

HTML Help ActiveX control reference

The HTML Help ActiveX control reference provides information about how to use the control in an HTML file and how to set its commands and parameters.

The [overview](#) section describes the functionality of the HTML Help ActiveX control (Hhctrl.ocx) and how it interacts with Microsoft Internet Explorer. They explain how to insert the control into an HTML file and how to code the `<OBJECT>` and `<PARAM>` tags. They also discuss how to work with multiple instances of the control.

- The [parameters](#) section explains how to code the `<PARAM>` tag and provide comprehensive reference information for all parameters with a link to each command that uses a specific parameter.
- The [commands](#) section explains how to specify a command and provide comprehensive reference information for all commands, including syntax descriptions and code examples.
- The [methods](#) section provides comprehensive reference information for all methods, including syntax descriptions and code examples.

[HTML Help ActiveX control overview](#)

The HTML Help ActiveX control (Hhctrl.ocx) provides a rich feature set for help systems. Key features include: an expanding table of contents, keyword search, shortcuts, and pop-up help topics. The control is one of the authoring components that ships with Microsoft HTML Help. It is also included with many third-party HTML Help authoring tools.

The control provides functionality for two types of help systems:

A compiled help (.chm) file The control uses both an Internet Explorer DLL (Shdocvw.dll) and the HTML Help compiler to offer a variety of features. Users view compiled help files in the Help Viewer. Compiled help files often ship with the programs that they document.

Uncompiled HTML files on a Web site:

The control uses Microsoft Internet Explorer to provide a subset of its feature set. The features of HTML Help can be used on a Web site to present a wide variety of content, from Web-based help to a Web site focused on entertainment. The HTML Help ActiveX control is designed to work with Internet Explorer and the Shdocvw.dll component. It does not include the design-time support that is necessary to use it with development tools, such as Microsoft Visual Basic Scripting Edition and Microsoft Visual Studio.

Notes

- For more information about ActiveX technology, see Microsoft's [Component Object Model \(COM\) technologies](#) Web site.

 [About the HTML Help ActiveX control reference](#)

Inserting the HTML Help ActiveX control

You can add the HTML Help ActiveX control to an HTML file by using the standard HTML <OBJECT> tag. The <OBJECT> tag includes a set of parameters that you use to specify which data the control should use, and to control the appearance and behavior of the control.

Whether you use the control in a compiled help (.chm) file or in uncompiled HTML files, you can insert the control using the HTML Help ActiveX Control Wizard, or you can insert it manually, by typing the appropriate [<OBJECT>](#) tag code.

Inserting the control using HTML Help Workshop

Use the HTML Help ActiveX Control Wizard, which is included in the HTML Help Workshop, to author any of the [commands](#) in an HTML file.

To use the HTML Help ActiveX Control Wizard, start HTML Help Workshop, and then open an HTML file. Position your cursor anywhere between the <BODY> start and end tags, and then click [**HTML Help ActiveX Control**](#).

To edit an existing instance of the control, position your cursor anywhere within the <OBJECT> start and end tags of the control, and then click **HTML Help ActiveX Control**.

Inserting the control manually

The easiest way to work with the control is to insert it using the HTML Help ActiveX Control Wizard. However, you can also copy an existing instance of the control from one HTML file into another. You can then edit the `<OBJECT>` tag code manually.

When you copy an existing control, make sure to copy all the text from the start `<OBJECT>` tag through the end `</OBJECT>` tag. You should then paste the text anywhere between the `<BODY>` start and end tags of an HTML file.

- Never omit the `PARAM` tag from the HTML Help ActiveX control Object tag, as this may result in unexpected behavior.

Note

HTML Help ActiveX control syntax

All of the code required for an instance of the HTML Help ActiveX control is contained within the HTML <OBJECT> start and end tags. Use the <OBJECT> tag to specify a [command](#), such as **Splash** or **Contents**, and to call a [method](#), such as **Click** or **TextPopup**.

Using the HTML Help ActiveX Control Wizard in HTML Help Workshop, you can [insert](#) the basic syntax automatically.

Coding the HTML <OBJECT> tag

The <OBJECT> tag enables you to embed the HTML Help ActiveX control directly in a file. The attributes in the following table are required by the control.

Attribute	Description
ID	<p>Specifies the name by which the HTML Help ActiveX control will be known to the HTML file. The default ID is HHCTRL, but you can specify any name you want.</p> <p>For example, if you entered Test as the ID, you would use that same ID to refer to the control from a script.</p> <p>If you use multiple instances of the HTML Help ActiveX control in a file, each instance must have a unique ID.</p>
TYPE	Specifies the MIME type for the object. The HTML Help ActiveX control TYPE is application/x-oleobject .
CLASSID	<p>Uniquely identifies the HTML Help ActiveX control from other ActiveX controls. The HTML Help ActiveX control identifier is the registry key number and is the same for every instance of the control that you use.</p> <p>The HTML Help ActiveX control CLASSID is clsid:adb880a6-d8ff-11cf-9377-00aa003b7a11.</p>
CODEBASE	Specifies the version number of the HTML Help ActiveX control. Enables the automatic download mechanism of ActiveX controls and full version

	checking.
<u>PARAM</u>	<p>The PARAM attribute, which is also an HTML tag with attributes specific to it, lists a sequence of NAME and VALUE attribute pairs that are passed to the HTML Help ActiveX control to specify which HTML Help feature to provide and how to provide it. This attribute is required for all instances of the HTML Help ActiveX Control. Omitting the <PARAM> tag from an HTML Help ActiveX control <OBJECT> tag may result in unexpected behavior.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Several standard <OBJECT> tag attributes, such as ALIGN, BORDER, CODETYPE, DECLARE, HEIGHT, HSPACE, NAME, SHAPES, STANDBY, USEMAP, VSPACE, and WIDTH, can also be used to define the appearance and position of the HTML Help ActiveX control.

Notes

- WIDTH and HEIGHT values can be expressed in percentage, followed by a percent sign, or in pixels (numeric value only).
- The HTML Help ActiveX control does not support the <OBJECT> tag DATA attribute.

Coding the <PARAM> tag

The <PARAM> tag is used to pass a sequence of [parameters](#) to the HTML Help ActiveX control to specify a feature and any additional information that the feature may require.

The <PARAM> tag is valid only within an <OBJECT> tag. The end tag is optional.

