

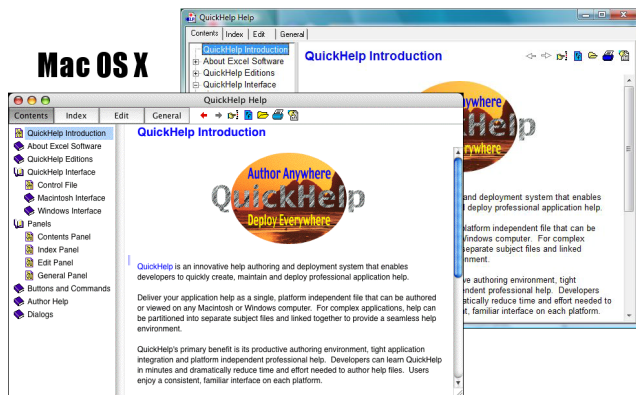


QuickHelp



Author Anywhere, Deploy Everywhere

Windows



Most desktop applications require an integrated help system. Many applications run on both Windows and Macintosh. Product development is seldom a one-time event, but rather an ongoing process of enhancements and evolution. Developers need a strategy to productively author, deploy and maintain application help in a multiple platform world.

QuickHelp makes help development easy for any Windows or Mac OS X computer. QuickHelp is unique in its ability to manage, author and test help information in a single tabbed window running on your platform of choice, then deploy the help system to any computer.

Help information resides in a platform neutral XML file presented by a viewer executable on the computer.

QuickHelp Viewer

The QuickHelp Viewer is available as a stand-alone application or in-process DLL to present your help system to the user. The same help file can present platform or product edition specific help information.

The QuickHelp Viewer can be launched and controlled by your application to present contextual help. It can also send user initiated messages to your application to present windows, dialogs or run commands as the user clicks links in the help system.

Any application can easily control or be controlled by the help window using various communication mechanisms.

The QuickHelp Viewer contains the features users expect in a professional help system.

- Expand and Collapse Table of Contents
- Click Contents or Hypertext Links to Navigate Help
- Click Backwards and Forwards through Recent Topics
- Search for Topics Containing Specific Words
- Click to Topics Associated with Alphabetized Index
- Get Custom Help for Each Product Edition or Platform

QuickHelp Builder

The QuickHelp Builder is essentially the same as the Viewer with the addition of Edit and General panels for authoring the help system. It's a highly productive tool where the developer simply clicks the Contents or Index tab to view the final results.

The QuickHelp Builder has powerful authoring features:

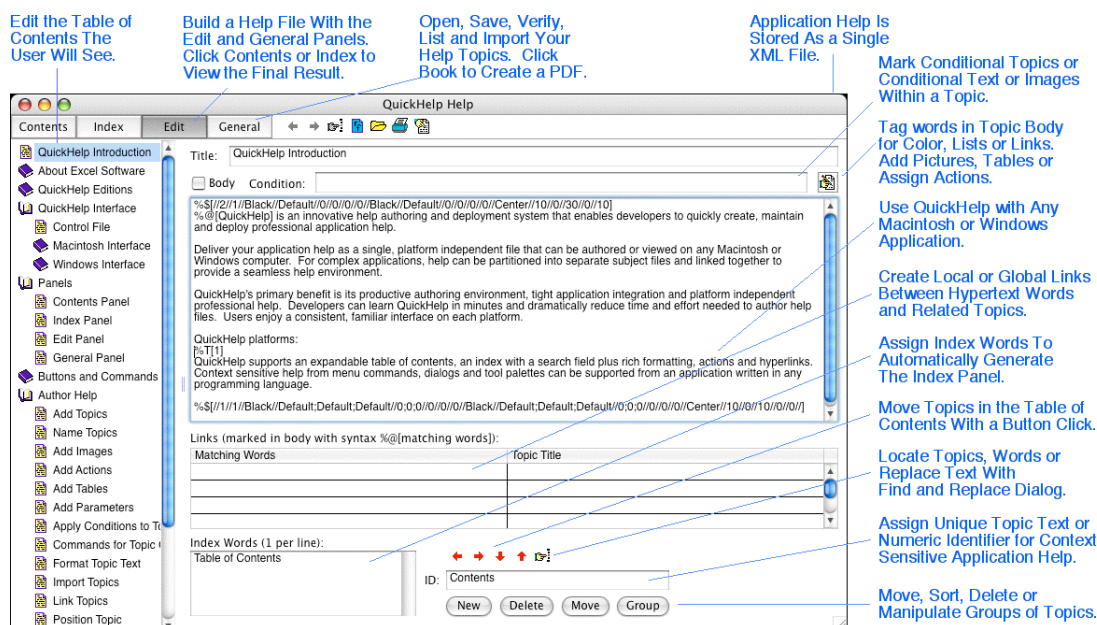
- Create Topics with Colored Text and List Items
- Add Images, Tables and Rich Formatting
- Create Custom Formatting Tags
- Link Application Commands or Dialogs to Help Topics
- Associate Actions with Tables, Images and Text
- Hyperlink Words to Other Topics
- Manage Links and Renamed References
- Import or Export Topics as a Text File
- Position Topics in Table of Contents
- Automatically Build Index from Topic Keywords
- Compile Index To Make Large Help Systems Fast
- Make Partial or Entire Topics Conditional
- Parameterize Help System at Install or Runtime
- Generate PDF Book with Contents and Index

Productive Authoring

QuickHelp provides a highly productive authoring environment. The Edit panel is used to add, edit, delete or move topics within the Contents tree. Formatted text, lists, colored sections, images, tables and links between topics can be quickly added.

Each topic has fields for defining index words and context sensitive identifier strings that link topics to application menus and dialogs.

The General panel has buttons to save, open, close, verify, import or export help topics. Easily manage the images, tables, actions and default options for your help system.



User Initiated Actions

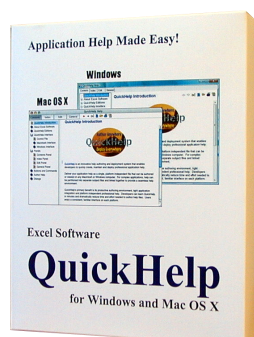
QuickHelp supports user initiated actions like playing a movie, showing a web page, running an executable, presenting a popup message, linking to different topics based on platform, pasting text into the clipboard, running COM methods, sending Apple Events or running a compiled AppleScript. Actions can be initiated when the user clicks on words, table cells or hotspots in an image.

Customized Help

Topics or portions of a topic can be conditionally visible based on the current platform or other variables. Developers can parameterize topics, actions, tables and other aspects of the help system when installing or running their application. A single help file can provide custom help tailored for each platform or product edition.

Merge Help Files

Use the Merge Help tool to combine independently authored help files into one file with an integrated table of contents, index, tables, actions, lists and image library. Common help topics can be maintained once and merged into the main help file for different products.



QuickHelp Integration

Any application can launch QuickHelp and present specific topics based on active menu commands, dialogs or windows. QuickHelp can communicate with the application using Apple Events, COM methods, clipboard communication or a simple control file for sending commands. A manual and help system with examples is included.

Mac, Windows and Unicode Support

QuickHelp is a Universal Binary application for any PPC or Intel based Mac OS X computer. On Windows XP, Vista or 7 it can run from a Standard user or Administrator account.

Text is stored in a platform neutral XML based Unicode format that supports any human language.

Language Conversion

Use the Convert Language tool to simplify help authoring for multiple human languages.



A Translation file is exported from an existing help file with Unicode language strings. A human translates the strings using a word processor. The completed Translation file is imported to apply all text strings to the selected help file.

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