

Overview: Apple Guide 2.1 Features for OpenDoc

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Purpose

This document explains the features of Apple Guide 2.1 that support the OpenDoc component-based software architecture. It does not describe the non-OpenDoc features of Apple Guide 2.1.

Introduction

User needs

Apple Guide users are accustomed to choosing a Guide menu item and getting help for the frontmost process (like the Finder or an application). The features of Apple Guide 2.1 described here provide process-wide help when an OpenDoc process when it is frontmost.

In OpenDoc, a process looks to the user like a single context—even though it is made up of a persistent environment called the *shell* and a group of OpenDoc components, or *parts*. In OpenDoc, the user needs help for all of the parts in the process. However, OpenDoc processes differ widely. For example, each of the items below is a single OpenDoc process:

- a single, editable document whose parts provide traditional document elements, such as a text, a spreadsheet, and a chart
- a group of parts that looks and feels like a dialog box or a control panel (where parts are used as plug-ins to provide text, controls, and menus)
- a group of parts, organized into several documents, that look and feel like an application (Cyberdog's Internet Pathfinder is an example.)

Guide developer needs

The Guide developer needs a definable set of tasks for which to author help content. In OpenDoc's component architecture, this necessary stability is found in parts. However, parts are used in groups, as part of a process, not individually.

Because OpenDoc processes are made up of interchangeable parts and are defined or changed by end-users, it is not possible to author process-wide Guides. Instead, the developer needs to author help files—or *guidelets*—for OpenDoc parts. The guidelets are then combined into process-wide help.

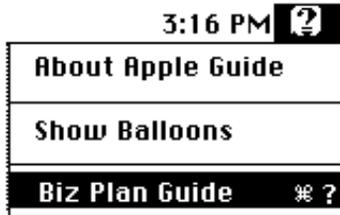
The multi-guide help model

Apple Guide 2.1 dynamically creates a help view by assembling help files—guidelets—into process-wide help. To create the help view, Apple Guide 2.1 uses a “qualifying resource” attached to each guidelet. The resource specifies the conditions under which the guidelet's content appears in the access window—depending on the parts with which the guidelet is identified. (See the

Apple Guide 2.1 ERS for detailed information on how multi-guides and qualifying resources work.)

The Guide Menu

When an OpenDoc process is frontmost, the Apple Guide help menu item is “[ProcName] Guide.” In the example below, the process name is “Biz Plan.”



- ◆ Apple Guide extracts and uses the same process name that appears in the OpenDoc interface in four places: the process menu, and Document menu items “Close [ProcName],” “Delete [ProcName],” and “Save [ProcName]. ◆

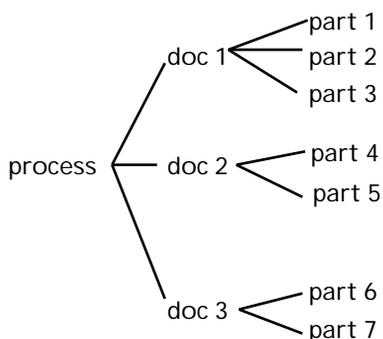
The Access Window

What’s included?

For OpenDoc, content will be included in the access window based on a qualifying resource (‘prts’) that identifies each guidelet with specific parts or processes. Here are some sample qualifiers for OpenDoc help:

- Include if Part ABC is in the active process.
- Include if Part ABC or Part XYZ is present in the active process.
- Include if the OpenDoc shell is active.

Help content covers the entire OpenDoc process, which may include several documents. For example, help for the process illustrated below would include help for parts 1 through 7 at all times.



Guide name in the access window



Apple Guide 2.1 displays a title in the header of the access window based on the following information:

- The guide title will be “[ProcName] Guide,” just as in the menu, and will be displayed using Espy Sans Bold, 12 point.
- The logo comes from the active process.