Attribute	Description
NAME	Specifies a parameter. The first parameter in the sequence must be Command .
VALUE	Specifies a valid value for the parameter specified in the NAME attribute. Never omit the <PARAM> tag from an HTML Help ActiveX control <OBJECT> tag, as this may result in unexpected behavior.

- Notes**
- For more information about other attributes supported by the <OBJECT> and <PARAM> tags, see a comprehensive HTML Reference, such as the Microsoft Site Builder Network (SBN) [HTML Elements](#) reference.

 [About the HTML Help ActiveX control](#)

Using multiple instances of the control

It is not uncommon for a single HTML file to contain multiple instances of the HTML Help ActiveX control. For example, if you want to add a splash screen, provide a list of **Related Topic** links, and open a WinHelp topic all from one HTML file, then that file would contain three instances of the control. Each instance would call one [command](#).

If multiple instances of the control are used in the same file, each instance must have a unique name specified in the ID attribute of the <OBJECT> tag. The ID attribute is case-sensitive.

 [About the HTML Help ActiveX control](#)

Parameters

A parameter is a set of [**<PARAM>**](#) tags with NAME and VALUE attributes that specify a [**command**](#) and information required by the command.

For example, when you specify the **Contents** command, you must also specify a contents (.hhc) file using the **Item1** parameter.

Some parameters are used with more than one command. For information about a specific instance of a parameter, see the command for which it is used.

- [Default Topic](#)

Parameters quick reference

- [Flags](#)

- [Font](#)
- [Frame](#)
- [Item](#)
- [Text](#)

 [About the HTML Help ActiveX control](#)

Button parameter

Use the **Button** parameter to create a button that will invoke a command when clicked. You can select from several button styles.

Applies to

[ALink Close](#)

[HH Version](#)

[KLink](#)

[Related Topics](#)

[Shortcut](#)

[TCard](#)

[WinHelp](#)

Valid values

When clicked, the following example buttons each call the **HH Version** command.

Syntax	Description	Example
<code><PARAM name="Button" value="Text:button text"></code>	Button with a text label.	
<code><PARAM name="Button" value=""></code>	"Chiclet" button.	
<code><PARAM name="Button" value="Bitmap:shortcut"></code>	Button with a shortcut icon.	
<code><PARAM name="Button" ...></code>	Button with	

<code><PARAM name="Image" value="Bitmap:<i>path to .bmp file</i>"></code>	a bitmap image.		
<code><PARAM name="Button" value="Icon:<i>path to .ico file</i>"></code>	Button with an icon.		

Example

The following example uses a button with a bitmap image to call the **HH Version** command.

```
<OBJECT
  id=bitmap
  type="application/x-oleobject"
  classid="clsid:adb880a6-d8ff-11cf-9377-00aa003b7a11"
  codebase="HHCTRL.ocx#Version=4,72,8252,0"
  width=100
  height=100
>
<PARAM name="Command" value="HH Version">
<PARAM name="Button" value="Bitmap: bmpbutton.bmp">
</OBJECT>
```

Help project (.hhp) file.

Comments

 [About parameters](#)

Command parameter

Use the **Command** parameter to specify an HTML Help [command](#).

Applies to

[ALink Close](#)

[Contents](#)

[HH Version](#)

[Index](#)

[KLink](#)

[Related Topics](#)

[Shortcut](#)

[Splash](#)

[TCard](#)

[WinHelp](#)

Valid values

Syntax	Description
<pre><PARAM name="Command" value="<i>command name</i> [,menu dialog [,popup]]"></pre>	<p>Specifies the command to invoke.</p> <p>The ALink, KLink, and Related Topics commands include a setting ([,menu dialog]) that specifies whether to display target topics on a pop-up menu or in a dialog box.</p> <p>The WinHelp command includes a setting ([,popup]) that specifies the window type in which to display the specified WinHelp topic.</p> <p>Multiple Command parameter values are delimited by a comma.</p>

 [About parameters](#)

Default Topic parameter

Use the **Default Topic** parameter to specify a topic to navigate to if an [ALink](#) or [KLink](#) cannot locate the target topic.

Applies to

[ALink](#) [KLink](#)

Valid values

Syntax	Description	Notes
<PARAM name="Default Topic" value=" <i>File name or HTTP URL</i> ">	Specifies an HTML file name or an HTTP URL to navigate to if the link fails.	The Default Topic parameter is optional.

 [About parameters](#)

Flags parameter

Use the **Flags** parameter to specify how topics should be searched for, and how they should appear, for certain commands.

Applies to

[ALink Contents](#)

[KLink](#)

Valid values

Syntax	Description	Notes
<code><PARAM name="Flags" value="1"></code>	Used with the ALink or KLink commands to specify that when a single target topic is found, the topic should appear in the window type specified in the Command parameter.	If this parameter is empty (value=" "), clicking the ALink or KLink navigates directly to the target topic when a single topic is found.
<code><PARAM name="Flags" value=",,1"></code>	Used with the ALink or KLink commands to specify that when a target topic cannot be found, the ALink or KLink button (or text) should be unavailable.	If this parameter is empty (value=" "), clicking the ALink or KLink opens a Topic Not Found dialog box when the topic cannot be located.
<code><PARAM name="Flags" value="numeric value of selected window styles"></code>	Used with the Contents command to store the numeric value of the selected window style attributes.	The window style hexadecimal numeric values are not currently mapped. We recommend that you use the HTML Help ActiveX Control Wizard to select window styles. The wizard automatically inserts the appropriate parameter values in the format <code>0xn</code> .

 [About parameters](#)

Font parameter

Use the **Font** parameter to specify font attributes for the [Text](#) or [Button](#) parameter.

Applies to

[ALink Close](#)

[HH Version](#)

[KLink](#)

[Related Topics](#)

[Shortcut](#)

[TCard](#)

[WinHelp](#)

Valid values

Syntax	Description	Notes
<pre><PARAM name="Font" value="Facename[, point size[, charset[, color[, PLAIN BOLD ITALIC UNDERLINE]]]"></pre>	Specifies the following font attributes: font family, point size, character set, color, and format options.	The Font parameter is optional. The default font settings are: "Helvetica,12,,PLAIN" For best results, specify only standard system fonts. The Font parameter may be ignored if the character set conflicts with the language ID of the help file.

