

Adding Online Help

8

◆ Overview

- What You Need to Create Help Files
- Creating Help Text Files
- Building the Help Project
- Programming a Visual Basic Application to Access Help

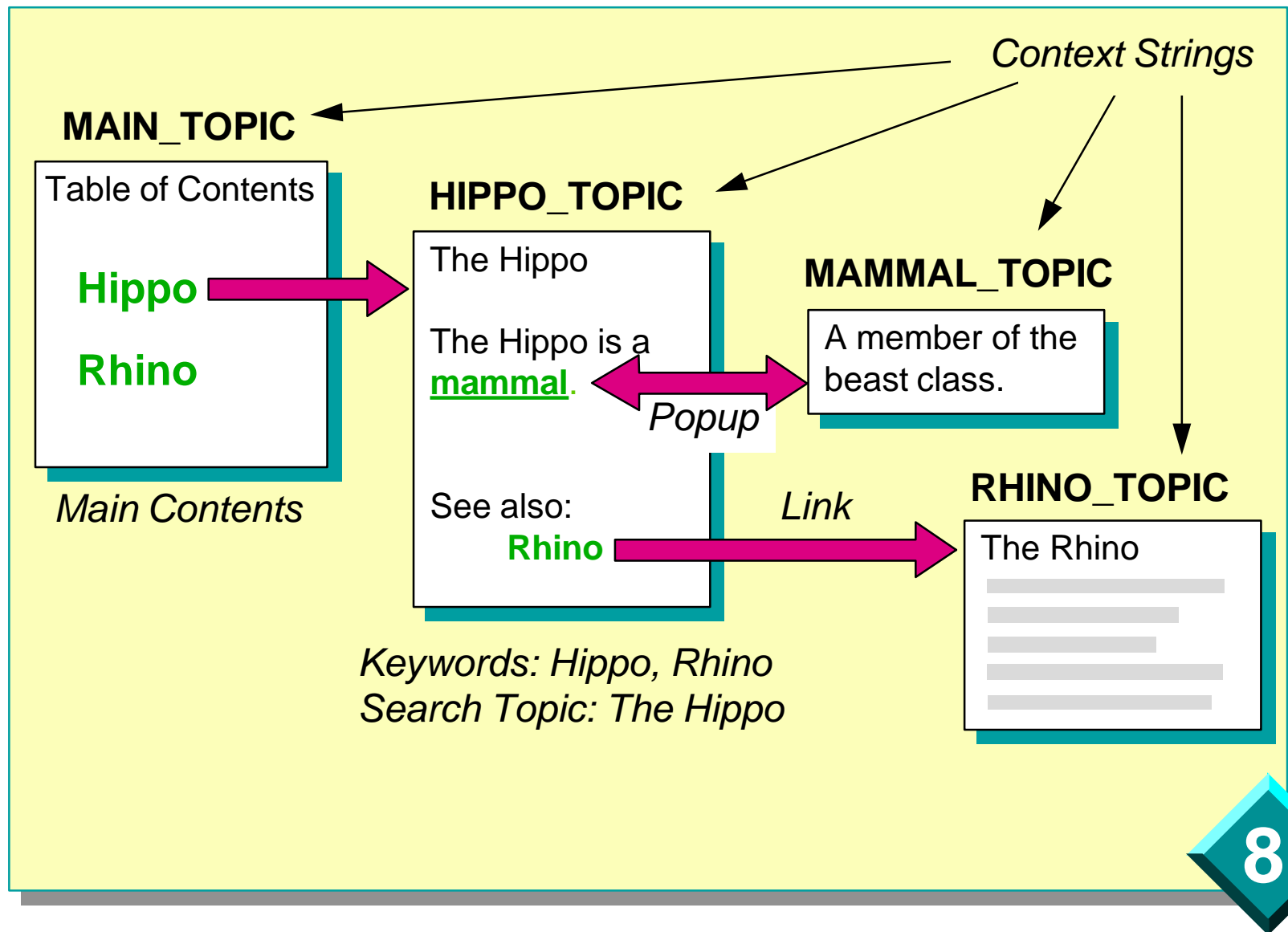
What You Need to Build WinHelp Files

- A Word Processor That Can Save Files in Rich Text Format (RTF)
- The Windows 3.1 Help Compiler
- Windows and Windows Help 3.1

