

The information in this chart is accurate, as far as I know. For updated information (especially on prices and support), please visit the vendor Web site (listed at the end). Suggest changes and additions by email to CharJT@helpstuff.com.

| Tool | Development Environment | Output | Trial Version | Cost (prices USD) | Support | Training | Extras | Limitations |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| AuthorIT Company: AuthorIT Software Corporation Limited | Word processor (database) for content and management | WinHelp HTML 3.2 XHTML 1.0 HTML Help 1.x JavaHelp Oracle Help Print (Word) | Fully functional, no expiration Output randomly inserts the phrase <i>AuthorIT Evaluation</i> | \$399 Desktop \$599 Workgroup Edition for 1 to 4 users (\$549 for 5-9, \$499 for 10+) \$799 Fixed Enterprise for 1-19 users (\$749 for 20-49, \$699 for 50-99, \$649 for 100+) \$1999 Floating Enterprise for 1-19 users (\$1,879... \$1,749... \$1,629) \$1499 Project Manager for 1 user (\$499 for 2+) \$199 Offline Authoring \$199 MIF Import Filter \$49 Documentation | Standard Support Plan: 15% of license fee (\$49 minimum) Full Support and Maintenance Plan: 25% of license fee (\$99 minimum) Unlimited while evaluating and for 30 days after purchase Yahoo group: <i>authorit-users</i> | Provided by third-party consultants | Multi-authoring (not Desktop) Conditional content to the character level Rules-driven importer with structure mapping, format mapping, and find/replace Variables for changeable content Easily create merged output Customizable templates for all outputs Valid CSS, HTML, and XHTML output Content management meta tags Support for Word 97 through Word 2003 (no reinstallation required) Object history | No image map editor No ALinks in HTML Help No mid-topic IDs in WinHelp Must use File Objects (coded HTML files) to create HTML Help controls |

Use their pricing wizard for countries other than the United States.

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| Deva Tools for Dreamweaver Company: deva | Dreamweaver | HTML Help HTML-based Help | 30 days | \$249 Deva Tools with Deva Search \$199 Deva Tools \$99 Deva Search | Free (email) Yahoo group: helpweavers | None | Pre-processes search information | Select files, not folders Must manually customize search files |
| Doc-To-Help Company: ComponentOne | Microsoft Word and database for management | WinHelp HTML Help 1.x HTML Help 2 MS Help 2 HTML 4 JavaHelp Print (Word) | 30 days | \$499.95 Standard \$999.95 Professional | Standard support: free (includes e-mail/phone support for 30 days after first phone call) Professional support: included in Professional version (new releases, free updates and upgrades, select betas, savings on training, 30-day phone support, and e-mail support for one year from the date of purchase) Telephone and incident support available Newsgroup: http://www.apexsc.com/cgi-bin/dnewsweb.exe?cmd=xover&group=component1.public.d2h | Introduction (two days): \$1095 Upgrading to Doc-To-Help 6 (three days): \$1495 | Flexible conditional text to the character level Margin notes Visual Basic scripting Custom templates for all outputs Multi-language support Reports Project organizer Supports Word 2000, Word XP, and Word 2003 Modular TOC Theme Designer Teamwork Support | No multi-authoring support |

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| FAR Company: The Helpware Group | None (collection of file and HTML Help utilities for Help authors) | HTML Help Versions 1.x and 2 HTML (TOC and Index for Web sites) | Fully functional, 8 weeks | \$49 Multi-volume discounts | Free by email | None | Search and Replace across multiple HTML files TOC Editor Help Express Help Wizard | |
| HCW Company: Microsoft | Word | WinHelp | None | Free | None (peer) | None | | No bells and whistles |
| HDK Company: Virtual Media | Word | WinHelp HTML Help HTML (Java, plug-in, ActiveX, dynamic) | 30 days | \$595 See their Web page for prices for Europe, United Kingdom, and Asia Pacific | Free by email HDK-L Discussion List | Provided by third-party consultants | Conditional text to the character level Builds CSS from Word template and maps styles accordingly Supports Word 2 to 2000 | Unknown |

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|---|---|---|---|--|--|----------|---|--|
| Help & Manual Company: EC Software | Word processor (database, rich text based) | WinHelp HTML Help HTML (static, no scripts) HTML (JavaScript-based TOC and Index) RTF PDF (built-in engine) Print (built-in engine) | Fully functional for 14 days. Output randomly inserts “demo version” and a watermark in PDF | \$279 \$99 (additional licenses per user) Minor upgrades are free | Free (e-mail) for one year after purchase Support news group (online forum): http://helpman.it-authoring.com | None | Image editor with support for hotspots PDF and Print manual layout designer Built-in PDF engine Customizable templates for all outputs Conditional text (character and topic) Variables Command line options Project reports | Import problems with HTML Limited style support No FrameMaker import No JavaHelp output No multi-authoring |
| HHW 1.32 Company: Microsoft | Built-in HTML editor | HTML Help | None | Free | None (peer, support groups) | None | Decompiler Image Workshop | No bells and whistles |
| Mif2Go Company: Omni Systems | Frame (can be run from the command line with .mif files, but with less functionality) | WinHelp HTML Help HTML XHTML XML JavaHelp Oracle Help Print (Word) RTF files that can be compiled with HCW | Unlimited | \$295 for one license \$75 annual support after the first year (includes all releases) Site license discounts available (starts at 5 copies) | Unlimited e-mail | None | Free personal copy for unemployed techwriters and for struggling Frame/Help consultants, no questions asked | |

