You can now add a single guide, or all guides in specified paths as well as re-generating.
- After generating/updating the index, a check is made for duplicate entries, and options to selectively include duplicates in the final index introduced.
- I'm sure there's more, but details escape me for now. :o)

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 supports 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 GHelpGUI to C:
 Copy GHelp (and icon) wherever you want (I suggest WBStartup)
 If you want to use the custom AppIcon, copy Def_Ghelp.info to ENVARC:sys/

If you are upgrading from previous version, delete the file GuideGen or GHelpGen from C:. You don't need it anymore. ←

You will also need to convert the index to the new format introduced by GHelp 3. The supplied utility, GHelpConvert will do this for you. Open a shell and type GHelpConvert HELP:GHelp.index (or whatever the index you are converting is called). You only need to do this once. ←

Alternatively, delete your old index and use GHelp to re-generate a new one.

NOTE: Trying to use the old format index with GHelp 3.0 will yield unpredictable result. ←

1.9 Configuration

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

GHelp VIEWER=path/file HOTKEY=hotkey [SHOWSFX=]

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"

SHOWSFX - 0,1 or 2. 0 - all suffixes will be shown, 1 (default)- Guide, Doc and ReadMe suffixes will be stripped, all others will be shown, 2 - All suffixes will be stripped. ←

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

NOTE: Don't run GHelpGui directly. Whilst it won't crash your system, it won't work very well either. ←

GHelpGui MUST be called by the GHelp daemon.

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:-

Main page

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

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

"Open"	(o)	-	will open the selected Guide
Search	(s)	-	Opens the search requester. See below for usage.
"All"	(a)	-	Re-displays the complete list of available guides
"Delete"	(d)	-	Deletes the selected guide. Confirmation is required.
"Remove"	(r)	-	Removes the selected guide from the guidelist.
"Close"		-	Closes the gui.

Clicking on the GHelp icon brings up the about window.

Menu options :-

Load index - allows you to load a different index
Config Load and Save - loads and saves an alternate config file
Config Reload default, Save as default - Do what they say.

NOTE: When the program exits, the current config file will be saved to disk. The ↵ default will only be saved if that is the one that is currently in memory. The default config will ↵ ALWAYS be loaded at startup.

Usage of Index page.

1.11 Author and thanks

Contact Info

EMail:

Steve@hargreavess.freemove.co.uk

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 Ray Munn and Tomasz Malerczyk for beta testing, and for their suggestions.
 Thanks to everyone who has reported bugs or suggested improvements.

1.12 AmigaDOS Pattern Matching

GHelp no longer uses a custom pattern matching routine for either filtering when building/adding to the index, or when searching for keywords. AmigaDOS pattern matching is now fully supported, which when combined with the ability to include up to 5 search terms at a time, provides for a very flexible and extensive search engine.

The operators used with GHelp up to V3.1 ("+" and "-" for AND & NOT) have been dispensed with. Each separate search term is treated as ANDed, meaning that if two terms are used, both must be satisfied to find a match. However, each term can include full AmigaDOS tokenisation of search terms, providing for extremely complex searches if required.

The patterns themselves are fairly extensive, allowing for multiple operators in a single search. Here are the available AmigaDOS tokens, taken from the Rom Kernal Reference Manual:

?	Matches a single character.
#	Matches the following expression 0 or more times.
(ab cd)	Matches any one of the items separated by ' '. It matches all strings that do not match the expression (aka ~(foo) matches all strings that are not exactly "foo").
~	Negates the following expression. It matches all strings that do not match the expression (aka ~(foo) matches all strings that are not exactly "foo").
[abc]	Character class: matches any of the characters in the class.
[~bc]	Character class: matches any of the characters not in the class.
a-z	Character range (only within character classes).
%	Matches 0 characters always (useful in "(foo bar %)").
*	Synonym for "#?", not available by default in 2.0. Available as an option that can be turned on.

"Expression" in the above table means either a single character (ex: "#?"), or an alternation (ex: "#(ab|cd|ef)"), or a character class (ex: "#[a-zA-Z]").

PLEASE NOTE:- Searching in GHelp is NOT case sensitive. "GHELP" is the same as "ghelp"

By way of example, a simple search may be a single word:-

GHelp

Will find all documents containing the word GHelp (ie. - This AmigaGuide)

Searching for (GHelp|Hargreaves) will find all documents containing GHelp OR Hargreaves (so you can find any other stuff I've done knocking about on your hard drive)

OK, let's use me as an example of combining searches and operators.

