

# Getting Started with HelpStudio

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Innovasys HelpStudio is a next generation Help Authoring tool supporting the development of HTML based on-line help and PDF Booklets. HelpStudio allows you to concentrate on developing help content by automatically laying out generated topics in a consistent and professional style. This template based approach to help development makes it easy to change and evolve the look and feel of your help project without requiring any rework in the help content itself.

HelpStudio can generate:

- Cross-platform pure HTML help, with expandable Table of Contents, Index and Full Text Search;
- Compiled HTML Help 1.x files;
- Compiled Microsoft Help 2.x help files;
- PDF Booklets.

All outputs are generated from a HTML based content.

HelpStudio integrates seamlessly with Innovasys Document! X v4 for situations where a help system contains an API reference.

HelpStudio can import existing HTML files, HTML Help 1.x Projects, Microsoft Help 2.x Projects, RoboHTML Projects and Word Documents.

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## Table Of Contents

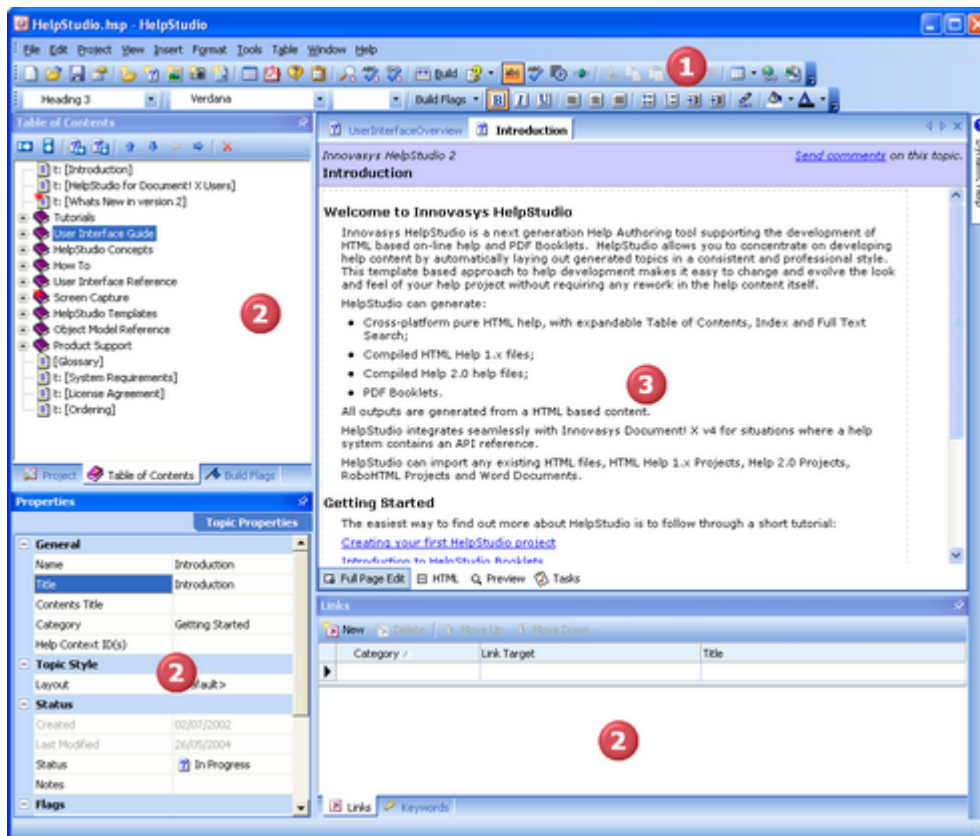
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## 1 HelpStudio User Interface

The HelpStudio User Interface has been designed to give you maximum flexibility in organizing the various HelpStudio Tools and Windows to suit your preferences.

### ► User Interface Layout

There are 3 main areas in the HelpStudio User Interface, as illustrated in the following screenshot:



### 1 Menubars and Toolbars

The menubars and toolbars provide you with access to HelpStudio functions. The position and visibility of bars and tools can be customized, as outlined later in this topic.