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| RoboHelp Office Company: eHelp Corporation | See individual tools. | See individual tools. | 15-day, 25 topics, watermark included in all output "Not for distribution" | \$899 | Platinum: \$1,299 Gold: \$1,099 Silver: \$799 Bronze: \$499 Priority: \$99/call (multi-packs available) Email: free for products released within the last two years Help Community RoboList Yahoo group: HATT | Three days: \$1299 Third-party consultants | Includes numerous tools (ReSize, BugHunter, and so on) Project Reports | No multi-authoring support Merging WebHelp projects requires add-on (included with X4) |
| RoboHelp Office Pro (formerly RoboHelp Enterprise) (analyze how people are using your Help system and application) | Same authoring environment as RoboHelp Office | See individual tools. | | \$1,899 | Platinum: \$1,799 Gold: \$1,599 Silver: \$1,299 Bronze: \$999 See RoboHelp Office | See RoboHelp Office for authoring components; none listed for server reports | See RoboHelp Office Unique user feedback reports Natural language search Project merging | See RoboHelp Office Requires IIS server for reports |
| RoboHelp for Word (part of RoboHelp Office and RoboHelp Office Pro) | Word | WinHelp WinHelp 2000 HTML Help WebHelp JavaHelp Print (Word) | Part of RoboHelp Office | | See RoboHelp Office | See RoboHelp Office | ActiveEdit, Active Test, Macro Wizard Conditional text, using build tags Enhanced printed documentation feature | See RoboHelp Office |

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|--|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---|---|
| RoboHelp for HTML Help (part of RoboHelp Office and RoboHelp Office Pro) | WYSIWYG HTML, external HTML editors | HTML Help WebHelp JavaHelp Oracle Help Print (Word) FlashHelp | Part of RoboHelp Office | | See RoboHelp Office | See RoboHelp Office | CSS Editor Smart Word Import Conditional text, using build tags Enhanced printed documentation feature Enhanced project support Version control Topic history Source control | See RoboHelp Office HTML includes extra coding (kadov tags) Bugs in Smart Word Import |
| RoboHelp for Word (standalone) | Word | WinHelp WinHelp 2000 Print (Word) | | \$379 | See RoboHelp Office | See RoboHelp Office | | |
| RoboHelp for HTML Help (standalone) | WYSIWYG HTML, external HTML editors | HTML Help WebHelp JavaHelp Print | | \$499 | See RoboHelp Office | See RoboHelp Office | | |

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| Sevensteps Company: Sevensteps | Word processor (XML) | WinHelp HTML HTML Help | 15 topics | \$125 EUR Sevensteps Light (50 topics, one output) \$225/400 EUR Sevensteps Light (100 topics, one/three output(s)) \$525 EUR Sevensteps Standard (200 topics, three outputs) \$650 EUR Sevensteps Standard (unlimited topics, three outputs) \$825 EUR Sevensteps Professional (unlimited topics, all outputs, customizable design with Companion) Add-ons for Sevensteps Light: \$100 EUR per extra output | E-mail (free); answers within two working days Yahoo group by invitation only | Sevensteps Classroom available (create up to 40 topics in a classroom setting; not for commercial use) | Seven steps, separating content from display More functionality available with Sevensteps Professional and Sevensteps Designer (see their Web site for details) | No importing of existing projects or files No multi-authoring |

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| The HyperText Studio Company: Olson Software | Word processor (database) for content and management | WinHelp HTML Help HTML Print (RTF) | Standard – 20 days Professional and Enterprise – 5 topics in HTML output, 10 topics in Help No external files | \$99 Standard Edition (HTML only) \$199 Professional Edition (HTML, HTML Help, WinHelp, and Print) \$499 Enterprise Edition (all of Professional plus multi-authoring) | Free Yahoo group: hypertextstudio | None | Multi-authoring support (Enterprise Edition) Setup Wizard CSS Editor Frame Editor Clean Word's HTML Web Publishing Wizard Open multiple files (up to 6), with five possible views | Doesn't include all HTML Help controls No conditional text |
| WebWorks Publisher Professional for FrameMaker 2003 Company: Quadralay | Frame | WebWorks Help HTML Help WinHelp Oracle Help JavaHelp eBooks Dynamic HTML (XHTML 1.0) Simple HTML (HTML 3.2) XML + CSS XML + XSL | | \$1,295 | Support Minutes (60 for \$249) Subscription: \$1495 Yahoo group: wwp-users | WebWorks University Third-party consultants | Multi-authoring support (in Frame) Conditional text to the character level | Must know how to create a WebWorks template for the desired output Must create separate projects for each output |