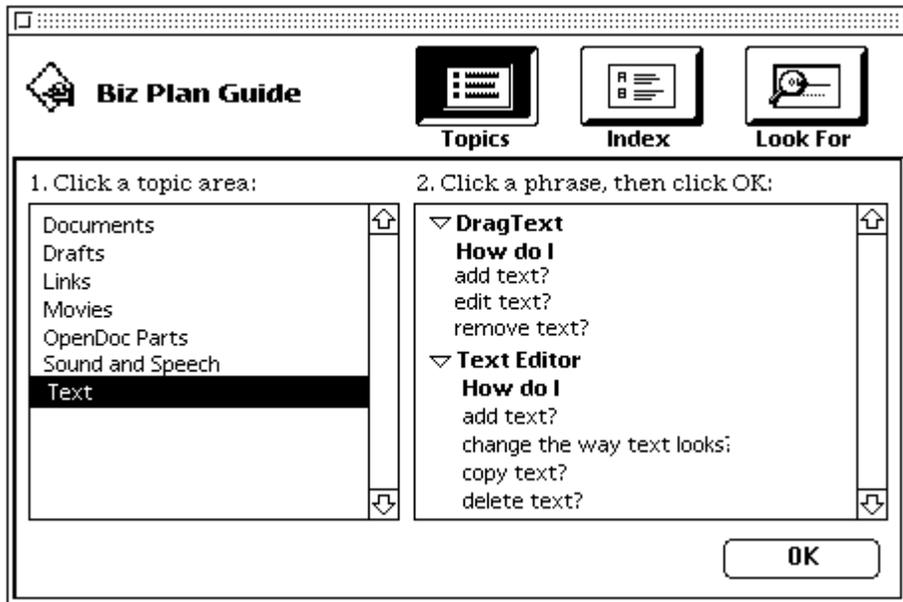
(See the Apple Guide 2.1 ERS for detailed information about how Apple Guide locates and displays the title and logo.)

Topics view

The Topics view displays help for the OpenDoc shell and all parts in the process.

- Apple Guide extracts topics from all guidelets that qualify for inclusion in the help view, then merges them into an alphabetical list. Exactly matching topics from different parts are listed once. Topics that don’t match exactly are listed separately.
- Help sequences (on the right) are listed under the guidelet name. Guidelets are listed in alphabetical order.

In the example below, two guidelets (DragText and TextEditor) both contain the topic area “Text.”



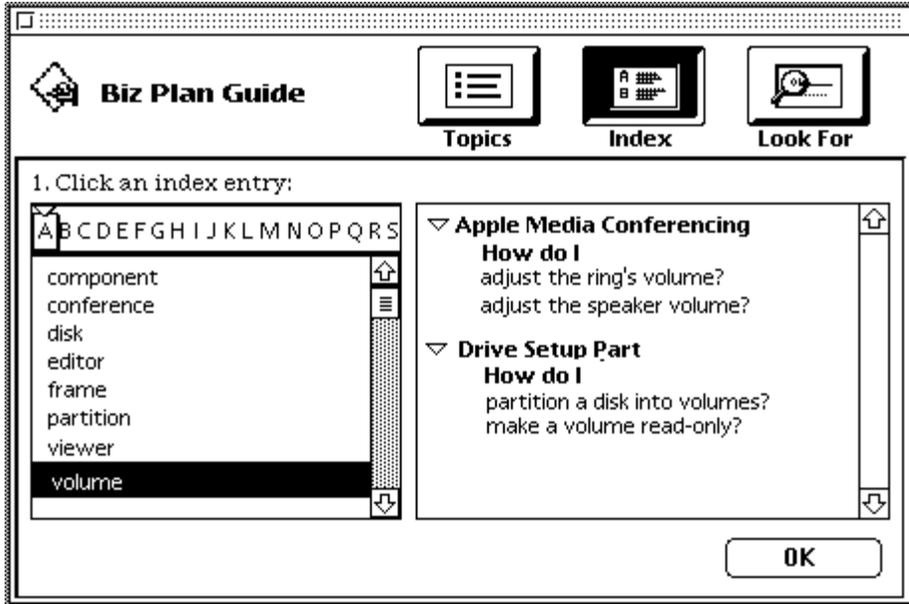
- Mix-in guide files that affect topics or sequences for a part’s help affect only that part (not all parts in the process).
- Help sequences for all parts are expanded (that is, progressive-disclosure triangles point down and all topics are showing). No progressive-disclosure triangles appear next to question prefixes.

Index view

The Index view displays help for the OpenDoc shell and all parts in the process.

- Apple Guide extracts the index terms from all guidelets that qualify for inclusion in the help view, then merges them into an alphabetical list. Exactly matching terms from different parts are listed once. Terms that don’t match exactly are listed separately.
- Help sequences (on the right) are listed under the guidelet name. Guidelets are listed in alphabetical order.

In the example below, two guidelets (Apple Media Conferencing and Drive Setup Part) both contain the topic area “Volume.”



