

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

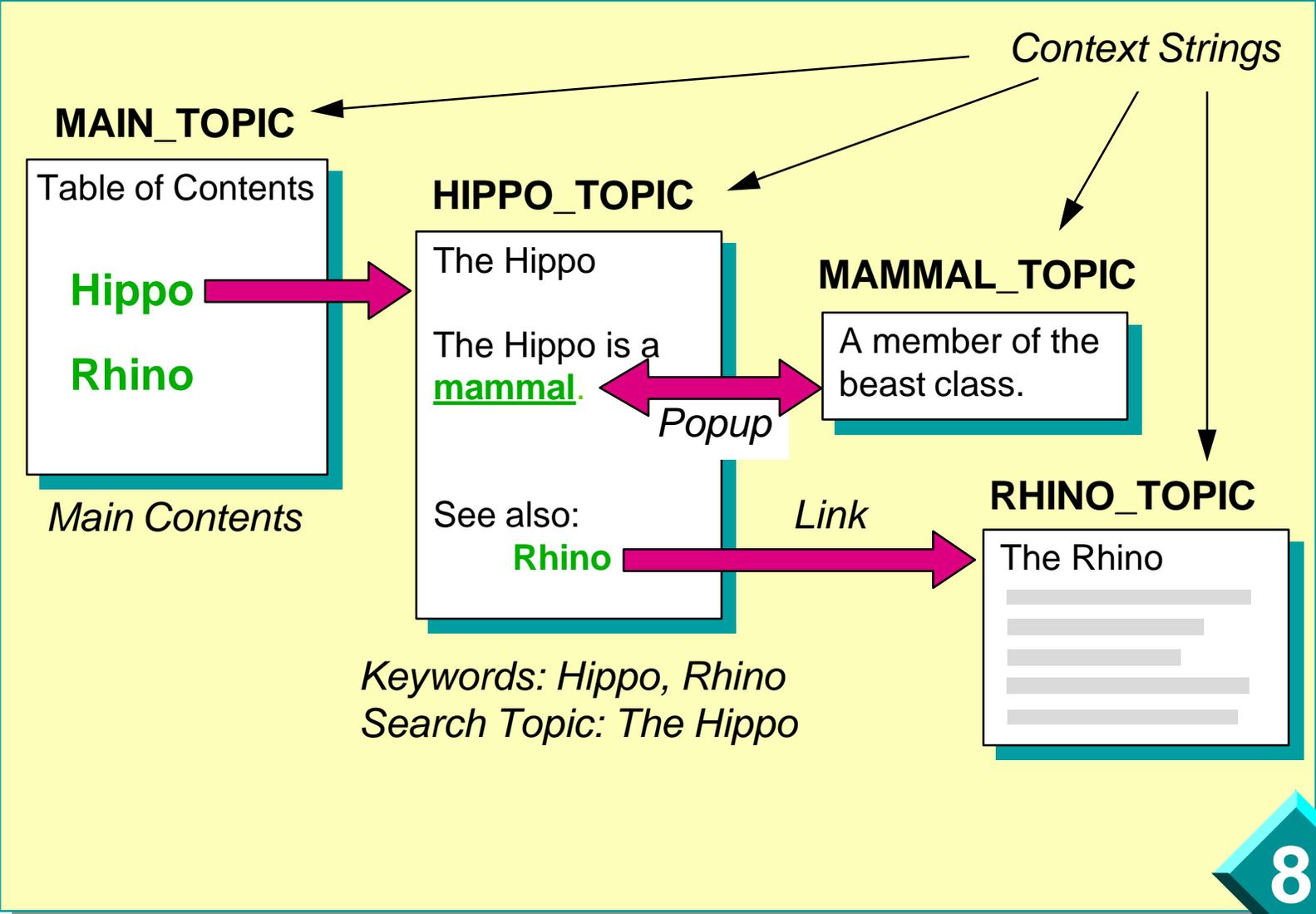
What You Need to Build WinHelp Files

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