### 2 Docking Windows


Docking windows are portions of the HelpStudio interface containing specific functionality, such as the Project Explorer or Table of Contents editor. Docking windows can be 'Docked', 'Floating', 'Tab-Docked' or 'Collapsed', as illustrated later in this topic.


### 3 Document Area

This area of the user interface contains the Topic editor and **HelpStudio Project Tools ('Project Tools Overview' in the on-line documentation)** such Project Spell Check and Project Find and Replace. Each open document or tool appears as a Tab on the Tab Strip that runs along the top edge of the document area. To make an open Topic or Tool active, simply click on the appropriate Tab. Open Topics or Tools can be organized into multiple Tab Groups if you wish to work with more than one document or tool at once. Tab Grouping is described in detail later in this topic.

### ► Customizing Menus and Toolbars

The menus and toolbars appear at the top of the HelpStudio window by default. Each menu or tool bar can be moved or floated above the main application window as required.

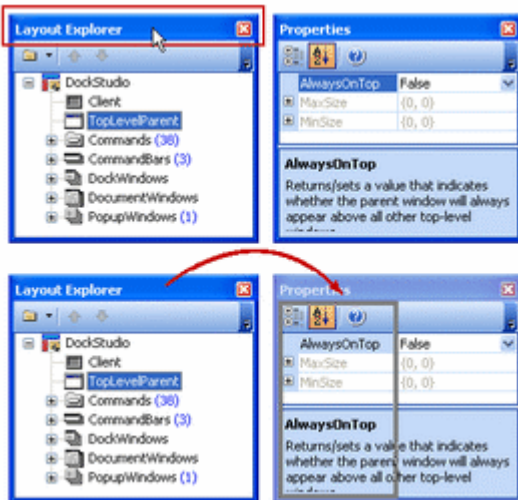
**To float a bar:** Click and hold on a bars grab handle  then drag the bar away from the edge of the main application window. Release the mouse button when you have positioned the bar where required. The toolbar will float above the main window. To dock the menubar or toolbar again, either drag it back using the floating windows title bar, or double click on the title bar as a shortcut.

**To move a bar to another edge of the main window:** Click and hold on a bars grab handle  then drag the bar to the required edge of the application window. As you drag the bar over the left, right, top or bottom of the window, the bar will dock in place at that edge.

**To customize the tools that appear on the menus and toolbars:** Select **Options** from the HelpStudio **Tools** menu. Click the 'Customize' button to show the User Interface layout customization dialog.

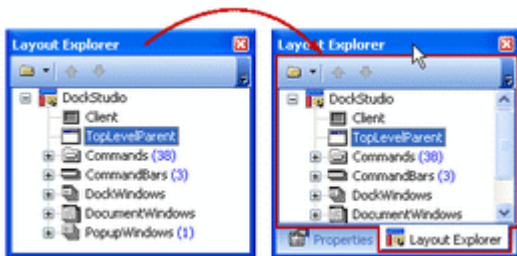
## ► Organizing Dock Windows

**To dock a Docking Window:** simply drag the windows caption and move the mouse around the edges of your application. When a DockWindow can be docked to the edge of the application, the drag rectangle snaps into place at the appropriate edge. To prevent a DockWindow from automatically snapping into place, hold down the Ctrl key while dragging.





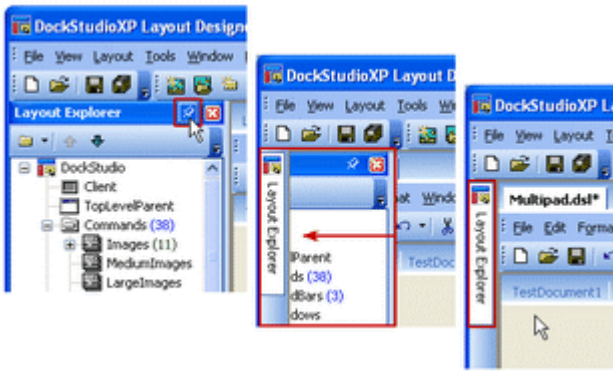
To help maximize the use of screen real estate, docking windows can be docked to each other as tabs.