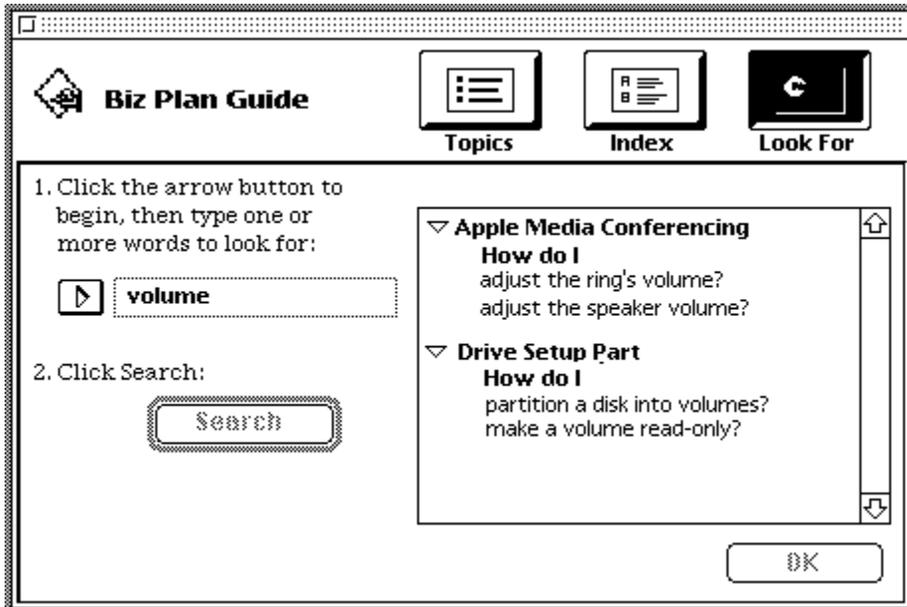
- Mix-in guide files that affect topics or sequences for a part’s help affect only that part (not all parts in the process).
- Help sequences for all parts are expanded (that is, progressive-disclosure triangles point down and all topics are showing). No progressive-disclosure triangles appear next to question prefixes.

Look For view

The Look For view displays help for the OpenDoc shell and all parts in the process.

- When you type a keyword and click Search, Apple Guide searches all guidelets that qualify for inclusion in the help view.
- Help sequences (on the right) are listed under the guidelet name. Guidelets are listed in alphabetical order.

In the example below, two guidelets (Apple Media Conferencing and Drive Setup Part) both contain the keyword “Volume.”



- Mix-in guide files that affect topics or sequences for a part’s help affect only that part (not all parts in the process).
- Help sequences for all parts are expanded (that is, progressive-disclosure triangles point down and all topics are showing). No progressive-disclosure triangles appear next to question prefixes.

Updating the access window

If a part is added to the active process while a guide file is open, help for the part appears in the access window the next time the window refreshes.

If a part is deleted from the process while a guide file is open, its help is deleted from the access window the next time the window refreshes.

Opening, closing, and switching processes

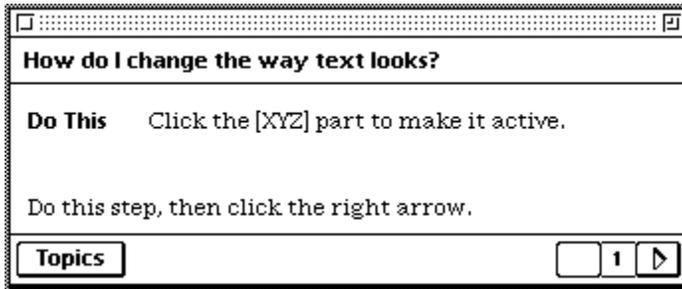
If you close the process, its help closes.

If you switch to another process while a guide file is open, the guide stays open, but its name provides a clue that it is not the help for the active process.

“Part Not Active” notification

In OpenDoc help, it is possible for the user to choose help for a part that is not the active part. When this happens, Apple Guide will notify the user that the part is not active, but will *not* find the part or make it active.

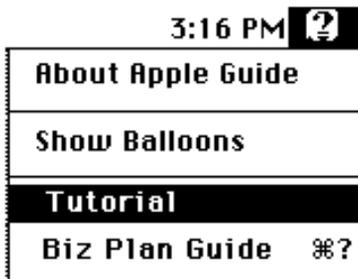
If you open a sequence for a part that’s not active, the guide sequence will branch to a notification panel like the one below:



The notification panel will be written into help sequences for OpenDoc parts. Further help in finding the part will be provided instructionally, probably with a Tips panel.

Tutorial Access

To access tutorials for the current OpenDoc process, the user chooses “Tutorial” from the Guide menu.



