K2B.EXE - RTF File Preprocessor

Intended Audience
Delphi component writers who are using **ForeHelp** to generate help files for their components.

What it is
K2B is an RTF file pre-processor that will change certain "K" type footnotes into the "B" type footnotes required by the **Delphi** Help System. Please refer to the **Delphi** *Component Writer's Guide* for detailed information about the **Delphi** Help System.

Why it exists
The **ForeHelp** help authoring system does not have an option available to specify the footnote mark when creating keywords. All keywords are written to the RTF file generated by ForeHelp using a "K" footnote mark. This is the normal footnote mark expected by the Microsoft Help Compiler. There is a feature in the Windows help system to create "hidden" keywords, keywords not visible in the **WinHelp** Search dialog, by specifying an alphabetic character other than "K" as the footnote mark. **Delphi** uses this feature to implement context sensitive help for custom components added to the **Delphi** Component Library.

This utility converts solves the "unable to create B footnote" problem by pre-processing the RTF file generated by ForeHelp prior to the execution of the help compiler.

How to install it
1.   Copy the file K2B.EXE to the desired directory. It doesn't really matter which directory, but placing it in the same directory as the Microsoft help compiler ensures that K2B.EXE will be able to locate the help compiler without changes to your PATH environment variable.

2.   Determine which help compiler you use. There are various versions with names such as HCP.EXE, HC.EXE, HC31.EXE and HC30.EXE. Rename the file K2B.EXE using the following table as a reference:

Help Compiler	Preprocessor	
HC.EXE	K2B.EXE	(no rename needed)
HCP.EXE	K2BP.EXE	
HC31.EXE	K2B31.EXE	
HC30.EXE	K2B30.EXE	

This step is necessary so that K2B knows which help compiler to execute. If the name of K2B is left as is (ie: K2B.EXE) then K2B will attempt to start a help compiler with the file name HC.EXE.

3.   Using the Windows PIFEDIT utility, edit the file HC.PIF in your FOREHELP directory. Change the program name (the top edit control) to the name of K2B as set in step 2. If the directory containing K2B is not on your PATH, be sure to specify a fully qualified path name in the edit control.

K2B is now installed! When you now ask **Forhelp** to "Build and Compile" or "Compile" your project, Forehelp will, as it's always done, execute HC.PIF. With the changes made in step 3, the program that will actually be executed is K2B. K2B pre-processes all of the RTF files listed in the project's HPJ file and then K2B executes the help compiler.

How it works
K2B is a simple text file filter that scans the RTF files created by **Forehelp** looking for keyword footnotes that begin with either "class_", "prop_", or "event_". All of the "special" keywords used by the Delphi help system begin with these text strings. Those keywords that do begin with those three text strings are re-

ritten to the RTF file as "B" keywords. Any keyword that doesn't start with "class_", "prop_", or "event_" is left as is. That is, the keyword remains as a "K" type keyword.

Warnings and stuff
This utiltity was tested against RTF files created by **ForeHelp** version 1.0.4 only. It assumes that the keyword footnotes written to the RTF file are not separated by physical line breaks. This assumption may not be a valid assumption if an RTF file is created by something other than **ForeHelp** version 1.0.4.

Who wrote this thing
This is a "freeware" utility written by Ritchey Consulting Services. While the software itself should be considered to be copyrighted material, you are free to distribute and use the utility as you wish.

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