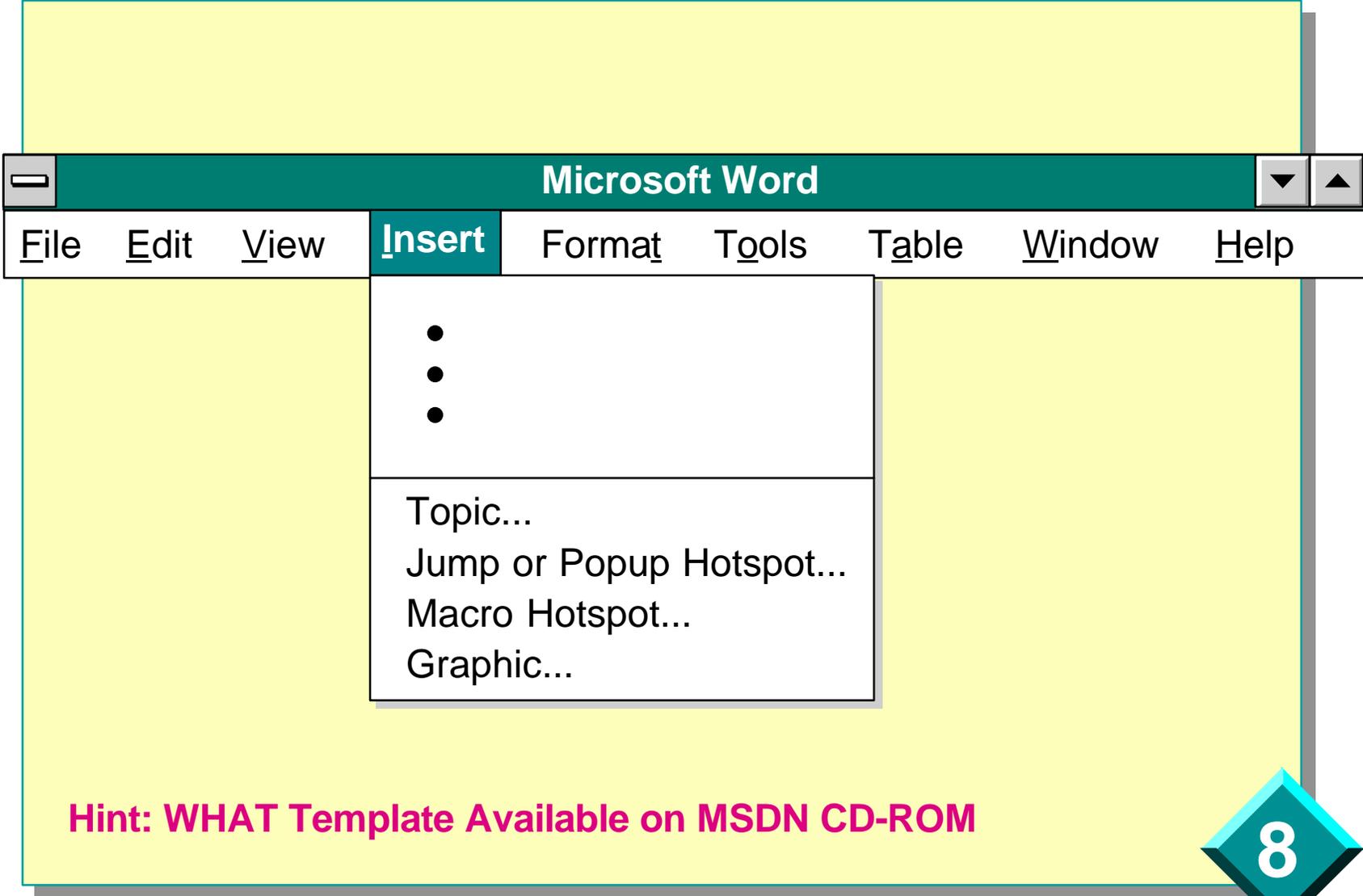
Implementing Help

- 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

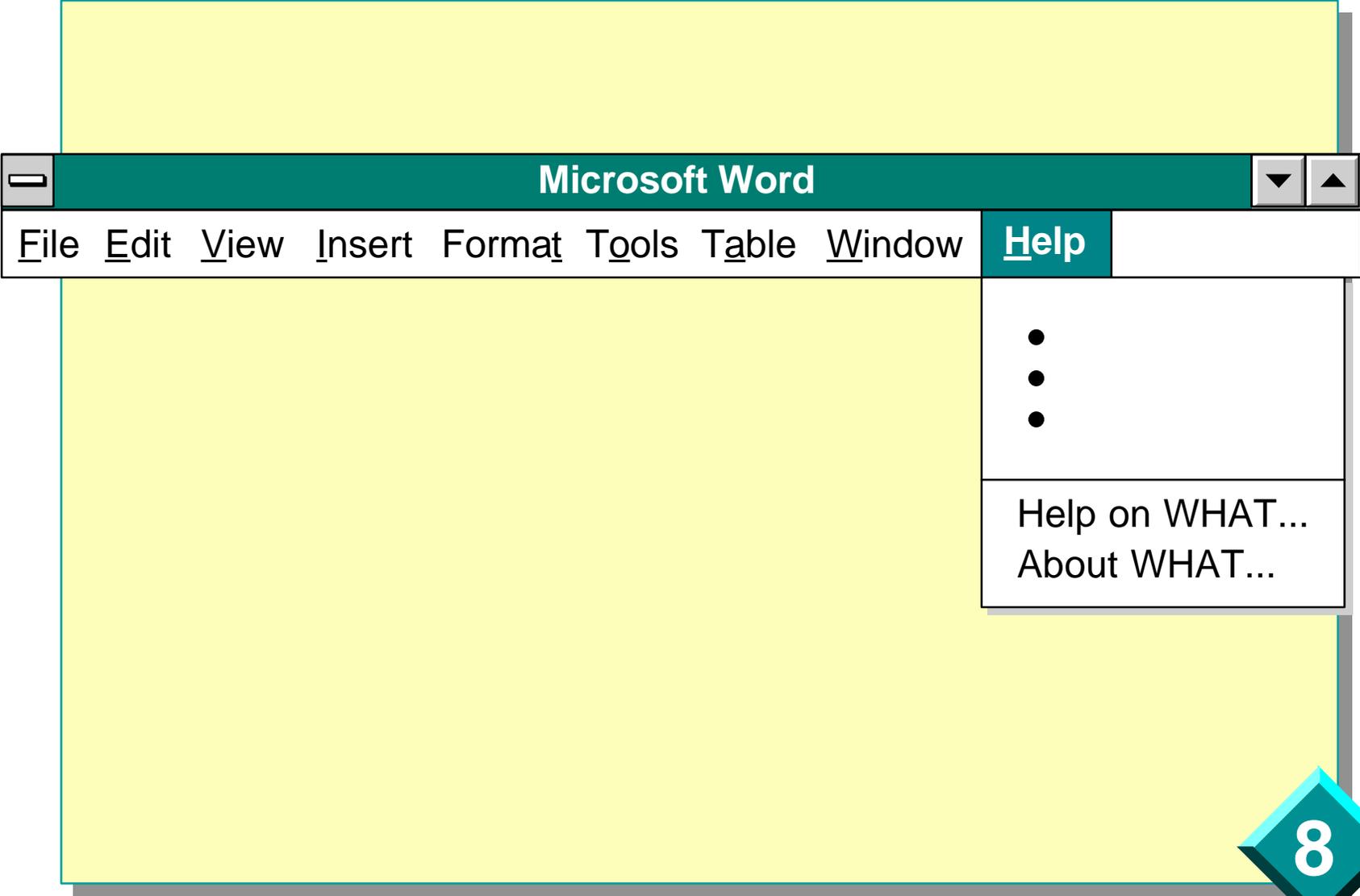