 [About parameters](#)

Frame parameter

Use the **Frame** parameter to specify the frame in which you want target topics to appear.

Applies to

[ALink](#) [KLink](#)

[Related Topics](#)

Valid values

Syntax	Description	Notes
<PARAM name="Frame" value=" <i>frame name</i> ">	If you are using a frameset, specifies the frame for the selected topic to appear in.	The Frame parameter is optional.

 [About parameters](#)

Item parameter

The **Item** parameter is dependent on the specified command. For usage information, see the individual commands that use this parameter.

Applies to

[ALink Contents](#)

[Index](#)

[KLink](#)

[Related Topics](#)

[Shortcut](#)

[Splash](#)

[TCard](#)

[WinHelp](#)

Valid values

Syntax	Description
<pre><PARAM name="Item1" value=" "><PARAM name="Item2" value=" "><PARAM name="Item3" value=" "> Valid values depend on which command is specified.</pre>	<p>Specifies the .hhc file path and one or more ALink names to look up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Index: Specifies the .hhk file path.KLink: Specifies the .chm file path and one or more keywords to look up.Related Topics: Specifies an entry in the Related Topics list.Shortcut: Specifies the program to open. Depending on the functionality you want to implement with the Shortcut command, you may need to supply additional information.Splash: Specifies the image file path and length of time the image will appear.TCard: Specifies the <i>wPARAM</i> and <i>lPARAM</i> values to pass to the Windows WM_TCARD message. Depending on the functionality you want to implement with TCard, you may need to supply additional information.WinHelp: Specifies the .hlp file path and topic ID (or map number).

[? About parameters](#)

Text parameter

Use the **Text** parameter to create a link that will invoke a command when clicked.

Applies to

[ALink Close](#)

[HH Version](#)

[KLink](#)

[Related Topics](#)

[Shortcut](#)

[TCard](#)

[WinHelp](#)

Valid values

Syntax	Description	Notes
<PARAM name="Text" value=" <i>Text: Link text</i> ">	Specifies the link text.	The Text parameter is optional.

 [About parameters](#)

About commands

The [Command](#) parameter supports a set of values, known as *commands*. Each value specifies an action for the HTML Help ActiveX control to carry out. Most of the commands require that you specify additional [parameters](#) that determine exactly how to carry out the action.

Use the commands to add functionality to a compiled help (.chm) file or a set of uncompiled HTML files. For example, the [Contents](#) command adds a graphical table of contents to your help system based on a contents (.hhc) file that you specify.

process of [Inserting](#) the HTML Help ActiveX control in a file.

Notes
Only one command can be specified in any single instance of the control.

- A command should be located in an HTML file exactly where you want the feature to appear.

Commands quick reference

Command	Use with a compiled help file	Use with uncompiled HTML files
ALink	X	
Close	X	
Contents	X	X
HH Version	X	X
Index	X	X
KLink	X	
Related Topics	X	X
Shortcut	X	
Splash	X	X
TCard	X	
WinHelp	X	

 [About the HTML Help ActiveX control](#)

ALink command

Purpose

Creates Associative links (ALinks) that jump to target HTML files that contain the specified ALink names. The list of target topics appears [on a pop-up menu or in a dialog box](#).

This command can be used only with a compiled help (.chm) file.

Syntax

```
<PARAM name="Command"      value="ALink [,menu|dialog]">

<PARAM name="Item1"        value=".chm file path">

<PARAM name="Item2"        value="ALink text">

[<PARAM name="Button"      value="[Text: Button text|Bitmap:Bitmap file path]

[<PARAM name="Default Topic" value="File name or HTTP URL">]

[<PARAM name="Font"        value="Facename[, point size[, charset[, color[, I

[<PARAM name="Flags"        value=",,1">]

[<PARAM name="Flags"        value="1">]

[<PARAM name="Frame"       value="Frame Name">]

[<PARAM name="Text"        value="Text: Link text">]
```

Property	Description
Button	Specifies the button style. Optional.
Command	<p>Calls the ALink command and specifies whether to display target topics on a pop-up menu or in a dialog box.</p> <p>If you do not specify a display option, a dialog box appears by default.</p> <p>To specify the Topics Found dialog box, type dialog.</p> <p>To specify a pop-up menu, type menu.</p>

Default Topic	Specifies the topic to navigate to if the look up fails. Optional.
Flags	Specifies how to behave if only one target is found or if the target is unavailable.
Font	Specifies the font attributes. Optional.
Frame	Specifies the frame in which to display the selected topic. Optional.
Item1	Specifies the compiled help file that contains the target topics.
Item2	<p>Specifies the text for one ALINK name. This text must match an ALINK name that has previously been inserted into one or more topics using the Compiler Information feature.</p> <p>Subsequent ALINK names are specified as Item3, Item4, etc.</p>
Text	Specifies the link text. Optional.

Example

Note that in this example ALink targets will appear in the **Topics Found** dialog box because neither dialog nor menu is specified in the **Command** parameter value.

```
<OBJECT  
    id=MyControl  
    type="application/x-oleobject"  
    classid="clsid:adb880a6-d8ff-11cf-9377-00aa003b7a11"  
    codebase="HHCTRL.ocx#Version=4,72,8252,0"  
    width=100  
    height=100  
>  
<PARAM name="Command" value="ALink">  
<PARAM name="Button" value="Text:See Also">  
<PARAM name="Item1" value="c:\Help\MyFile.chm">  
<PARAM name="Item2" value="overview">  
<PARAM name="Item3" value="bibliography">  
</OBJECT>
```

Sample ALink command

- To add ALink names to an HTML file, use the **Compiler Information** **Comments** command, which is available on the **Edit** menu of HTML Help Workshop.

 [About commands](#)

Close command

Purpose

Closes the window in which the current topic appears.

You can use the **Close** command to close a secondary window that does not include a **Close** button.

The **Close** command could also be used with a help wizard. For example, a user could answer the question "Did this solve your problem?" by clicking **No**, which would link to the next topic, or clicking **Yes**, which would close the window.

This command can be used only with a compiled help (.chm) file.