Search Term	Result
Steve Hargreaves	All documents containing my name
Ste#? Hargr#? documents containing	As above, but will also find other matches to BOTH patterns.
(Steve Hargreaves) last name	Documents containing either my first OR last name
Steve ~(Hargreaves) Hargreaves	Documents containing Steve but NOT Hargreaves
(Ste Harg)#? ~(GHel#?) find documents	This would (probably amongst others) containing either Steve OR Hargreaves as long as GHelp is NOT in the document.

Pattern matching under AmigaDOS is an art in itself, and full guidance is beyond the scope of this guide. The basics will probably be sufficient for most people, but if you really want to delve into the black arts, then there are plenty of sources of information around. And of course, you can safely experiment using GHelp.

As mentioned above, the same pattern matching can be used in the "Other Filters" field on the index page, allowing complex filters (and therefore, indices) to be generated. I have deliberately disabled using #? or * alone in the other filters, to avoid long and unnecessary searches (it would match everything). If you do want to index ALL files in a path, use (#?) - including parenthesis.

This can be useful if you want to add all files in drawer that you know contains nothing but

documents, but without suffixes (such as the MUI autodocs), but I wouldn't
recommend using it at any other
time.

1.13 Searching

Searching:-

When you select search, you will be given a requester to type your keywords. These
MUST be between 3 and
32 characters, and must match (part of) the word that you are searching for. From
V4.0, AmigaDOS
Pattern Matching is fully supported.

Unfortunately, because searching can now be considerably more complex than
previous versions, it can
also take longer. To help save extensive, time consuming and unnecessary searching
, a new button has
been added to the Search window. "Selected Guides". The guidelist now supports
multi-selection,
allowing you to select only those guides that you wish to perform your search on.
This is useful for
searching, for example, autodocs relating to a specific subject for an elusive
constant. Simply select
only the autodocs, and all other listed guides will be ignored. This shortens
search time
considerably.

If the search fails to find a match, the guide list will be returned containing
only the guides
previously selected. To return to the full guide list, you will need to click "Show
All". Using this
feature, you can select a condensed list of guides, and search for something
certain to fail -
searching for ~#? will do this quickly. You will then have only your condensed
list shown in the guide
list.

The "Listed Guides" button will perform the search on ALL guides currently
displayed in the guide
list. Depending on your search, and the size of your index, this can take a while.
There are a couple
of ways to speed up searching, in some cases, considerably. The most obvious is to
search a lesser
number of guides, as described above. But if that is really not practical, there
are ways to speed up
a full search. To do this, it is important to understand how the search works.
Each guide is read,
sequentially and compared with the patterns until either all patterns have been
matched or the end of
the guide is reached. As each separate pattern is matched, it is noted and
discarded for the remainder
of the guide. Therefore, searching will be quicker if your terms are found early
in the guides. Of
course, you may not know if this is the case or not.

Sometimes, you can speed a search up considerably using the ~ token in your search
. If, for example,
you have a lot of library documents in your index, and you know that the word
library will not appear
in the guide(s) that you are looking for, including ~(lib#?) as a search term will
quickly eliminate
all of those guides.

Obviously, I cannot provide specific solutions to speeding up your searches, since
I do not know the
contents of your hard drive, but you will find that, with experience, you are able
to construct
searches that will produce the results that you want in a fraction of the time
that a simple keyword
search takes. You are, of course, free to use simple keyword searching if you wish
.

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.

If you want to search all guides again for another keyword, click the "Show 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 ignored 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 in a 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.

Please note that the ignored words will only be applied to whole words not
containing a pattern.
So, for example, "Amiga" will be ignored, but "Amig#?" will not.