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|---|--------------------------------|---|----------------------|---|---|--|--|--|
| WebWorks Publisher Professional for Word 2003 Company: Quadralay | Word | Same as WebWorks for Frame | | \$1,295 | Subscription: \$1,495 Yahoo group: wwp-users | WebWorks University Third-party consultants | Conditional text Style Designer | Must know how to create a WebWorks template for the desired output No conditional text in tables Must create separate projects for each output |
| XDK Company: Virtual Media | Word | HTML Help 1.x Help 2 HTML XHTML JavaHelp XML | 30 days | \$795 See their Web page for prices for Europe, United Kingdom, and Asia Pacific | Free by email XDK User Group | Provided by third-party consultants | Conditional text to the character level Builds CSS from Word template and maps styles accordingly Dynamic styles | Unknown |

Web Sites for Tool in the Matrix

ForeHelp is no longer included in this list. On January 2, 2002, ComponentOne announced that it acquired three key technologies from ForeFront: InterHelp, MIF import, and Help Server Studio (an unreleased product). TrueHelp is no longer included in this list.

AuthorIT. Tool: AuthorIT. Web site: <http://www.author-it.com>.

ComponentOne. Tool: DocToHelp. Web site: <http://www.componentone.com>.

Deva. Tools: Deva Tools for Dreamweaver, Deva Search. Web site: <http://www.devahelp.com>.

EC Software. Tool: Help & Manual. Web site: <http://www.ec-software.com>.

eHelp. Tools: RoboHelp Office, RoboHelp Office Pro. Web site: <http://www.ehelp.com>.

The Helpware Group. Tool: FAR. Web site: <http://www.helpware.net>.

Microsoft. Tool: HCW. Web site: <http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/Q164/0/12.asp>. HHW. Web site: <http://msdn.microsoft.com/library/default.asp?url=/library/en-us/htmlhelp/html/vsconHH1Start.asp>.

Olson Software. Tool: The HyperText Studio. Web site: <http://www.olsonsoft.com>.

Omni Systems. Tool: Mif2Go. Web site: <http://www.omsys.com>.

Quadralay. Tool: WebWorks Publisher Professional for FrameMaker 2003, WebWorks Publisher Professional for Word 2003. Web site: <http://www.webworks.com>.

Sevensteps. Tool: Sevensteps. Web site: <http://www.sevensteps.com>.

Virtual Media. Tool: HDK, XDK. Web site: <http://www.vmtech.com>.

Web sites for Other Help Authoring Tools

AVSoft. Tool: AVHelp. Web site: <http://avhelp.avsoft.it>.

DevComponents.com. Tools: HelpKit, HTML Help COM Assistant. Web site: <http://www.devcomponents.com>.

Eon Solutions Ltd. Tool: EasyHelp/Web. Web site: <http://www.easyhelpweb.org>.

Excel Software. Tool: QuickHelp. Web site: <http://www.excelsoftware.com>.

Exhedra Solutions, Inc. Tools: Help Maker Plus. Web site: <http://www.exhedra.com/exhedra/helpmakerplus/default.aspx>.

Help Magician. Tool: Help Magician. Web site: <http://www.helpmagician.com>.

Indigoware. Tool: HTML Help for FrontPage. Web site: <http://www.indigoware.com>.

Innovasys. Tools: Document! X, HelpStudio, Context! VB. Web site: <http://www.vbhtmlhelp.co.uk>.

JGSoft. Tool: HelpScribble. Web site: <http://www.helpscribble.com>.

Macromedia. Tool: Dreamweaver. Web site: <http://www.macromedia.com/software/dreamweaver>.

MekTek. Tool: VyperHelp. Web site: <http://www.vyperhelp.com>.

Qarbon. Tool: ViewletBuilder. Web site: <http://www.qarbon.com>.

Rascal Software. Tool: Veredus. Web site: <http://www.rascalsoftware.com>.

Solutionsoft. Tool: HelpBreeze. Web site: <http://solutionsoft.com/hlpbrz.htm>.

Steema Software. Tool: TeeGofer. Web site: <http://www.steema.com/products/teegofer/>.

Teletech Systems, Inc. Tools: VB HelpWriter, HelpWriter for Delphi. Web site: <http://www.helpwriter.com>.

Toolsfactory. Tool: doc-o-matic. Web site: <http://www.doc-o-matic.com>.

visagesoft. Tool: Visage for Windows Help Designer/HTML Edition. <http://www.visagesoft.com/whdhtml/>.

Visionmode. Tool: Visionmode Help!. Web site: <http://www.visionmode.com/help>.

West Wind Technologies. Tool: HTML Help Builder. Web site: <http://www.west-wind.com/wwHelp>.

WinWare Inc. Tool: Visual Help Pro. Web site: <http://www.winwareinc.com/visualhelp.html>.

For more tools, see the MSHelpWiki Available Tools page (<http://www.mshelpwiki.com/index.php?page=AvailableTools>).