Using the ICT 2.0 Software Documentation Database

Overview

The Image Compositing Toolkit (ICT) version 2.0 software documentation database is called ict20.mdb. This documentation is contained in a Microsoft Access database. For those for whom Access is not available, the software documentation has been exported in a comma-separated-value text file format (function.txt) that can be imported into your favorite spreadsheet or word processor as a table.

The software documentation covers all member functions of the classes that are used in the Image Compositing Toolkit application. All other functions used in the program that are not C+ + member functions of a class are also documented.

Other Documentation

The Microsoft Visual C++ IDE contains a number of powerful tools that can be used to get additional documentation about the use of certain functions. To do this, select the Browse menu item under the Tools menu from the IDE main screen. Here you can get graphs of class hierarchies and caller and calling trees for selected functions.

Using the Documentation Database

To use the documentation database, you must have Microsoft Access installed on your machine or have network access to a copy. First place the CD-ROM into your CD-ROM drive. The database is located in the Help directory located at the root level directory of the CD-ROM. Using the Windows 95 Explorer, find the ICT20.mdb file and double click on it. The database will open and display the documentation screen. There is only one screen in this application. Instructions for using this screen follow:

Selecting Functions

The Select a Function option box is located in the upper left portion of the main screen. Inside the option box are three combo boxes labeled from top to bottom: *Function*, *className*, *fileName*. There is also a button labeled *All Functions*. The function combo box displays all functions initially. If you select a class name from the *className* combo box and then access the *Function* combo box, all the member functions associated with the selected class appear. If you select a file name from the *fileName* combo box and then access the *Function* combo box, all the selected file appear. The *All Function* button is used to return to displaying all functions after either a class name or file name has been previously selected.

When a function is selected from the *Function* combo box, details about that function are displayed on the screen. The function description, prototype, return description and arguments and their descriptions are displayed.

Printing

The software documentation can be printed. An Access report is included in the database called *Functions and Arguments*. This report will print all the information about every function in the database. This report object can be modified to print information about individual functions.

To print the report, close the documentation screen by clicking on the small button labeled x that is located in the upper right corner of the main documentation screen. The Access database window should now be visible. Click on the Report tab and select the report named *Functions and Arguments*. Click on the printer icon to print the report. Last time I checked, this report was approximately 250 pages long.