**To tab dock a DockWindow:** drag the DockWindows caption and drop it over the caption of another DockWindow. To remove a DockWindow from a tabbed DockWindow, drag its tab and move it anywhere outside the tabbed DockWindow.



Another way for a user to maximize on screen real estate is to make DockWindows auto-hide, by collapsing them out the way of the main application window when not in use.

**To collapse a DockWindow:** click the pushpin button  on the DockWindows caption. To restore a collapsed DockWindow, move the cursor over the collapsed DockWindows caption. This will cause the DockWindow to slide out into its expanded position clicking the pushpin button  again causes the DockWindow to return to its previously docked position.




## ► Organizing Document Windows

Open documents and tools can be organized into Tab Groups, for true side-by-side editing. Documents are organized using drag and drop, as illustrated below:



## 2 Tutorial: Create your first HelpStudio project

### 2.1 Create the Project

1. Open HelpStudio using the icon in the 'Innovasys HelpStudio' program group on the Windows start menu.
2. Click the  **New Project** toolbar button to display the **Create New Project** dialog.
3. Select the Path and Filename where you would like your new project saved.
4. From the **Project Type** list, select the type that most closely matches the type of project you wish to create.
5. Click the OK button to create the new project.

Once the new project has been created and opened, the **New Project Help** window and the **Project Settings** windows will be opened.


### 2.2 Define the Project Properties

1. Select the **Project Settings** window by clicking the 'Project Settings' document tab;




2. Enter a title for your help project into the **Project Title** text box;
3. The other properties have been set to default values. If you wish you can select the various pages in the Project Settings to familiarize yourself with the available options.

### 2.3 Create Topics

- Click the  **Add Topic** toolbar button. The **New Topic Properties** dialog will be displayed;
- Provide a **Name** and a **Title** for the new topic. You may also want to select a Category for the topic;
- Click **OK** to create the new topic. The new topic will be opened for editing;
- Type some text for the new topic;
- Repeat these steps for any other topics you would like to create.

### 2.4 Create a Table of Contents

The easiest way to layout your Table of Contents once you have created a set of Topics is to open the Topic List and use drag and drop to add topics to the Table of Contents.

1. Open the Topic List .
2. Select a topic by clicking the *Row Selector* to select the row. Then whilst holding down the mouse button, drag the row to the Table Of Contents window. If you would like the Topic to appear below or adjacent to an existing node in the Table Of Contents just drag and drop it to the required position and a *Drop Highlight Bar* will appear to indicate where the new node will be placed. If you want the Topic to appear at the root level of the Table of Contents, drag and drop it on a blank area of the Table of Contents

window;


3. To create a new node that points to a *URL*, or a book node for grouping topics, use the **New Child Node** or **New Sibling Node** Table of Contents Editor toolbar buttons;
4. You can re-organize nodes on the Table of Contents by either using the movement toolbar buttons, or by dragging and dropping nodes to their new desired destination in the tree.

## 2.5 Create a Glossary

HelpStudio allows you to create a glossary to store and manage descriptions of terminology you use in your help file. HelpStudio will automatically generate an Indexed Glossary topic and will replace any use of glossary terms in topic text with popup windows that define the term when clicked.

- Activate the Glossary window;
- Type the glossary Term and Definition in the New Record line at the top of the window;
- Press enter to add the new Glossary term;
- To delete a glossary term, select the term by clicking on the grey *Row Selector* to the far left of the row and then click the delete button or press the delete key;
- To edit a glossary term, click in the term or definition and edit the text directly.

## 2.6 Build the Help System

- Click the  **Build** toolbar button (shortcut key F5) to Build the project into a Help file;

After the build has completed, a Build Results window will be opened detailing the results of the build.