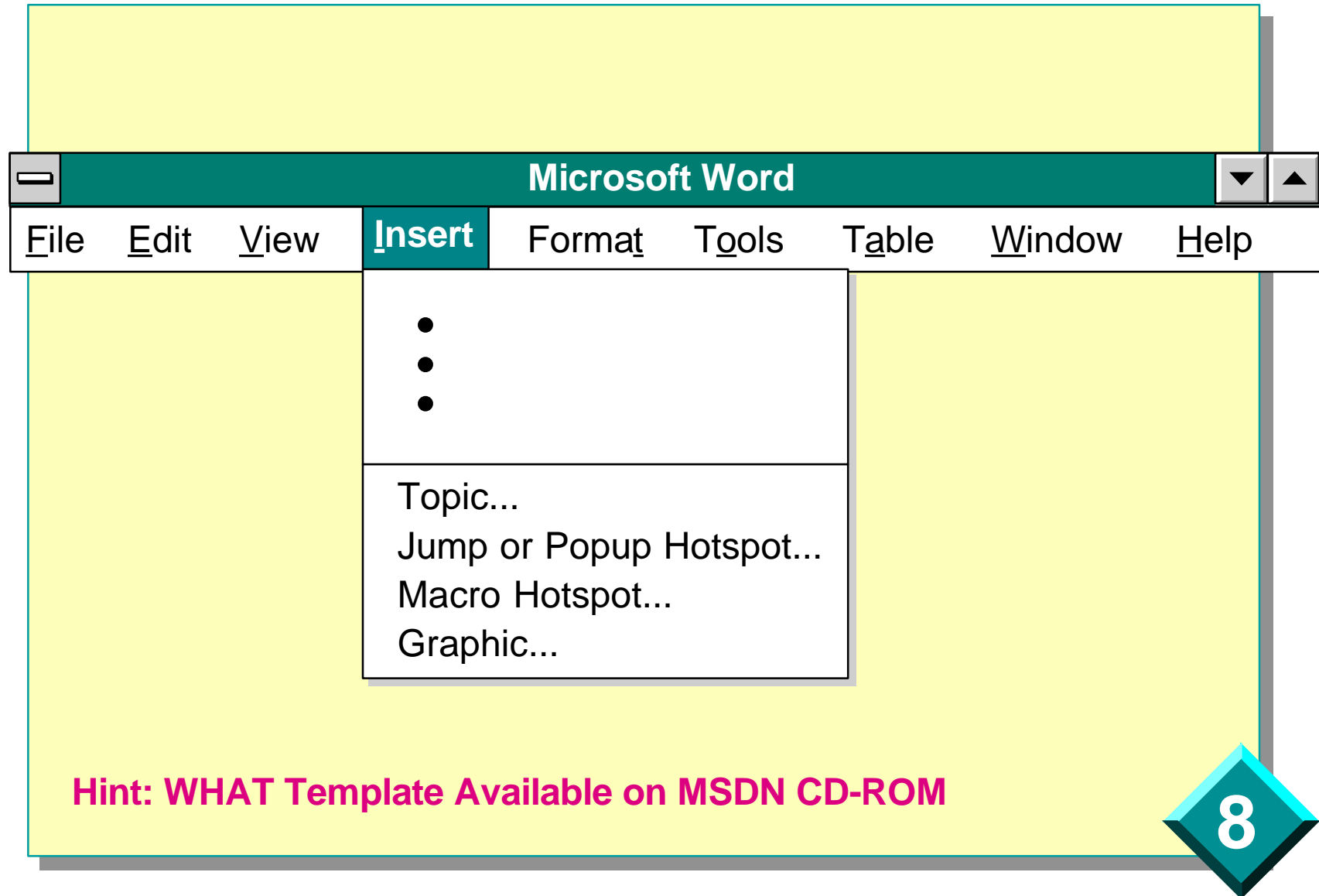
Implementing Help

- 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