Syntax

```
<PARAM name="Command" value="Close">  
[<PARAM name="Button" value="[Text: Button text|Bitmap: Bitmap file path|Ic  
[<PARAM name="Font" value="Facename[, point size[, charset[, color[, PLA  
[<PARAM name="Text" value="Text: Link text">]
```

Property	Description
Button	Specifies the button style. Optional.
Command	Calls the Close command.
Font	Specifies the font attributes. Optional.
Text	Specifies the link text. Optional.

Example

```
<OBJECT  
    id=MyControl  
    type="application/x-oleobject"  
    classid="clsid:adb880a6-d8ff-11cf-9377-00aa003b7a11"  
    codebase="HHCTRL.ocx#Version=4,72,8252,0"  
    width=100  
    height=100  
>  
  
<PARAM name="Command" value="Close">  
<PARAM name="Button" value="Text:Close this window!">  
</OBJECT>
```

[About commands](#)

Comments

Contents command

Purpose

Creates a graphical table of contents that displays a specified contents (.hhc) file.

This command can be used with either a compiled help (.chm) file or uncompiled HTML files.

Syntax

```
<PARAM name="Command" value="Contents">
```

```
<PARAM name="Item1"  value=".hhc file path">
```

```
<PARAM name="Flags"  value="0xn,0xn">
```

Property	Description
Command	Calls the Contents command.
Flags	Specifies ExWindow Styles and Window Styles values for the selected window style attributes. The values are stored as hexadecimal numbers in the format <i>0xn</i> . We recommend that you use the HTML Help ActiveX Control Wizard to select window styles. The wizard automatically inserts the appropriate parameter values in the format <i>0xn</i> .
Item1	Specifies the contents (.hhc) file path.

Example

```
<OBJECT
  id=MyControl
  type="application/x-oleobject"
  classid="clsid:adb880a6-d8ff-11cf-9377-00aa003b7a11"
  codebase="HHCTRL.ocx#Version=4,72,8252,0"
  width=100%
  height=100%
>

<PARAM name="Command" value="Contents">
<PARAM name="Item1" value="C:\toc.hhc">
<PARAM name="Flags" value="0x4000,0x800035">
</OBJECT>
```

contents (.nmc) file using the **Table of Contents** dialog box in HTML Help Workshop.

Comments

 [About commands](#)

HH Version command

Purpose

Displays the version number of the HTML Help ActiveX control (Hhctrl.ocx) in a dialog box.

This command helps users to determine whether they are using the most current version of HTML Help.

This command can be used with either a compiled help (.chm) file or uncompiled HTML files.

Syntax

```
<PARAM name="Command" value="HH Version">  
[<PARAM name="Button" value="[Text: Button text|Bitmap: Bitmap file path|Ic  
[<PARAM name="Font" value="Facename[, point size[, charset[, color[, PLA  
[<PARAM name="Text" value="Text: Link text">]
```

Property	Description
Button	Specifies the button style. Optional.
Command	Calls the HH Version command.
Font	Specifies the font attributes. Optional.
Text	Specifies the link text. Optional.

Example

```
<OBJECT  
    id=MyControl  
    type="application/x-oleobject"  
    classid="clsid:adb880a6-d8ff-11cf-9377-00aa003b7a11"  
    codebase="HHCTRL.ocx#Version=4,72,8252,0"  
    width=100  
    height=100  
>  
  
<PARAM name="Command" value="HH Version">  
<PARAM name="Button" value="Text:Click for version number">  
</OBJECT>
```

Sample HH Version command

Click [here](#) to see the version number of the HTML Help ActiveX control used in this topic.

[About commands](#)

Comments

Index command

Purpose

Creates a graphical index that displays a specified index (.hhk) file.

This command can be used with either a compiled help (.chm) file or uncompiled HTML files.

Syntax

```
<PARAM name="Command" value="Index">  
<PARAM name="Item1"  value=".hhk file path">
```

Property	Description
Command	Calls the Index command.
Item1	Specifies the index (.hhk) file path.

Example

```
<OBJECT  
    id=MyControl  
    type="application/x-oleobject"  
    classid="clsid:adb880a6-d8ff-11cf-9377-00aa003b7a11"  
    codebase="HHCTRL.ocx#Version=4,72,8252,0"  
    width=100%  
    height=100%  
>  
  
<PARAM name="Command" value="Index">  
<PARAM name="Item1" value="c:\Index Files\MyIndex.hhk">  
</OBJECT>
```

 [About commands](#)

KLink command

Purpose

Creates Keyword links (KLinks) that jump to target HTML files that contain the specified keyword(s). The list of target topics appears [on a pop-up menu or in a dialog box](#).

This command can be used only with a compiled help (.chm) file.

Syntax

```
<PARAM name="Command"      value="KLink [,menu|,dialog]">

<PARAM name="Item1"        value=".chm file path">

<PARAM name="Item2"        value="keyword text">

[<PARAM name="Button"      value="[Text: Button text|Bitmap: Bitmap file pat

[<PARAM name="Default Topic" value="File name or HTTP URL">]

[<PARAM name="Font"         value="Facename[, point size[, charset[, color[, I

[<PARAM name="Flags"        value=",,1">]

[<PARAM name="Flags"        value="1">]

[<PARAM name="Frame"        value="Frame Name">]

[<PARAM name="Text"         value="Text: Link text">]
```

Property	Description
Button	Specifies the button style. Optional.
Command	<p>Calls the KLink command and specifies whether to display target topics on a pop-up menu or in a dialog box.</p> <p>If you do not specify a display option, a dialog box appears by default.</p> <p>To specify the Topics Found dialog box, type dialog.</p> <p>To specify a pop-up menu, type menu.</p>

Default Topic	Specifies the topic to navigate to if the look up fails. Optional.
Flags	Specifies how the command will behave if only one target is found or the target is unavailable.
Font	Specifies the font attributes. Optional.
Frame	Specifies the frame in which to display the selected topic. Optional.
Item1	Specifies the compiled help (.chm) file that contains the target topics.
Item2	Specifies a keyword. This text must match a keyword that has previously been inserted into one or more topics using the Compiler Information command. Subsequent keywords are specified as Item3, Item4, etc.
Text	Specifies the link text. Optional.

