

spectologic

Using HLP files in Windows 10

9. SEPTEMBER 2015 / NINAP

It is amazing how some vendors of libraries in the automation industry still require you to read help files in the old Microsoft hlp format. Trying to open such a file results EDGE to show you the following screen.



To resolve this problem, download and install the Windows Help program (Winhlp32.exe) for your version of Windows.

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/kb/917607>

If you think you can download and install the version for Windows 8.1, you are wrong. But do not throw away your downloaded MSU-File (for Windows 8.1 x64 the name is Windows8.1-KB917607-x64.msu (<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyId=8cc63c95-edb3-4192-8a4a-aa4ce50cac7c>)).

Start your command prompt as Administrator!

(<https://blog.spectologic.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/image1.png>) First extract the content of the MSU File to another directory:

```

C:\Test\ContentMSU
C:\Test>expand Windows8.1-KB917607-x64.msu /S /F * %ContentMSU%
Microsoft File Expansion Utility Version 2.0.10011.16304
Copyright (c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
Adding %ContentMSU%\MSU\SCRM.cab to Extraction Queue
Adding %ContentMSU%\Windows8.1-KB917607-x64.cab to Extraction Queue
Adding %ContentMSU%\Windows8.1-KB917607-x64-pkgproperties.txt to Extraction Queue
Expanding Files ....
Expanding Files Complete ....
4 Files Total.
C:\Test\ContentMSU
C:\Test\ContentMSU
  
```

```
md ContentMSU
expand Windows8.1-KB917607-x64.msu /F: * .\ContentMSU
```

Now we can extract the contained CAB-File:

```
cd ContentMSU

md ContentCAB

expand Windows8.1-KB917607-x64.cab /F: * .\ContentCAB
```

This will extract 279 files. Depending on your culture and language settings we need to locate the right MUI-File. My language is german so I use "de-". English folk use "en-".

```
cd ContentCAB
dir amd64*de-*.
People who use the x86 variant need to run "dir x86*
Navigate to the given path, in my case
cd amd64_microsoft-windows-winhstb.resources_31bf385
```

Here we will find "winhlp32.exe.mui". We need to replace %SystemRoot%\de-de\winhlp32.exe.mui with our new file:

```
takeown /f "%SystemRoot%\de-de\winhlp32.exe.mui "  
icacls "%SystemRoot%\de-de\winhlp32.exe.mui " /grant  
ren %SystemRoot%\de-de\winhlp32.exe.mui winhlp32.exe  
copy winhlp32.exe.mui %SystemRoot%\de-de\winhlp32.ex
```

```
takeown /f "%SystemRoot%\winhlp32.exe"  
icacls "%SystemRoot%\winhlp32.exe" /grant "%UserName  
ren %SystemRoot%\winhlp32.exe winhlp32.exe.w10
```

```
cd ..  
dir *.exe /s
```

```
Find the right path starting either with amd64 or x8  
cd "amd64_microsoft-windows-winhstb_31bf3856ad364e35  
copy winhlp32.exe %SystemRoot%\winhlp32.exe
```

Cheers
AndiP

IT

WINDOWS 10

14 Gedanken zu "Using HLP files in Windows 10"

1. ***gabrielraigosa***

10. DEZEMBER 2015 UM 2:00

It's difficult, you have to be careful, but it worked fine in Windows 10 x 64

Es algo difícil, hay que tener mucho cuidado, pero me funcionó bien en windows 10 x 64

ANTWORTEN

2. ***Bogdan Neagu***

21. DEZEMBER 2015 UM 21:36

Thank you for easing the pain post-upgrade.

