

Introduction

HELPSCRE written by Ed Crygier (C)opyright 1992
Requires Visual Basic version 2.0 to incorporate in your program or
VBRUN200.DLL to use as a stand alone program.

Helpscre is a FREEWARE product. While it is copywritten, you are encouraged to share it as long as you do not remove this message or this file. Slight modifications are permitted.

File list:

HelpScre.Frm	A loadable file to add help to your program.
HelpScre.EXE	An exececutable version that may be called by your program through a SHELL.
HelpFile.Txt	The text of your help file.
HelpScre.Wri	This document
HelpScre.Mak	Used by VB to load the HelpScre.Frm

Helpscre is a form that can be used to add help screens to your program. If you don't have the Professional Edition, HelpScre can be a simple method to add help to any program. While it is not context-sensitive, a combo box is used to help quickly search for a topic of interest. You may load up to 100 topics each containing up to 55 lines. This allows a total of 5500 pages of typewritten text, enough for most small to medium manuals.

To use the help program within your program, load VB, open your program and then select ADD A FILE through the FILE pull-down menu. You may then call up the help file by adding a command button to your program or a pull down menu choice that uses the format: HELPSCRE.SHOW

If you added a command button to your form, the program might look like this:

```
Sub Command1_Click
    HelpScre.Show
End Sub
```

You may also wish to add help to a pull-down menu. Consult the VB manual, chapter 4, for more detail on menu creation.

When the help screen appears, you may select a topic through the combo box and return to your program by the "Return" command button.

Creating your Help File

To create your own help file, first rename the dummy file shipped with this file. The help file must be named HELPFILE.TXT and is an Ascii file containing no special characters except line feed and end of line markers (Chr\$(10) and Chr\$(13)). Use NOTEPAD to create your text file and save it as HELPFILE.TXT. The first line of each help topic contains the topic of discussion. The following lines contain the actual text you wish to see displayed and it must be followed by the pound sign (#) to signal the end of this topic has been reached.

You may number each topic but it is not necessary. The format is:

```
Topic or subject          1. Help on Help
Text of the help on this  Help is found throught the Help Button
# Symbol to mark end of  #
subject.                  2. Loading your data
                           To load your data, select the File-Load
                           choice from the filing menu.
                           #
```

Do not skip any lines.

Optionally, you may wish to use the shell command to run HelpScre instead of making it part of your program. To do this, call the program with this format:

```
Sub Command1_Click
  x=Shell("HELPSCRE",1)
End Sub
```

Please note either method requires that you place the help file (HELPFILE.TXT) in the same directory, or have it in a path named in your AutoExec.Bat file. If not, you will receive a "File Not Found" error.

Program Flow

The help program uses a sequential file read for all subjects and will unload the form and release any memory used. Each help subject contains three parts: the topic, the help text and an end marker. The first line of each subject is the topic and is read into a combo box that can be searched by the user. Any lines (up to 55) are read as the actual text to be displayed until the end marker (#) is found. The end marker should follow the text and be on a line by itself.

Do not skip lines. You may also make the text any length since the text box used has a scroll bar set and multi-lines turned on for word wrapping.

You may print any subject displayed. The print portion uses the Printer.Print routine to send the topic and then the text through the Print Manager of Windows and finishes with a Printer.EndDoc command to eject the page.

Comments or suggestions can be sent to:

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