Example

Note that KLink targets will appear on a pop-up menu in this example because menu is specified in the **Command** parameter.

```
<OBJECT
  id=MyControl
  type="application/x-oleobject"
  classid="clsid:adb880a6-d8ff-11cf-9377-00aa003b7a11"
  codebase="HHCTRL.ocx#Version=4,72,8252,0"
  width=100
  height=100
>

<PARAM name="Command" value="KLink, menu">
<PARAM name="Button" value="Text:Animal Diets">
<PARAM name="Item1" value="animals.chm">
<PARAM name="Item2" value="omnivore">
<PARAM name="Item3" value="carnivore">
</OBJECT>
```

Sample KLink Command

- To add keywords to a target HTML file, use the **Compiler Information** **Comments** command, which is available on the **Edit** menu of HTML Help Workshop.

 [About commands](#)

Related Topics command

Purpose

Displays a list of target topics that a user can jump to. The **Item** parameter stores information about each target. The list of target topics appears [on a pop-up menu or in a dialog box](#).

This command can be used with either a compiled help (.chm) file or uncompiled HTML files.

Syntax

```
<PARAM name="Command" value="Related Topics [,menu|dialog]">

<PARAM name="Item1" value="Topic1;Main URL for Topic1;Alternate URL |
[<PARAM name="Button" value="[Text: Button text|Bitmap: Bitmap file path|Icon: Icon file path]">
[<PARAM name="Font" value="Facename[, point size[, charset[, color[, PLA]]]">
[<PARAM name="Frame" value="Frame Name">]
[<PARAM name="Text" value="Text: Link text">]
```

Property	Description
Button	Specifies the button style. Optional.
Command	Calls the Related Topics command and specifies whether to display target topics on a pop-up menu or in a dialog box . If you do not specify a display option, a dialog box appears by default. To specify the Topics Found dialog box, type dialog . To specify a pop-up menu, type menu . • Topic title as you want it to appear in the Topics Found dialog box or menu. Optional.
Font	Specifies the font. Optional.
Frame	Specifies the frame in which to display the selected topic. Optional. • Alternate topic to display if the first topic is unavailable. Specifies the following information about the target topic: Multiple values are delimited by a semicolon.
Item1	To specify subsequent topic information, use Item2 , Item3,

	etc.
Text	Specifies the link text. Optional.

Example

```
<OBJECT  
    id=candomble  
    type="application/x-oleobject"  
    classid="clsid:adb880a6-d8ff-11cf-9377-00aa003b7a11"  
    codebase="Hhctrl.ocx#Version=4,72,8252,0"  
    width=100  
    height=100  
>  
  
<PARAM name="Command" value="Related Topics, MENU">  
<PARAM name="Button" value="Text:See Also">  
<PARAM name="Item1" value="About Oxala;oxala.html;http://example.microsoft.com">  
<PARAM name="Item2" value="About Yemanja;Yemanja.html;http://example.microsoft.com">  
<PARAM name="Item3" value="About Oba;oba.html;http://example.microsoft.com">  
<PARAM name="Item4" value="About Ogum;ogum.html;http://example.microsoft.com">  
<PARAM name="Item5" value="Bad Link;bad_link.html;http://example.microsoft.com">  
</OBJECT>
```

Sample Related Topics command

[About commands](#)

Comments

Shortcut command

Purpose

Creates a shortcut to a specified action by passing Windows-based messages and parameters. For example, if a topic discusses a procedure that involves a specific dialog box, you can provide a link that a user can click in the topic to open the dialog box in the program.

This command can be used only with a compiled help (.chm) file.

Syntax

```
<PARAM name="Command" value="ShortCut">

<PARAM name="Item1" value=",program name,parameters">

<PARAM name="Item2" value="message ID,wPARAM,lPARAM">

[<PARAM name="Button" value="[Text: Button text|Bitmap: Bitmap file path|Icon: Icon file path]">

[<PARAM name="Font" value="Facename[, point size[, charset[, color[, PLA]]]">

[<PARAM name="Text" value="Text: Link text">]
```

Property	Description
Button	Specifies the button style. Optional.
Command	Calls the Shortcut command.
Font	Specifies the font attributes. Optional.
Item1	Specifies the file path to the executable file (.exe) for the program, and any parameters to be sent to the program. These values are delimited by a comma. HTML Help does not support %WINDIR% or other system variables in the file path.
Item2	Specifies the message ID of a standard Windows message, a <i>wPARAM</i> value, and a <i>lPARAM</i> value. These values are delimited by a comma.
Text	Specifies the link text. Optional.

Example

```
<OBJECT  
    id=shortcut  
    type="application/x-oleobject"  
    classid="clsid:adb880a6-d8ff-11cf-9377-00aa003b7a11"  
    codebase="hhctrl.ocx#Version=4,72,8252,0"  
    width=100  
    height=100  
>  
  
<PARAM name="Command" value="ShortCut">  
  
<PARAM name="Button" value="Bitmap:shortcut">  
  
<PARAM name="Item1" value="notepad/notepad.exe,">  
  
<PARAM name="Item2" value="273,1,1">  
</OBJECT>
```

Sample Shortcut command

- For more information about security restrictions that apply to shortcuts, see [About Shortcuts](#).

 [About commands](#)

Splash command

Purpose

Displays an image for a specified number of seconds when the file that contains the HTML Help ActiveX control is opened. For example, using the **Splash** command, you could display a product logo or welcome message when a compiled help (.chm) file or Web page is first opened.

This command can be used with either a compiled help file or uncompiled HTML files.

Syntax

```
<PARAM name="Command" value="Splash">  
  
<PARAM name="Item1" value="image file path">  
  
<PARAM name="Item2" value="millisecond value">  
  
[<PARAM name="Item3" value="alternate image file path">]
```

Property	Description
Command	Calls the Splash command.
Item1	Specifies the image file path. Supported image file formats are .gif, .jpeg, or .bmp.
Item2	Specifies the length of time to display the image in milliseconds (1000 milliseconds = 1 second).
Item3	Specifies an alternate image file to display if the user's display configuration supports more than 256 colors. Optional.

Example

```
<OBJECT  
    id=splash  
    type="application/x-oleobject"  
    classid="clsid:adb880a6-d8ff-11cf-9377-00aa003b7a11"  
    codebase="Hhctrl.ocx#Version=4,72,8252,0"  
>  
<PARAM name="Command" value="Splash">  
<PARAM name="Item1" value="test.gif">  
<PARAM name="Item2" value="5000">  
</OBJECT>
```

Sample Splash command

Click [here](#) to see a splash screen.