For EN-US, on a x86 machine, I did:

```
takeown /f „%SystemRoot%\en-us\winhlp32.exe.mui“
```

```
icacls „%SystemRoot%\en-us\winhlp32.exe.mui“ /grant
„%UserName%“:F
ren %SystemRoot%\en-us\winhlp32.exe.mui
winhlp32.exe.mui.w10
copy winhlp32.exe.mui %SystemRoot%\en-
us\winhlp32.exe.mui

takeown /f „%SystemRoot%\winhlp32.exe“
icacls „%SystemRoot%\winhlp32.exe“ /grant „%UserName%“:F
ren %SystemRoot%\winhlp32.exe winhlp32.exe.w10

cd ..

cd „x86_microsoft-windows-
winhstb_31bf3856ad364e35_6.3.9600.20470_none_be363e6f3e19858c“
copy winhlp32.exe %SystemRoot%\winhlp32.exe
```

ANTWORTEN

3. ***opossum_farceur***

10. JANUAR 2016 UM 19:00

Merci beaucoup pour ce tutoriel : une pure merveille!

Pour la version française, toujours sous W10 64 bits, il suffit de remplacer, dans les instructions en ligne de commande, „de-de“ par „fr-fr“.

danke sehr

ANTWORTEN

4. ***Sandro***

6. MÄRZ 2016 UM 1:26

I tried you solution.

It worked, and now I can read HLP file of my Borland Delphi 7 on my Windows 10 Pro 64 bit.

Thank you very very very much !!!

God bless you !

Bye, Sandro

ANTWORTEN

5. ***Sandro***

6. MÄRZ 2016 UM 21:22

I tried this solution... it works!!!

Now I can read my Borland Delphi 7 Help files in my Windows 10 Pro 64 bit !!!

Thank you very very very much!!!

Bye, Sandro

ANTWORTEN

6. Pingback: Getting Winhlp32 work on Windows 10 – Tonmann.com

7. Neil B.

11. JANUAR 2017 UM 14:04

„It is amazing how some vendors of libraries.....“ – well, some USERS, (remember them?) have older programs because they can't afford to upgrade to the latest version OR there is no current program that does the same as the old one. YOU may have unlimited funds or the ability to write new programs, users generally don't have either.

ANTWORTEN**8. Andy Hughson**

9. FEBRUAR 2017 UM 12:32

Wow – what an absolute genius!

Your solution worked perfectly for me. I huge big thank you.

Andy

ANTWORTEN**9. GollyRojer**

12. APRIL 2017 UM 23:18

Awesome. A thousand blessings upon you.

ANTWORTEN**10. Unknow**

3. DEZEMBER 2018 UM 19:06

you are awesome. That worked

ANTWORTEN**11. snolsen**

27. SEPTEMBER 2019 UM 12:00

This worked for me, thanks a lot!

Note 1: Once you have the .msu and .cab extracted, you can also use Windows explorer to copy the relevant files (you will get gui dialogs asking to confirm renaming/copying operations)

Note 2: The .msu files contains only en-US, not en-GB. I have a en-GB system and had to rename the existing „\$SYSTEMROOT\$\en-GB\winhlp32.exe.mui“ to something else, and place the downloaded winhlp32.exe.mui in „%SYSTEMROOT%\en-US“ for this to work.

Thanks again, this is a lifesaver when working on old C++ Builder 6 applications (Especially since the old docs are nowhere to be found online anymore)

ANTWORTEN**12. Pingback: Getting Winhlp32 work on Windows 10 – Tonmann.com**

13. Willem van de Water

7. APRIL 2021 UM 10:30

Thank you,

your info and your website really helped ! A much simpler solution is: dig the winhelp32.exe and winhelp32.exe.mui files from your old windows backup (W7 in my case), rename them to winhelp32_john.exe and winhelp32_john.exe.mui, or so, and place them in your \windows and \windows\en-us directories, respectively (assuming that en-us is your language). Next change the association of .hlp files to winhelp32_john.exe. That is all.

ANTWORTEN**14. Amir**

28. OKTOBER 2021 UM 11:09

OMG it works !!!

Delphi 6 help works on Win10 64bit.

God bless you !

ANTWORTEN

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