SearchGuide support V my own routine:-

So, why did I dispense with SearchGuide support. Well, to be honest, it wasn't
good enough. In several
tests, SearchGuide failed to find a match, even though I know the keyword was
contained in the document
being searched. My routine does several things that SearchGuide doesn't:-

- AmigaDOS pattern matching supported
 - Will find matches, even if contained in quotes or links. SearchGuide seems to
miss matches
-

- if a button link exists on the same line - GHelp doesn't.
- Maintains ALL links shown in quoted lines
- Does not show "Empty" or unnecessary links (eg. node names)
- And, of course, it's part of a nice GUI, now :o)

Clicking the "Current Guide" button will invoke a search to node level within the currently selected guide. Again, full pattern matching is supported. However, in this search mode, only the first search pattern in the requester will be used. You are, of course, free to make this pattern comprehensive enough to yield your desired result.

The "Current Guide" search will produce and open an AmigaGuide document containing links to each node in the source guide where a match was found, and a line showing the context in which it was found. In the case of multiple matches then a separate entry will appear. The link at the top of the page will provide a link to the "main" node (usually the contents page).

GHelp attempts to preserve any links shown in the context quote so that these buttons will work. All links in the original document and included in quoted lines will be repaired, whether they be to a different node in the same document, a different guide (or node in that guide) in the same command path as the original guide, or on a completely different drive/command path altogether. If they work in the original guide, then they will work from the result guide. GHelp CANNOT repair links that are broken in the original guide.

The only exception to this rule that I have found is where the link is NOT enveloped in quotes. This is rare (I only know of one example), and to include identification of these would take several more layers of identification checks. I don't propose to do this. The links will still be reachable from the original guide, which in turn will still be reachable from the Node link in the results guide.

I have taken great pains to make this process as accurate as possible, and several layers of checking are made to identify only genuine links before repairing them in the result guide. However (there's always an however), because AmigaGuide documents are simply text files, written by individuals the world over, and can conceivably contain almost anything, it is possible (though extremely unlikely) that a document may contain within it's structure a sequence of characters which, to GHelp, appears to be a link, even though it isn't. This will not cause GHelp to fail, but may garble the quote. Clicking on the node link will still let you see the original text.

As mentioned, this is an extremely unlikely thing to happen (I haven't seen a single example of it)

and to be honest, it would take some thought to construct something that can fool GHelp without fooling Multiview or whatever viewer you use, so I wouldn't worry about it. In fact, if it does happen, I'd be interested to see the guide that did it :o)

1.14 Index Page

Current Index - shows you the name of the current index. All operations will use this index. The Gadget next to this lets you load a different index. The string gadget itself is read only.

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 string gadget "Other Filters" allows you to include additional files. This is in standard AmigaDOS format, with full support for AmigaDOS pattern matching.

Paths determines where GHelp will search for files. To include everything, use "DH0:|DH1:" etc. Each path should be separated by a "|". Non-existent paths will be ignored. Sub-directories are searched automatically. You can search a specific directory by entering the full path. The file request gadget allows you to select paths using the asl file requester.

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.

Your options are:-

Add Guide:- Add a single guide to the index (selected from a file requester)

Add Path:- Adds all guides found in the specified paths to the index. Supports the pattern matching options.

Remove Path:- Removes all guides in the specified paths(s) from the index. Supports the pattern matching options.

Delete Path:- As "Remove Path", except that the corresponding guides will also be deleted from your drive. This is a dangerous option, and care should be taken with it's use.

Re-Generate: Re-generates the index using the specified paths.

New Index: Generate a new index. A file requester will ask for the new index name ↵
.

Remove Path and Delete Path with both initially present you with a list of files ↵
matching the
parameters set in the Index page. This list is multi-select, and you can ↵
selectively choose to
include/exclude files from the operation. By default, ALL files matching the ↵
pattern are selected.

You will be asked for further confirmation before the operation is completed. ↵
Particularly, the delete
option is destructive (in that it physically deletes files from your drive), and ↵
so you should
be absolutely sure before you choose this option. (If you use "Remove Path" in ↵
error, the damage can
be reversed with "Add Path" - no such option is available for the "Delete Path" ↵
option).

After each operation, GHelp will interrogate the index to identify possible ↵
duplicated guides. These
are identified based on name and file size. A separate list of duplicated files ↵
will be presented if
any are found. The two buttons "All" and "None" select/daemon-select the whole ↵
list. Alternatively you can
select just the files that you want to include in the final index from the list. ↵
Selection is
according to your MUI prefs (but you probably need to Shift click to select ↵
multiple files).
"Continue" will generate the final index.