<FRAMESET> start and end tags is currently not supported. If you want to use the **Splash** command with a frameset, insert the control within the default HTML file that is specified in the frameset document.

 [About commands](#)

TCard command

Purpose

Sends a Windows **WM_TCARD** message to the calling program to invoke a training card topic or to perform some other action.

Training cards are help topics that interact with the calling program by sending the appropriate message parameters via **WM_TCARD** in response to a user action, such as clicking a button within the help window. The calling program then handles the message and responds by performing a specific action. The action can be anything from calling an HTML Help API function to opening an application dialog box.

Typical uses of training cards include guiding users through the steps of a certain task or a troubleshooting process.

This command can be used only with a compiled help (.chm) file.

Syntax

```
<PARAM name="Command" value="TCard">

<PARAM name="Item1" value="wPARAM, lPARAM">

[<PARAM name="Button" value="[Text: Button text|Bitmap: Bitmap file path|Icon: Icon file path]

[<PARAM name="Text" value="Text: Link text">

[<PARAM name="Font" value="Facename[, point size[, charset[, color[, PLA]]]]"
```

Property	Description
Button	Specifies the button style. Optional.
Command	Calls the TCard command.
Font	Specifies the font attributes. Optional.
Item1	Specifies the <i>wPARAM</i> and the <i>lPARAM</i> parameter values to pass to the WM_TCARD message. <i>wPARAM</i> usually identifies a user action; this value must be numeric. <i>lPARAM</i> may contain additional data, depending on the value of <i>wPARAM</i> ; this value may be numeric or string.
Text	Specifies the link text. Optional.

Example

```
<OBJECT  
    id=training  
    type="application/x-oleobject"  
    classid="clsid:adb880a6-d8ff-11cf-9377-00aa003b7a11"  
    codebase="HHCTRL.ocx#Version=4,72,8252,0"  
    width=100  
    height=100  
>  
  
<PARAM name="Command" value="TCard">  
  
<PARAM name="Button" value="Text: This is a training card">  
  
<PARAM name="Item1" value="5555, MyText">  
</OBJECT>
```

use the [TCard method](#).

Comments

To implement training card topics, code must be added to the calling program to handle **WM_TCARD** messages.

 [About commands](#)

WinHelp command

Purpose

Displays a WinHelp topic in the WinHelp primary window, a WinHelp secondary window, or in a WinHelp pop-up window. The specific window attributes, such as size and position, background color, and button bar items, are based on the definitions in the [WINDOWS] section of the specified WinHelp project (.hpj) file.

This command can be used only with a compiled help (.chm) file.

Syntax

```
<PARAM name="Command" value="WinHelp [,Popup]>  
<PARAM name="Item2"  value="topic ID|map number">  
<PARAM name="Item1"  value="WinHelp (.hlp) file path [>window name]">  
[<PARAM name="Button" value="[Text: Button text|Bitmap: Bitmap file path|Icon: Ic  
[<PARAM name="Font"   value="Facename[, point size[, charset[, color[, PLA  
[<PARAM name="Text"   value="Text: Link text"]]
```

- To display a pop-up WinHelp window, type **Popup**.

Property	Description
Button	Specifies the button style. Optional. If no window, do not specify a window type and specify a window name.
Command	Specifies the WinHelp command and specifies a WinHelp window type . <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To display the WinHelp main window, do not specify a window type or a window name (in the Item1 parameter).
Font	Specifies the font attributes. Optional.
Item1	Specifies the file path of the WinHelp (.hlp) file in which the WinHelp topic is stored, and the window name of the target window. The window name must be preceded by the ">" character. Do not specify a window name if you typed Popup in the Command parameter or if you want the topic to appear in the WinHelp main window.

Item2	Specifies the topic ID or map number of the WinHelp topic to display.
Text	Specifies the link text. Optional.

Example

```
<OBJECT  
    id=winhelp  
    type="application/x-oleobject"  
    classid="clsid:adb880a6-d8ff-11cf-9377-00aa003b7a11"  
    codebase="hhctrl.ocx#Version=4,72,8252,0"  
    width=100  
    height=100  
>  
  
<PARAM name="Command" value="WinHelp">  
  
<PARAM name="Button" value="Text: Candomble Overview">  
  
<PARAM name="Item1" value="c:\winhelp\candomble_wh.hlp>MyWindow">  
  
<PARAM name="Item2" value="myth_candomble_overview">  
  
</OBJECT>
```

[About commands](#)

Comments

About methods

Methods enable you to access functionality within the HTML Help ActiveX control through the use of a scripting language, such as JavaScript or Visual Basic Scripting Edition. Generally, methods use the information specified in the **<PARAM>** tags of the specified HTML Help ActiveX control to determine what functionality is actually to be invoked.

The following example uses the **Click** method to invoke a **command**:

```
<A HREF=JavaScript:related.Click()>Example</A>
```

where JavaScript is the scripting language, related is the ID of the HTML Help ActiveX control being referenced, Click() is the method, and Example is the text link. The **Click()** method requires that the control contain **<PARAM>** tags that specify which command to invoke.

Some methods do not require any parameters to access functionality within the HTML Help ActiveX control. In these cases, if **<PARAM>** tags are present in a referenced control, they are ignored by the method being called. This lets you reuse an existing instance of the control in your HTML file.

In addition, you can call multiple methods from a single instance of the HTML Help ActiveX control. For example, if you are already using an instance of the control to call the **Related Topics** command, you can reference the ID of that same control to call the **TextPopup** method.

If you need to **insert** a new instance of the control to call a method that does not require parameters, you can omit the **<PARAM>** tags from the **<OBJECT>** tag as shown in the following example:

```
<OBJECT  
id=for_script  
type="application/x-oleobject"  
classid="clsid:adb880a6-d8ff-11cf-9377-00aa003b7a11"
```

>

</OBJECT>

where for_script is the ID of the HTML Help ActiveX control that you will reference to call a method. Methods that do not require <PARAM> tags are listed in the table, below.

Methods quick reference

Method	Use with a compiled help file	Use with uncompiled HTML files	Does not require <PARAM> tags
Click	X	X	
HHClick	X	X	
Print	X	X	
SyncURL	X	X	
TCard	X		
TextPopup	X	X	X

 [About the HTML Help ActiveX control](#)

Click and **HClick** method

Purpose

Use the **Click** method to invoke any command that supports the [Button](#) parameter.

