

InfoPop/Windows 1.24
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Welcome to InfoPop/Windows...a Windows 3.1 help database for the Internet. It's not *ENCARTA* or a full-blown encyclopedia of the internet, but perhaps we'll get there eventually...

If you are already familiar with the DOS-based version of InfoPop, you'll recognize much of the information contained here. This is a port of the DOS-based InfoPop database to Windows--but with many new entries and images as well. To all the DOS InfoPop users who asked for a Windows version, this is it...turns out it made more sense to use Window's excellent hypertext help engine, and thanks to L. David Baldwin's excellent freeware package RTFGEN, it wasn't too hard to move the data from an ASCII file over to a Rich Text Format (RTF) file (which the Windows help compiler requires). Once you have IPWIN running, click on the about button for more information on how the help file was generated.

I hope you'll find this program is a useful teaching tool as well as a source of interesting destinations on the Internet. As with its DOS-based predecessor, I've found a copy of InfoPop is a painless way to introduce a new internet user to the subject.

Local notes? With release 1.24 we've added a bit of kludge that allows you to add local notes (annotations) to the InfoPop database--not tied to any particular InfoPop topic. Click on the little InfoPop icon on the opening Table of Contents page and you'll be taken to the LOCAL NOTES section. You can enter a 'table of contents' note on the first page of this section, then tie individual notes to the 10 note pages offered. Windows HELP doesn't allow very large notes and be aware that they won't work with an updated version of IPWIN.HLP. Windows stores the annotations in a single file (IPWIN.ANN) that's stored in your Windows (e.g., C:\Windows>) directory.

In the coming months we'll be expanding/correcting/revising the database but you may find the WINHELP's Annotate feature is all you need to perform your own corrections/updates. Your best source for updates to the IPWIN.HLP file is the GMutant OnLine BBS (703) 993-2219 or via FTP (we now have a nice SUN LX hosting an ftp service: gmutant.wrlc.org. Software developed by the algorithmicians at GMutant Software is in the /pub/gmutant directory).

InfoPop/Windows covers all this...click on the ABOUT button at the top of the viewer..

InfoPop/Windows is freeware--please feel free to distribute it to anyone you like. A modest charge for disk-duplication is acceptable but otherwise, no fee may be levied for InfoPop/Windows. If you do find yourself distributing InfoPop in any sort of active way (as opposed to making it available on your ftp server), drop me a e-line...I'd like to know if folks are finding the package useful.

To install:

1. Copy IPWIN.HLP and IPWIN.ICO to your machine. If you don't put the files in your Windows directory, keep track of where you did place them...you'll need to give Windows the full path to them in steps 3 and 4 below.

2. IF YOU DON'T ALREADY HAVE LOCAL ANNOTATIONS, copy IPWIN.ANN to your C:\WINDOWS directory. This is your local annotations file. If you do now have annotations, note that you'll lose your current notes when you run this copy of IPWIN.HLP (Windows will note that the annotation file and IPWIN.HLP are no longer in synch). To save you current notes, you should probably rename the old IPWIN.HLP to something else and change the IPWIN.ANN file to a similar name in the C:\windows directory. Then begin the arduous process of moving notes from the old file to the new one via the clipboard...

3. Using program manager, go to FILE then NEW and create a program item.

Description: InfoPop

Command Line: WINHELP C:\IPWIN\IPWIN.HLP (here I'm assuming you put IPWIN.HLP in a directory of its own (C:\IPWIN))

Working Directory: Just leave this one blank if you put the full path to IPWIN.HLP in the line above.

Shortcut Key: Up to you.

4. Click on Change icon, then when the name PROGMAN.EXE appears in the dialog box, delete PROGMAN.EXE and enter the full path to wherever you placed IPWIN.ICO (e.g., C:\IPWIN\IPWIN.ICO).

5. That's all there is to it.

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