

The Help Browser 2.0 - release notes

This document contains the latest information on The Help Browser. It also contains some technical information not included in the manual.

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1. Speed issues

Creating the browser database for a large help file can take some time. Typically we find a 1.5Mbyte help file takes 10 minutes to process on a 33MHz 486 PC. Remember, though, that this only has to be done once.

Disk activity accounts for a large proportion of the time to create a browser database. If you are working with large files, you should ensure you have SMARTDRV or some other disk caching software enabled, and that the size of the disk cache is adequate; at least 512k or so.

2. Limitations

Some older help files may have been compiled using the Windows 3.0 help compiler. These have a different internal format to Windows 3.1 help files, and are not supported by The Help Browser. The Windows 3.1 help engine WINHELP can, of course, display these help files and its operation is not affected in any way.

The Help Browser works under Windows 3.1 and Windows 3.11. It does not work under Windows NT.

3. Disk space requirements

Each time you browse a help file that you have not previous browsed, a browser database file is created for the help file. The database file has the same name as the help file but with the extension .HBR. By default all the database files are placed in the Windows directory.

Database files are typically one-tenth the size of the corresponding help file. They can safely be deleted if you are short of disk space, in which case they will be recreated as required.

You may specify a different directory in which to place .HBR files by editing the HBROWSER.INI file. This file is placed in the Windows directory and hold your current Help Browser setting. It is a plain text file, and can be edited with the Windows Notepad accessory. To instruct The Help Browser to save .HBR files in C:\TMP, add the following lines to HBROWSER.INI:

```
[Options]
Stash_Dir=C:\TMP
```

4. Command line arguments

During installation, the Setup program creates a Program Manager group 'OCC Help Tools' containing three icons. All three activate the same program, the Help Browser control panel HTSTART.EXE, which is used to activate or deactivate The Help Browser. See the manual for further details.

5. Uninstalling The Help Browser

The Help Browser installation consists of four files, HSEARCHR.DLL, HBROWSER.DLL, HTSTART.EXE and HTSTARTD.DLL. The first two are installed in the Windows system directory or the Windows directory if you have a network Windows installation. The other two are installed in the directory you specified in Setup.

To uninstall The Help Browser, ensure it is not enabled and close all WinHelp windows. Then delete all the above files. You will also want to delete all the browser database .HBR files and the HBROWSER.INI file. By default these are all in the Windows directory.

6. Contacting OCC

If you have a question about The Help Browser our contact details are:

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