Creating the Help Topics Using the WHAT Template



Hint: WHAT Template Available on MSDN CD-ROM

Getting Help on the WHAT Template



Inserting a New Topic

Microsoft Word

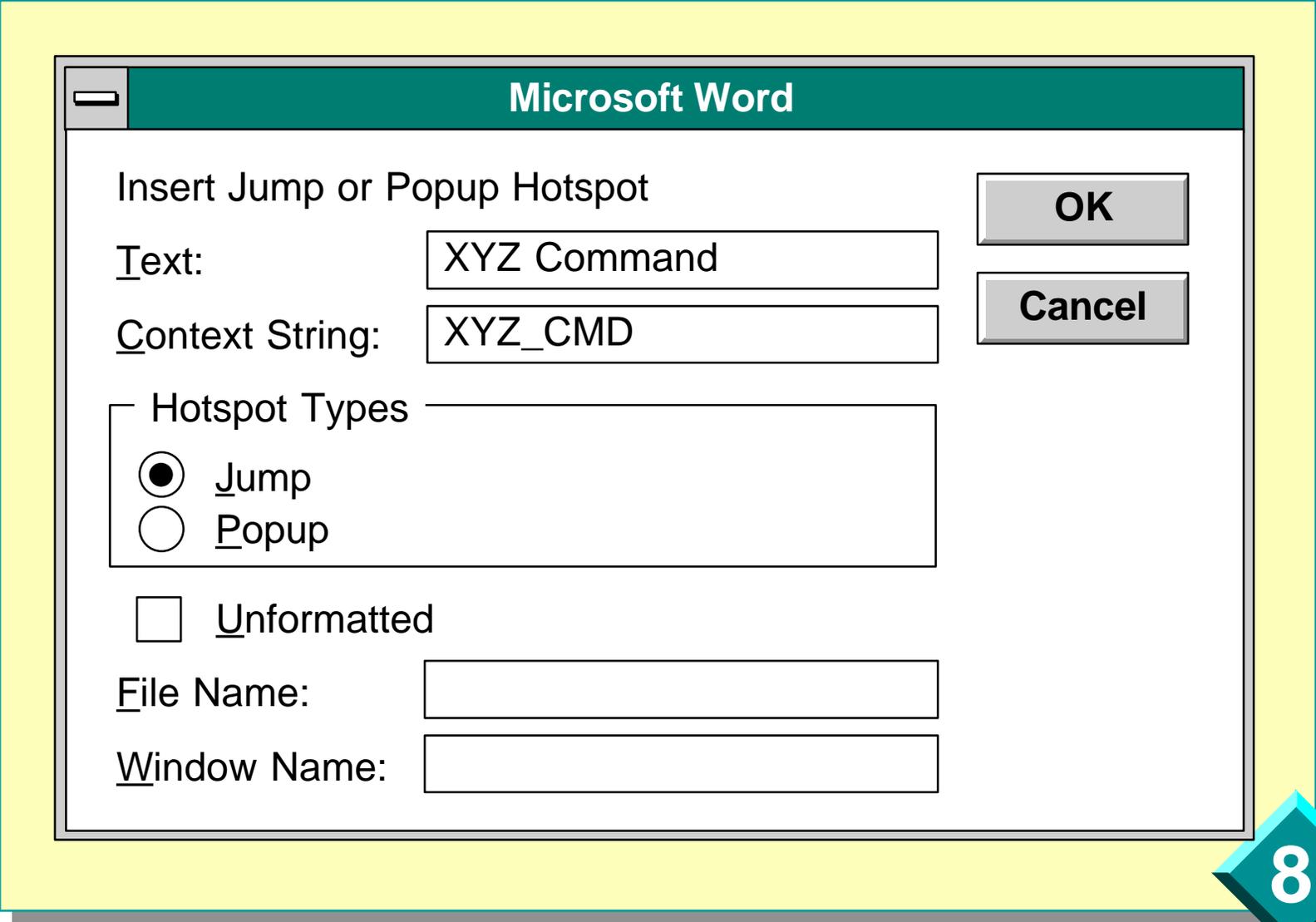
Insert Topic

Place new topic at end of file

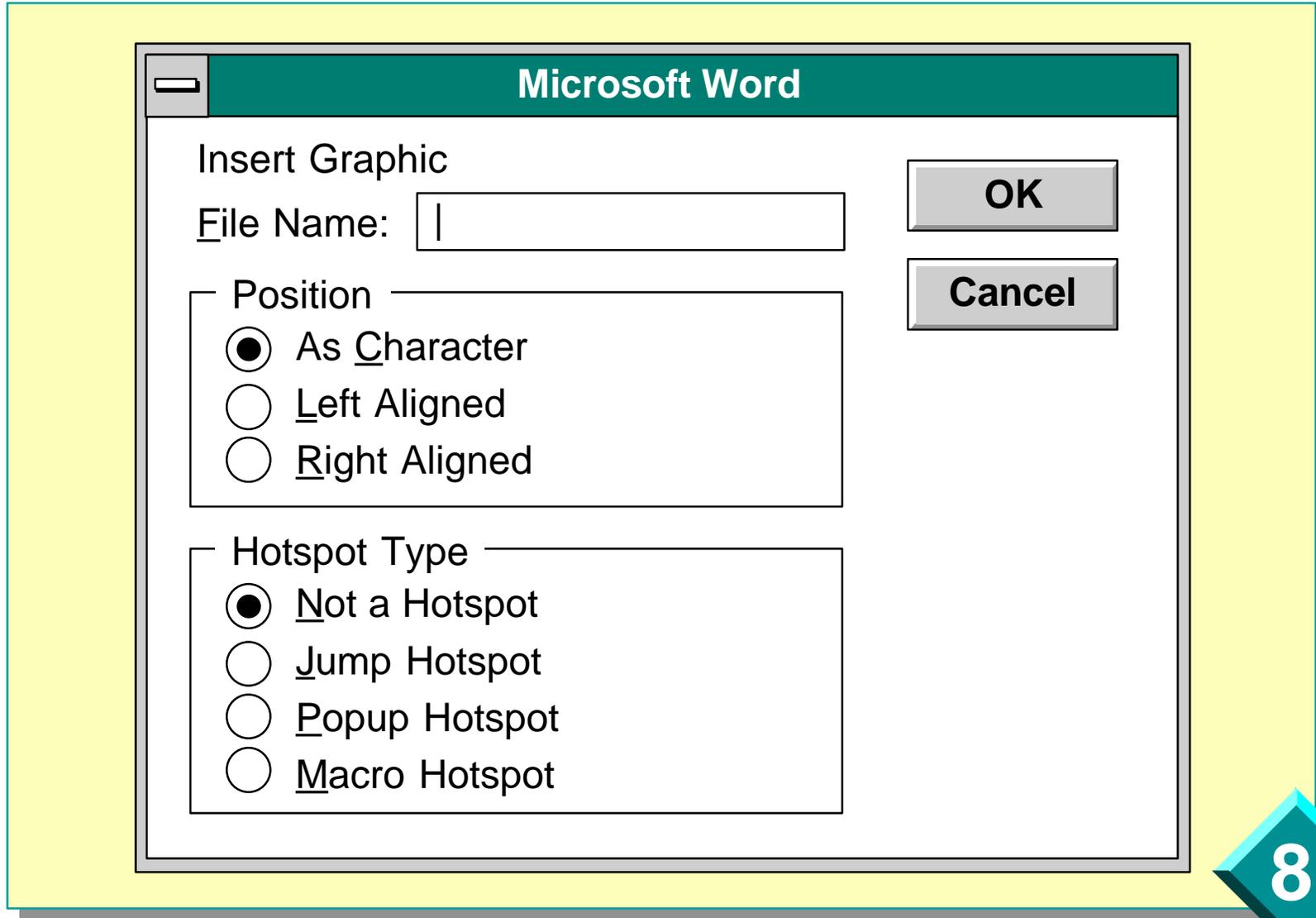
OK

Cancel

Inserting a Jump or Popup Link