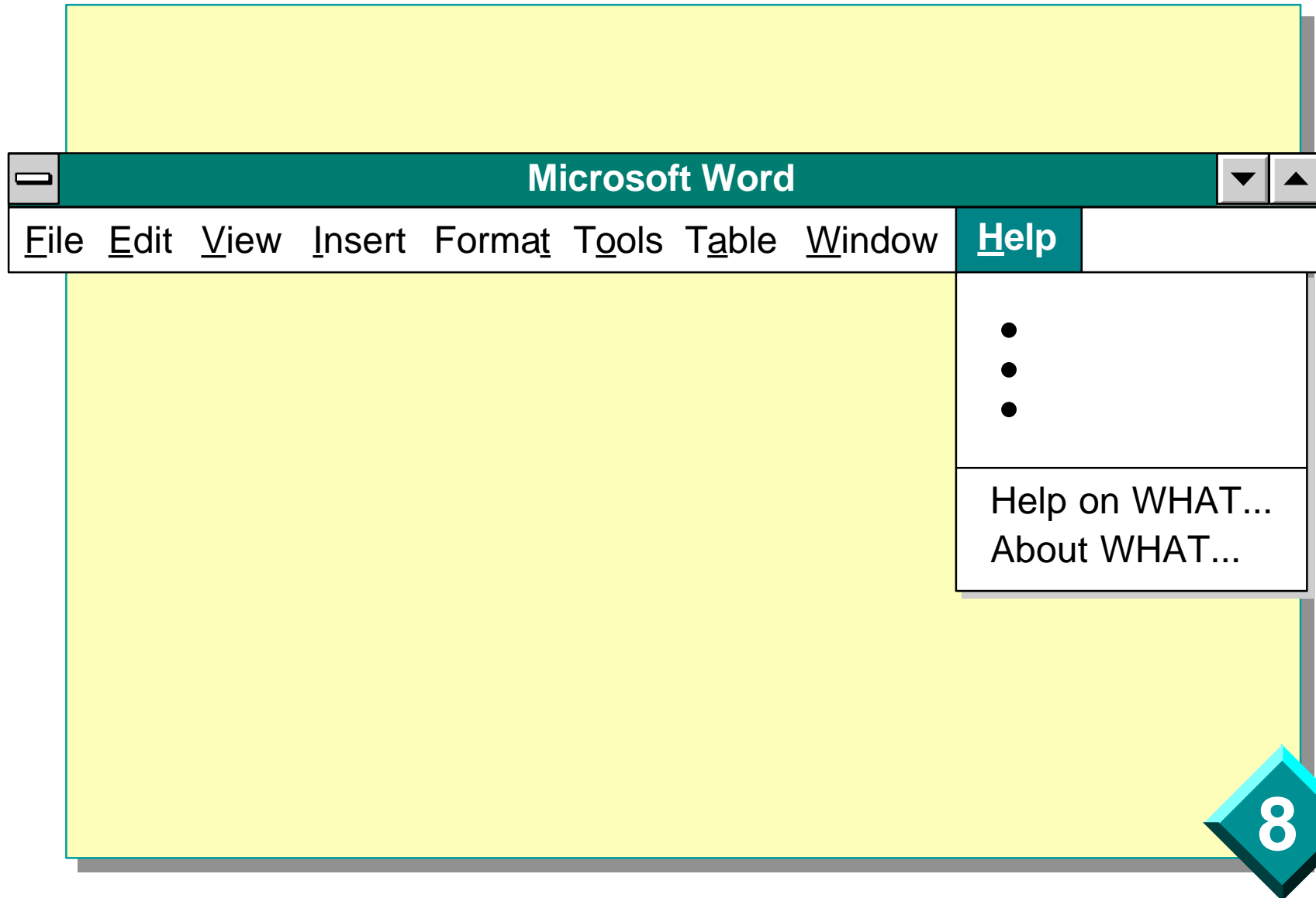
Help File Parts and Terminology



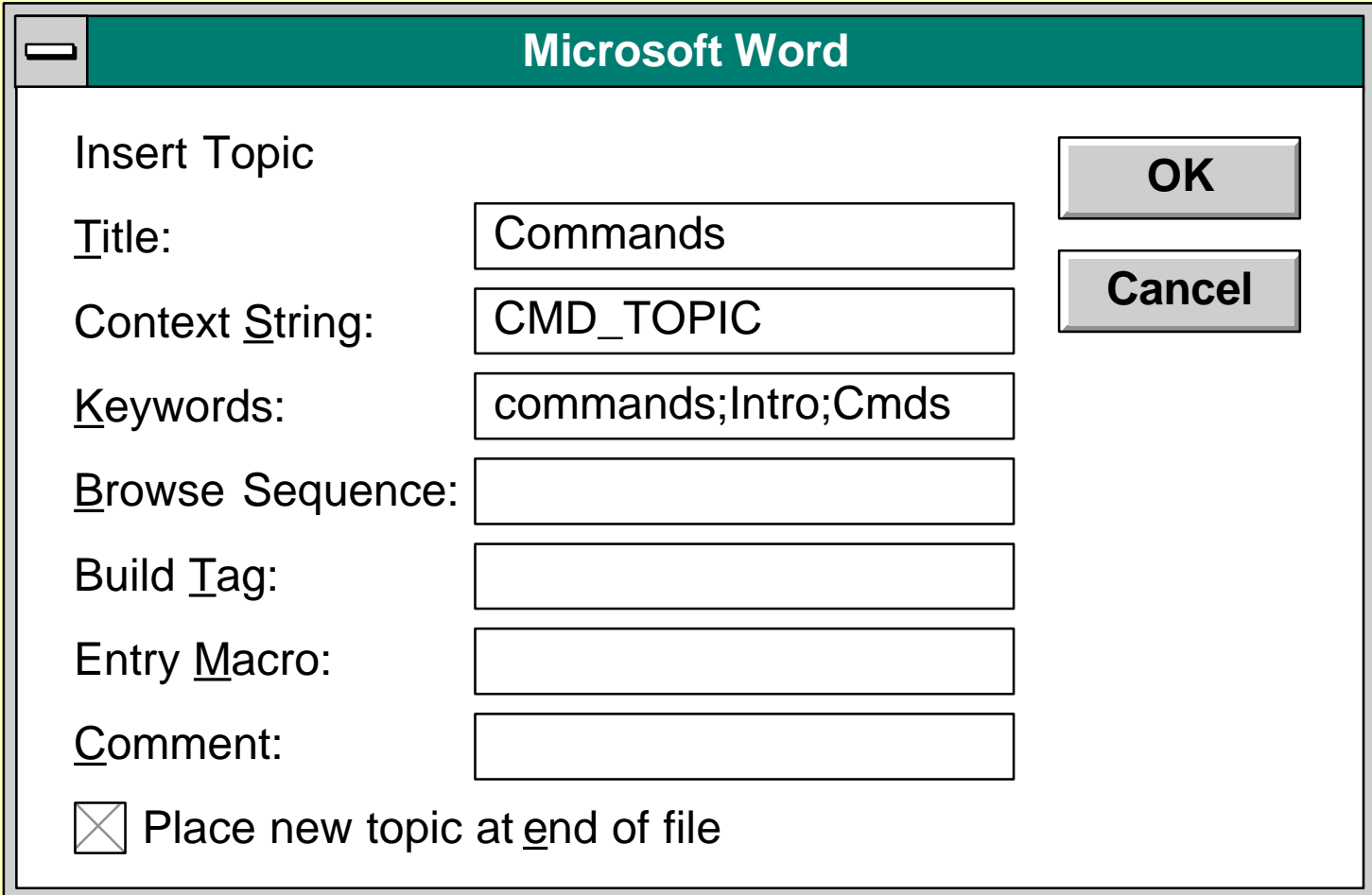
Creating the Help Topics Using the WHAT Template



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:

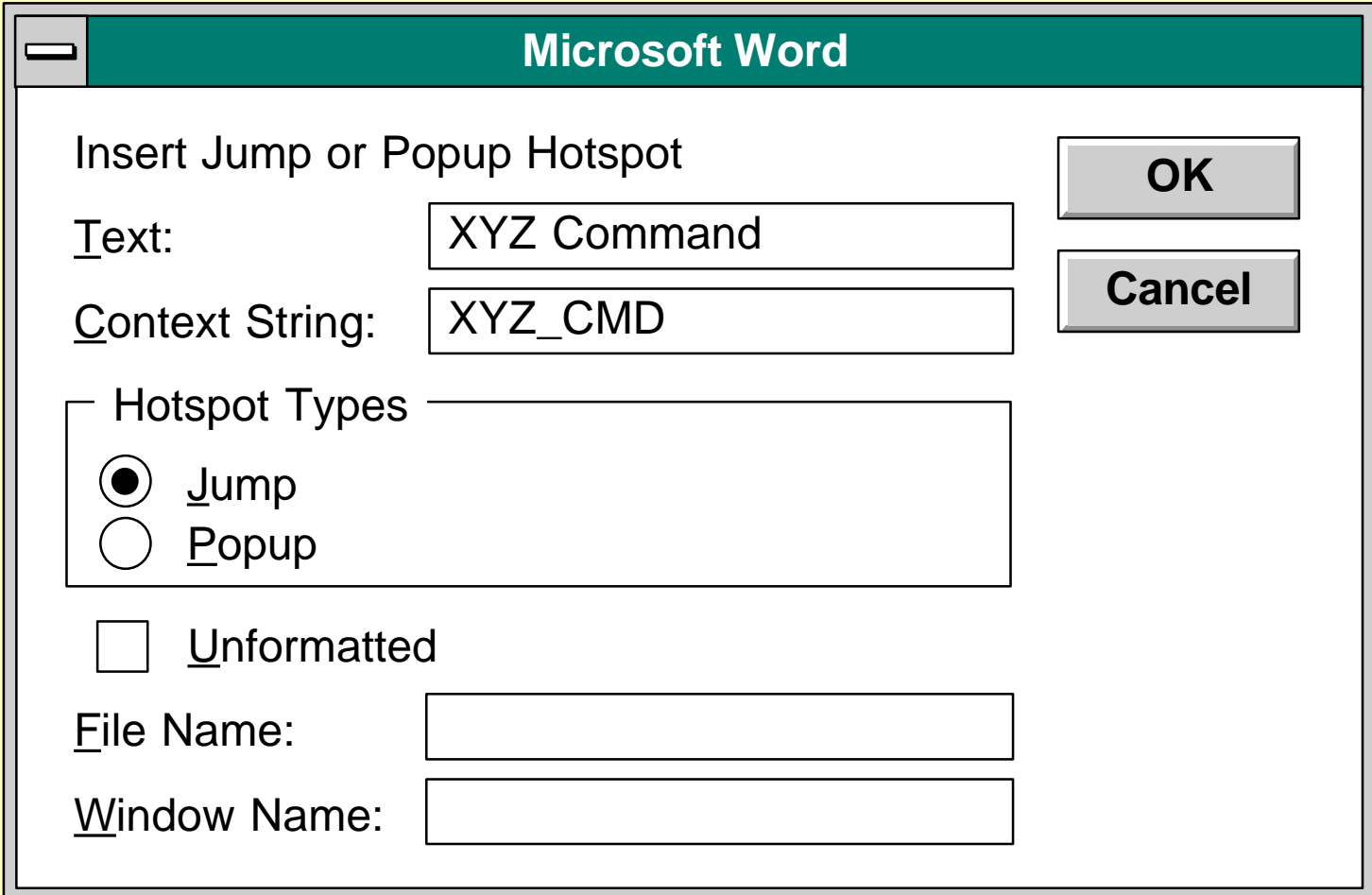
Comment:

☒ Place new topic at end of file

OK

Cancel

Inserting a Jump or Popup Link



The image shows a screenshot of the 'Insert Jump or Popup Hotspot' dialog box in Microsoft Word. The dialog box has a title bar that says 'Microsoft Word'. Inside, the title 'Insert Jump or Popup Hotspot' is at the top left. To the right of the title are two buttons: 'OK' and 'Cancel'. Below the title, there are two text input fields. The first is labeled 'Text:' and contains the text 'XYZ Command'. The second is labeled 'Context String:' and contains the text 'XYZ_CMD'. Below these fields is a section titled 'Hotspot Types' which contains three radio button options: 'Jump' (which is selected), 'Popup', and 'Unformatted' (which is a checkbox). At the bottom of the dialog box, there are two more text input fields. The first is labeled 'File Name:' and is empty. The second is labeled 'Window Name:' and is empty.