When Tutorial is chosen, one of the following happens:

- Apple Guide generates a single-access window that displays all tutorials associated with parts in the active process, including the OpenDoc Tutorial.
- If there is only one tutorial associated with the process, that tutorial launches directly, bypassing the single-list access window. (Since the OpenDoc Tutorial will be present whenever the OpenDoc shell is active, this will be the only tutorial that could launch directly.)

To launch a tutorial, the user selects from the list and clicks OK.



The tutorial access window closes when a tutorial opens. To choose another tutorial, the user must choose Tutorial from the Guide menu again.

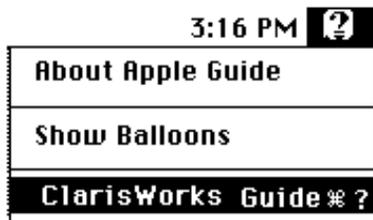
If the user closes the process, its tutorial access window closes. (Works just like application help today.)

Help for Container Applications

- ✘ The specifications for OpenDoc-aware applications (container applications) will be updated in the next version of this document. ✘

The Guide menu

Because container applications don't use the OpenDoc shell, the application is the frontmost process. The Guide menu shows help for the application (works just like application help today).

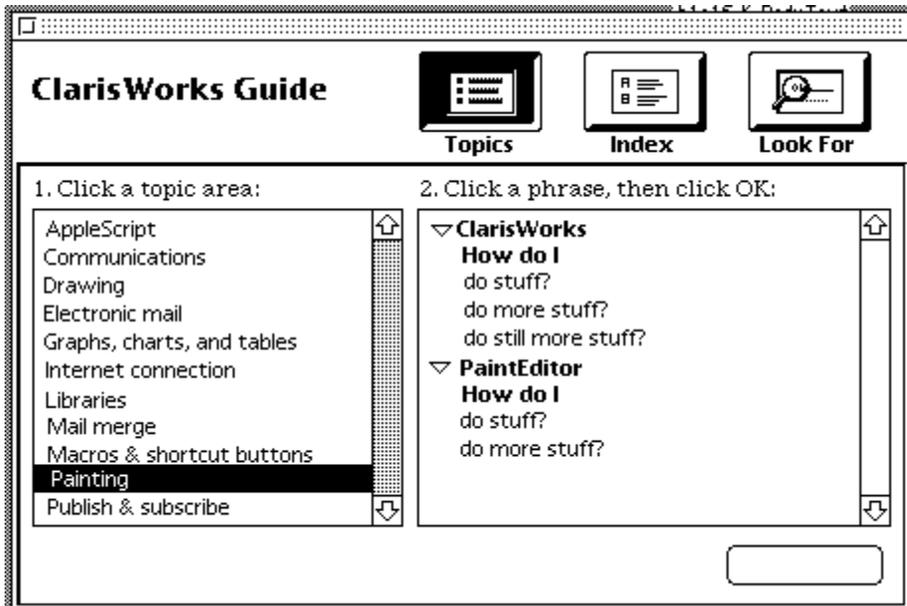


The access window

When OpenDoc parts are embedded in a container application's document, the access window includes help for the application and the OpenDoc parts.

- The title in the header area of the access window matches the application name (works just like application help today).
- In the Topics view, Apple Guide extracts topic areas from the application guide and part guidelets and merges them into a single alphabetical list. Exactly matching topics and index terms from different help files are listed once. Help sequences (on the right) are listed under the guidelet's authored name. Guidelets are listed in alphabetical order.

In the example below, ClarisWorks is the active process. The current ClarisWorks document includes an OpenDoc part called PaintEditor. The user sees Paint Editor help within the ClarisWorks Guide, when the Painting topic is selected because both guides include a topic called “Painting.”



- In the Index view, Apple Guide extracts index terms from the application guide and part guidelets and merges them into a single alphabetical list. Exactly matching index terms from different help files are listed once. Help sequences (on the right) are listed under the guidelet name. Guidelets are listed in alphabetical order.
- The Look For view displays help for the OpenDoc shell and all parts in the process. When you type a keyword and click Search, Apple Guide searches all guidelets that qualify for inclusion in the help view. Help sequences (on the right) are listed under the guidelet name. Guidelets are listed in alphabetical order.
- Mix-in guide files that affect topics or sequences for a part’s help affect only that part (not all parts in the process).
- Help sequences for all parts are expanded (that is, progressive-disclosure triangles point down and all topics are showing). No progressive-disclosure triangles appear next to question prefixes.