Inserting a Graphic Stored in a File



Hotspots Created Using Hotspot Editor Tool



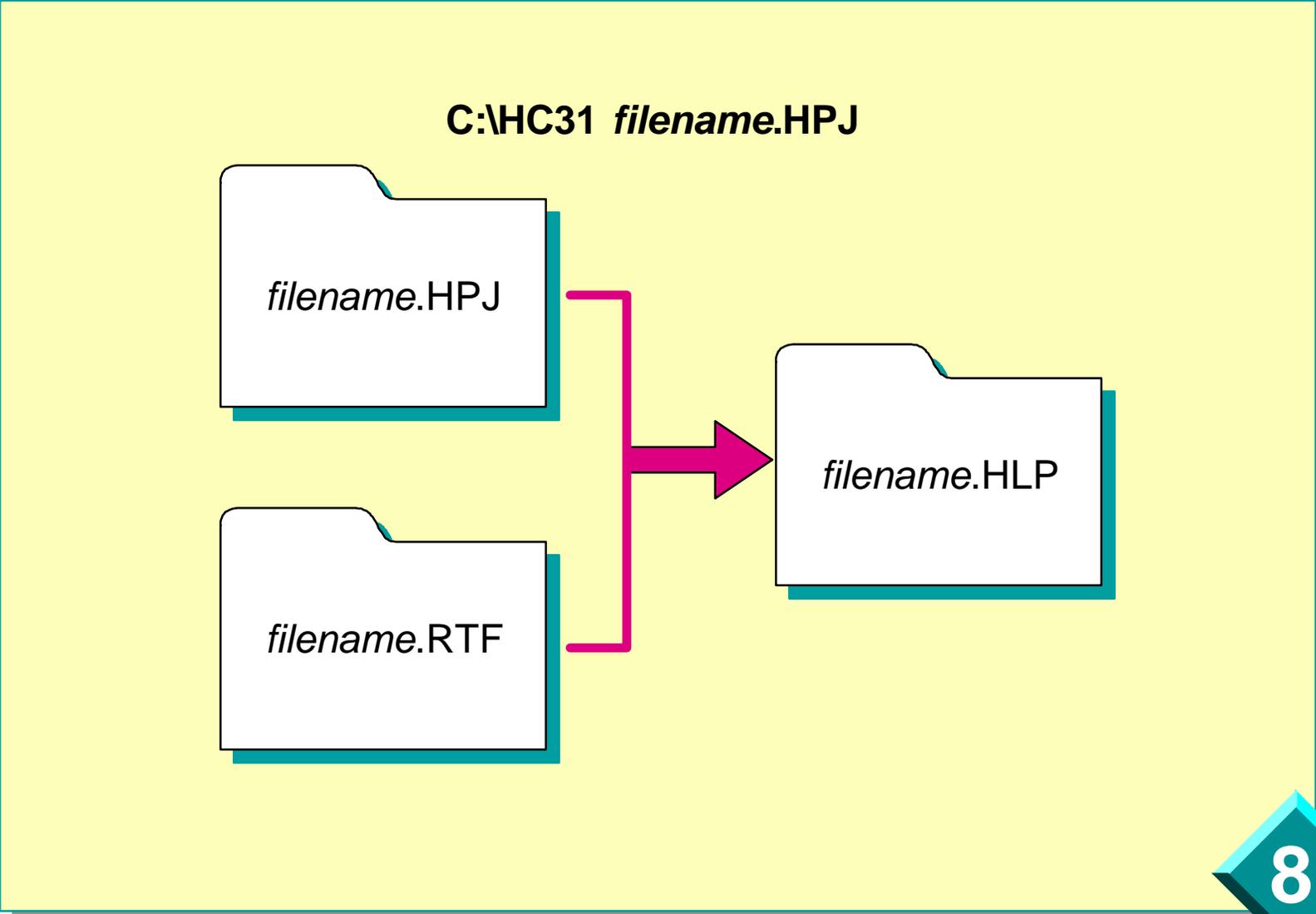
Hotspot Editor

- 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

[OTHER]
```

HelpContextID

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

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