Microsoft Word

Insert Jump or Popup Hotspot

Text: XYZ Command

Context String: XYZ_CMD

Hotspot Types

☒ Jump

☐ Popup

☐ Unformatted

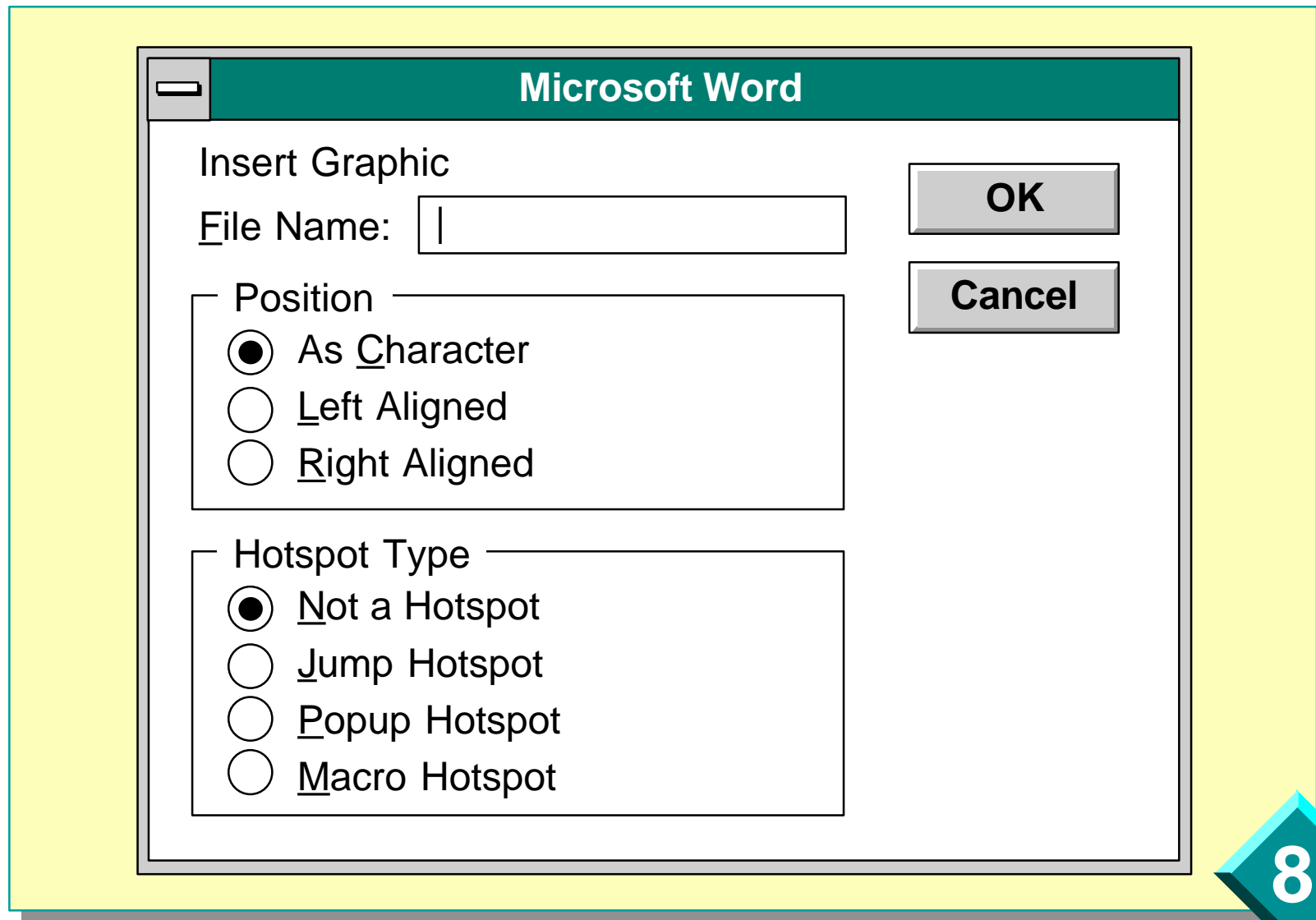
File Name:

Window Name:

OK

Cancel

Inserting a Graphic Stored in a File



Hotspots Created Using Hotspot Editor Tool



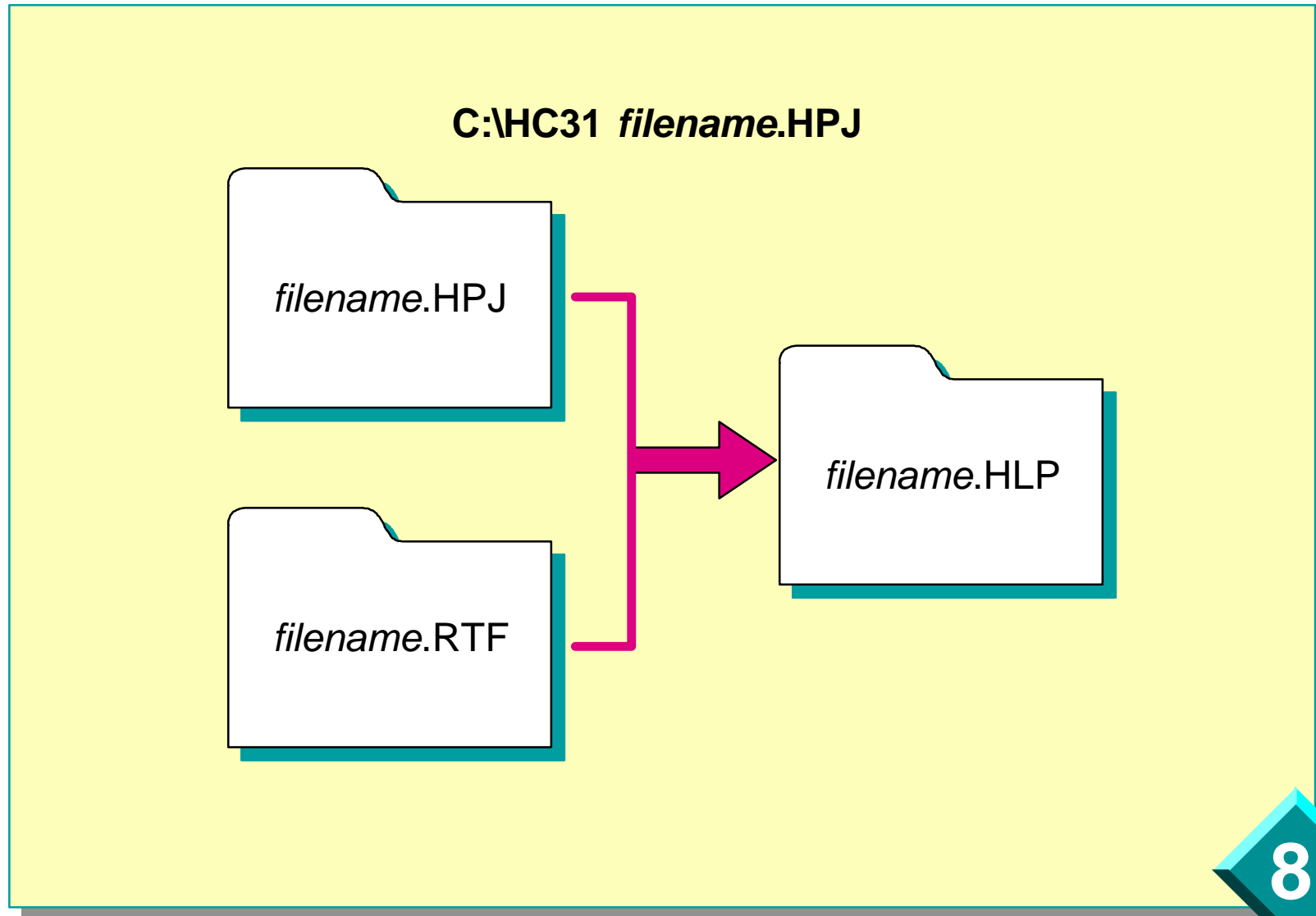
Hotspot Editor

- 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)

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