Commands that do not support the **Button** parameter, such as [Splash](#), are invoked as soon as your HTML file is loaded and, therefore, cannot be called from a method.

This method can be used with either a compiled help (.chm) file or uncompiled HTML files. However, not all [commands](#) are supported in uncompiled HTML files.

Applies to

[Alink Close](#)

[HH Version](#)

[KLink](#)

[Related Topics](#)

[Shortcut](#)

[TCard](#)

[WinHelp](#)

Syntax

Click() or HHClick()

The **Click** method takes no parameters.

Example

The following example shows how to use the **Click** method to invoke the [HH version](#) command.

The code for the control:

```
<OBJECT  
    id=test3  
    type="application/x-oleobject"  
    classid="clsid:adb880a6-d8ff-11cf-9377-00aa003b7a11"  
    codebase="hhctrl.ocx#Version=4,72,8252,0"  
>  
  
<PARAM name="Command" value="HH Version">  
</OBJECT>
```

The JavaScript code to invoke the control:

```
<a href=JavaScript:test3.Click()>On Click, do HH Version</a>
```

- If you are using Microsoft Visual Basic Scripting Edition (VBScript),
Show Me always use **HHClick**, which provides the same functionality as **Click**, but prevents a naming conflict with the VBScript **Click** method.

Comments

 [About the HTML Help ActiveX control methods](#)

Print method

Purpose

Use the **Print** method to print one or more topics in a specified contents (.hhc) file.

This method can be used with either a compiled help (.chm) file or uncompiled HTML files.

Applies to

[Contents](#)

Syntax

`Print()`

The **Print** method takes no parameters.

Example

The following example shows how to use the **Print** method to invoke the [Contents](#) command.

The code for the Contents command:

```
<OBJECT  
    id=test2  
    type="application/x-oleobject"  
    classid="clsid:adb880a6-d8ff-11cf-9377-00aa003b7a11"  
    codebase="hhctrl.ocx#Version=4,72,8252,0"  
    width=55%  
    height=45%  
>  
  
<PARAM name="Command" value="Contents">  
<PARAM name="Item1" value="methods.hhc">  
</OBJECT>
```

The JavaScript code to call the Print method:

```
<a href=JavaScript:test2.Print()>Print Contents</a>
```

Show Me

 [About methods](#)

SyncURL method

Purpose

Use the **SyncURL** method to select the contents (.hhc) file entry for a topic that you specify.

The instance of the HTML Help ActiveX control that you reference when using the **SyncURL** method must specify the [Contents](#) command.

This command can be used only with a compiled help (.chm) file.

Applies to

[Contents](#)

Syntax

SyncURL(BSTR *pszUrl*)

PARAM name	Values
<i>pszUrl</i>	Specifies the topic whose corresponding contents entry you want to select.

Example

The following example shows how to use the **SyncURL** method to select entries in a contents (.hhc) file.

The code for the control:

```
<OBJECT  
    id=sync  
    type="application/x-oleobject"  
    classid="clsid:adb880a6-d8ff-11cf-9377-00aa003b7a11"  
    codebase="hhctrl.ocx#Version=4,72,8252,0"  
    width=35%  
    height=25%  
>  
  
<PARAM name="Command" value="Contents">  
<PARAM name="Item1" value="methods.hhc">  
</OBJECT>
```

The JavaScript code to invoke the control:

```
<a href=JavaScript:sync.syncURL('textpopup.htm')>Go to textpopup.htm</a>
```

- The **SyncURL** method provides the same functionality as clicking the **Show Me** button on the HTML Help Viewer toolbar.

Comments



[About methods](#)

TCard method

Purpose

Use the **TCard** method to send a **WM_TCARD** message from a help window to a program. This method provides the same functionality as the [TCard](#) command with the exception that the method accepts only numeric arguments.

Using the **TCard** method reduces the number of instances of the control in an HTML file. If you plan on using multiple **TCard** commands in a single HTML file, then you should insert a single <OBJECT> tag, and then call the **TCard** method.

The instance of the HTML Help ActiveX control that you reference using the **TCard** method must specify the **TCard** command.

This command can be used only with a compiled help (.chm) file.

Applies to

[TCard](#)

Syntax

TCard(WPARAM *wPARAM*, LPARAM *lPARAM*)

PARAM name	Values
<i>wPARAM</i>	Specifies the value to pass to the WM_TCARD message. <i>wPARAM</i> usually identifies a user action. This value must be numeric.
<i>lPARAM</i>	Specifies the value to pass to the WM_TCARD message. Contains additional data, depending on the value of <i>wPARAM</i> . This value must be numeric.

Example

The code for the control:

```
<OBJECT  
    id=test  
    type="application/x-oleobject"  
    classid="clsid:adb880a6-d8ff-11cf-9377-00aa003b7a11"  
>  
  
<PARAM name="Command" value="TCard">  
  
<param name="Button" value="Call TCard command">  
  
<param name="Item1" value="123, MyText">  
  
</OBJECT>
```

The JavaScript code to invoke the control:

```
<a href="JavaScript:test.TCard (5555, 10056)">TCard Example</a>
```

 [About methods](#)

Comments

TextPopup method

Purpose

Use the **TextPopup** method to open a pop-up window.

The instance of the HTML Help ActiveX control that you reference using the **TextPopup** method does not need to specify a [command](#).

This method can be used with either a compiled help (.chm) file or uncompiled HTML files.

Applies to

This method is independent of any of the HTML Help ActiveX control commands.

Syntax

TextPopup(BSTR *pszText*, BSTR *pszFont*, int *horzMargins*, int *vertMargins*, COLORREF *clrForeground*, COLORREF *clrBackground*)

PARAM name	Values
<i>pszText</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Font family
<i>pszFont</i>	<p>A string variable that specifies the text to display in the pop-up window.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Character set• Color• Format options <p>The format is as follows:</p> <p><i>Facename[, point size[, charset[, PLAIN BOLD ITALIC UNDERLINE]]]</i></p> <p>The default font settings are: "Helvetica,12,,PLAIN"</p>
<i>horzMargins</i>	An integer that determines, in pixels, the side margins relative to the center of the pop-up window.
<i>vertMargins</i>	An integer that determines, in pixels, the top and bottom margins relative to the center of the pop-up window.
<i>clrForeground</i>	Specifies the color of the text in RRGGBB format. To specify the default text color (black), type -1 .
<i>clrBackground</i>	Specifies the background color of the pop-up window in RRGGBB format. To specify the default background color (pale yellow), type -1 .