***** IMPORTANT - READ THIS CAREFULLY BEFORE CLICKING ANYTHING THAT SAYS "DELETE ↵
" *****

Alternatively, you can use the "Delete Duplicates" button to generate the index. ↵
However, BE EXTREMELY
CAREFUL WITH THIS OPTION. This button will delete all files that it reports as ↵
duplicates and selected
in the list from your drive. This is probably fine, if you are generating an index ↵
from scratch, and
you are sure that the files reported are actually duplicates. However, if you use ↵
"Add Path" on a path
that has already been added once, then the original (and possibly only) copies of ↵
your files will be
reported as duplicates, and would be deleted, leaving you with no copy of the file ↵
on your system.
Similarly, hard links (such as those created by DOpus) give the illusion of ↵
duplicated files, when in
fact, both copies, although showing different paths, may in fact be the same file, ↵
and using this
option would again delete your only copy. If you do want to delete files, unless ↵
you are absolutely
sure about what you are doing, it is probably safer to delete them one by one from ↵
the "Main" page.
Safer still is to not delete them at all, but to simply exclude them from the ↵
index by selecting
"None" and clicking continue. Doing this does not delete any files at all.

NOTE: The duplicated files only are ignored if they are not selected. The first copy of a duplicated guide will be included in the index.

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.

1.15 Existing users

Users of GHelp up to version 3.1 will probably, by now, be used to its' way of doing things such as matching for the index, and keyword searching. Well, it's time to relearn. From V4.0, GHelp supports proper AmigaDOS pattern matching, and the functionality of the search requester has been enhanced.

I would seriously suggest that, before using GHelp V4.0 you have a look at Searching and Pattern Matching.

It would probably be a good idea to review Usage too, just in case.

Users of version prior to 3.0 (or possibly 2.7) will have their index in an old (unsupported) format. You can check by loading the index into a text editor (or multiview). If there are lots of "#", "*" and "()" 's around, then it needs to be converted. You can either re-generate your index from scratch (after deleting the existing one) or use the supplied "GhelpConvert" utility. This is CLI only, and takes the full path and name of the index to be converted as its' only parameter. eg.

```
GHelpConvert HELP:GHelp.index
```

When the program returns, the index has been converted.

Additionally, if you have SearchGuide installed on your system for no reason other than the GHelp support, then you can now delete it. GHelp has an extended node search built in.

If you use SearchGuide outside of GHelp, then don't delete it. GHelp only provides and extended version of the same function that was supported in earlier versions. SearchGuide still has options that are not now, and never will be, implemented in GHelp.

FINALLY - A NOTE TO USERS WHO SUFFERED CRASHES WHILST GENERATING THE INDEX.

Some users reported that GHelp would lock up during the "Checking Duplicates" stage of index generation. I originally thought that this was a stack problem and, therefore, fixed in V3.0, but it seems that I was wrong. I have been unable to reproduce this bug on my system, but after extensive testing on a system where it did fail, I have finally narrowed the source of the lockup to a flawed Sort command in the original code. I have replaced this command with my own routine, which has been tested and appears to work OK. Furthermore, depending on how badly the original list is unsorted, my routine can be considerably more efficient.

By using my own routine, I have been released from some of the constraints of the development environment, and have been able to further optimise the routine.

1.16 WARNING

This program offers the option to delete files in several ways, either individually or in batches. Pattern matching can, in some cases, be used to set a list of files to delete.

THESE OPTIONS CAN BE DANGEROUS AND DESTRUCTIVE. Extreme caution should be employed when using them.

Because of the way in which the Amiga can deal with shortcuts and hard links, it is possible for a single file to appear in two different directories. If one copy is deleted, so is the other (since they are the same). These links are transparent to GHelp, and you should be sure that you really want to delete a file before choosing any of the delete options.

THE MOST DANGEROUS OF THE DELETE OPTIONS IS THE "DELETE DUPLICATES" BUTTON. This is found on the list of duplicated files after an index operation. GHelp only looks for matches in filename and filesize to determine if something is a duplicate. If the same file is added to the index twice, it will be reported as a duplicate, and using the "Delete Duplicates" option would delete your only copy of the file.

GHelp is NOT a file manager. It's purpose is to give easy access to your Help files. These options are added for convenience only. I make it clear that I accept no responsibility whatsoever for your usage of these options. If you are not absolutely sure of what you are doing, don't use these options.