Example

The code for the control:

```
<OBJECT  
    id=test  
    type="application/x-oleobject"  
    classid="clsid:adb880a6-d8ff-11cf-9377-00aa003b7a11"  
>  
  
<PARAM name="Command" value="HH Version">  
  
</OBJECT>
```

The JavaScript code to specify the text and font variables:

```
<script>  
FontFace="Verdana,8,,bold"  
TopicText="This is an HTML Help pop-up window. This window can display  
text only."  
TopicText2="This is another HTML Help pop-up window."  
</script>
```

The JavaScript code to invoke the control:

```
<a href="JavaScript:test.TextPopup (TopicText, FontFace, 10,10,10,10)">  
TextPopup Example</a>
```

- Colors do not display properly.

Show Me You can store text variables in a separate text file with a .js extension.

Comments

 [About the HTML Help ActiveX control methods](#)

Topics Found display options

When you use the [ALink](#), [KLink](#), and [Related Topics](#) commands, you can specify, in the [Command](#) parameter, whether to display the list of topics in a dialog box or on a pop-up menu. Both display options will list up to 127 topics.

The following are examples of each display type:

Dialog box

To specify a dialog box, type ,dialog after the command name as in the following example:

```
<PARAM name="Command" value="Related Topics, dialog">
```



Pop-up menu

To specify a pop-up menu, type ,menu after the command name as in the following example:

- If no option is specified in the **Command** parameter, the **Topics Found** dialog box is used by default.



Note [About commands](#)

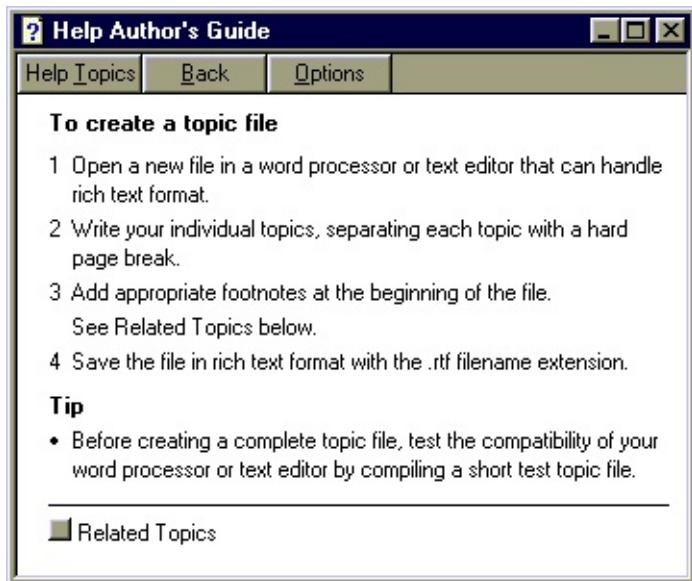
WinHelp window types

When using the [WinHelp](#) command, specify one of the following WinHelp window types. Specify a pop-up window in the [Command](#) parameter:

Pop-up WinHelp window

A topic ID is a string that identifies a topic or a location within a topic to display.

Secondary WinHelp window



Primary WinHelp window (main)

The screenshot shows a Windows-style application window titled "Help Author's Guide". The menu bar includes "File", "Edit", "Bookmark", "Options", and "Help". The toolbar contains buttons for "Help Topics", "Back", "Print", and navigation arrows. The main content area has a title bar "Help macros". The text in the content area describes WinHelp macros and their various placement options. It also notes that help macros are designed to imitate standard C-language format and do not support variables or expression evaluation. A "Note" section provides information on creating custom macros using DLL functions. A "Related Topics" link is visible at the bottom left.

WinHelp provides a set of macros that enable you to control and customize Help functionality. Macro reference topics describe the macros included with WinHelp and explain how to use them in your Help file.

When creating your Help files, you can make your Help macros run by:

- Placing macros in the project (.hpj) file, so WinHelp runs the macros whenever a user opens the Help file or a particular window type.
- Placing macros in the project file, so WinHelp runs the macros whenever a user chooses a keyword from the Index tab in the Help Topics dialog box.
- Placing macros in a topic footnote, so the macros run when a user displays that topic.
- Placing macros in the contents (.cnt) file, so WinHelp runs the macros whenever a user double-clicks the associated page icon.
- Configuring the menu bar and button bar, so WinHelp runs a macro when a user clicks the menu item or button.
- Adding hotspots to your topic, so the macro runs when a user clicks the hotspot.
- Using an external program to send a function call that prompts WinHelp to run a Help macro.

Help macros are designed to imitate standard C-language format; however, standard Help macros do not support variables or expression evaluation.

Note

- If you find that the standard Help macro set falls short of your ultimate goal, you can also create your own Help macros by using DLL functions.

- **The specific window attributes, such as size, position, and background color, are based on the definitions in the [WINDOWS] section of the specified WinHelp project (.hpj) file.**

Notes If you do not specify a window type or a window name, the main window is used.

[About commands](#)

Splash command example

This page demonstrates the use of the **Splash** command. The timeout for this splash screen is set for 5 seconds. Click the image to dismiss the splash window before the allotted time.

 [Back to Splash command](#)

Sample: Click method

Sample 1

Click the following link to invoke the [HH Version](#) command.

[What version am I?](#)

Sample 2

Click the following link to invoke the [Related Topics](#) command.

[Show me a list of related topics](#)

◀ [Back to Click and HHClick method](#)

Sample: Print method

Click the following link to invoke the **Print** method, which opens the **Print** dialog box and allows you to print one or more topics from the contents (.hhc) file.

[Print one or more topics in the table of contents](#)

 [Back to Print method](#)

Sample: SyncURL method

Click the links, below, to invoke the **SyncURL** method, which selects the topic in the contents (.hhc) file that displays.

- i. [Select Click](#)
- i. [Select Print](#)
- i. [Select SyncURL](#)
- i. [Select TextPopup](#)

 [Back to SyncURL method](#)

- The **text color** at a value of 800040.

Sample: TextPopup method

- The **background color** at a value of 0.

 [Back to TextPopup method](#)