

Introduction to Adobe RoboHelp 6

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i Introduction

- RoboHelp 6 was released in January 2007 after 3 years of uncertainty
- ...not necessarily ending that uncertainty

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i Features in RoboHelp 6

New Features

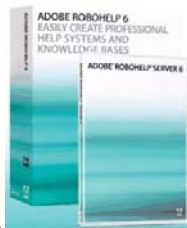
- User-defined variables
- Command line compilation

Major Enhancements

- Conditional build tags
- RoboSource Control
- RoboServer
- Acrobat Elements (instead of RoboPDF)
- RoboScreenCapture

Minor Enhancements

- Three new reports
- Mark of the Web/Flash Security
- Word import for lists, table styles, headers/footers



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i Features Not in RoboHelp 6

- Framemaker output/integration
- Greater single-sourcing capabilities (such as reusable text)
- Advanced printed documentation support (such as cross references, odd/even page layouts, and floating text boxes)
- Multi-authoring support for project files (shared files on servers rather than local computers)
- XML-based content (not without additional work to transform the code)
- Double-byte language support (and even translation management features)
- Vista support (Word 2007)

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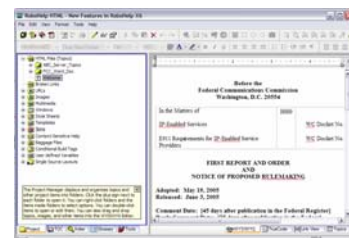
i Features Still in RoboHelp 6

<kadov>

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i Features Still in RoboHelp 6

- Same familiar user interface



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i Review of RoboHelp 6

- Let's review the new and enhanced features of RoboHelp 6



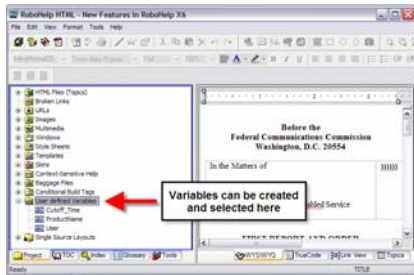
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i User-defined Variables

- Insert variables whose values can be changed for different outputs
- Why is it here?
 - Variations of words or phrases such as product variations, branding, customization, even different English spellings
- How does it work?
 - Inserts a placeholder with a default value
 - Allows you to override values through SSLs
 - Values can be up to 255 characters

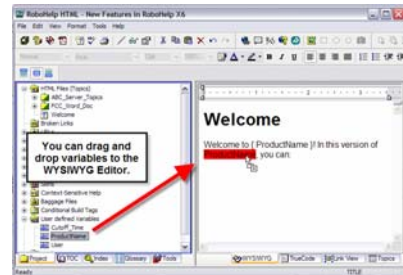
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i User-defined Variables



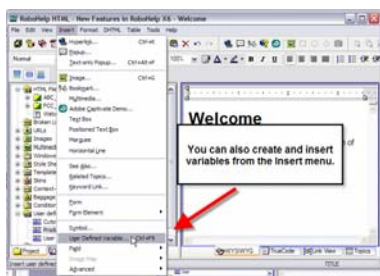
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i User-defined Variables



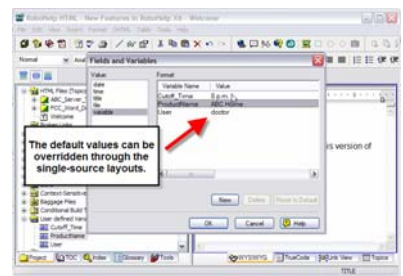
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i User-defined Variables



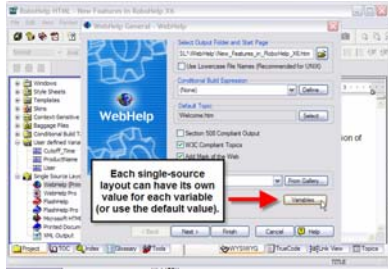
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i User-defined Variables



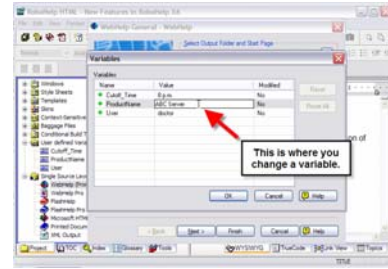
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i User-defined Variables



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i User-defined Variables



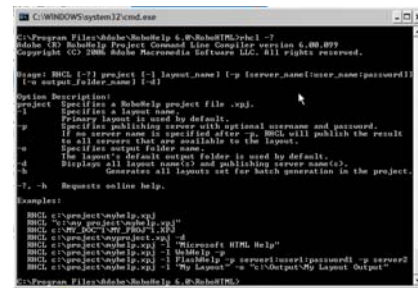
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i Command Line Compilation

- Allows generation and publication of single-source layouts without opening RoboHelp
- Why is it here?
 - Dynamic code builds
 - Large project builds
- How does it work?
 - rhcl [-?] [-h] [relative or full path of the project] [-l] [layout name] [-p] [server name:user name:password] [-o] [relative or full path of output folder] [-d] [-b]

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i Command Line Compilation



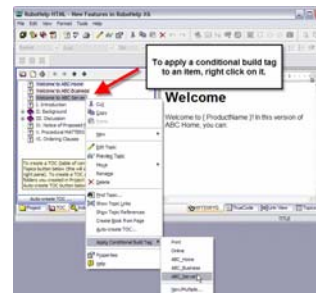
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i Conditional Build Tags

- Conditional build tags can now be applied to
 - TOC entries
 - Index entries
 - Folders
 - Rows and columns of tables

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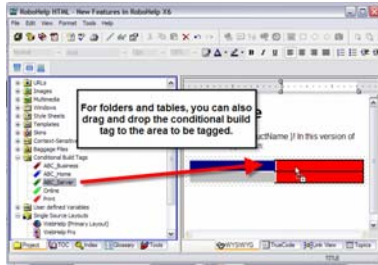
i Conditional Build Tags



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Conditional Build Tags



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RoboSource Control

- Source control allows you to work with multiple authors on the same project and to maintain version control
- All authors should use source control regardless of whether they work in a multi-authoring environment
- RoboSource Control package was improved to be more robust
- You can still use Visual SourceSafe or any SCC API compatible source control tool

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RoboServer

- The RoboServer lets you track user search terms and report on them as well as search external documents
- Enhancements
 - Natural language search is gone
 - Web-based administration is now possible
 - FlashHelp is now a supported output
 - Installation was improved

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Acrobat Elements & PDF

- Acrobat Elements replaces RoboPDF
- You won't need it if you already have Acrobat 7+ installed
- RoboHelp now gives you the option to retain hyperlinks in printed documentation



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Adobe Elements & PDF

- Elements gives you the option to create bookmarks and maintains hyperlinks in PDF output
- More conversion and security settings for PDF output



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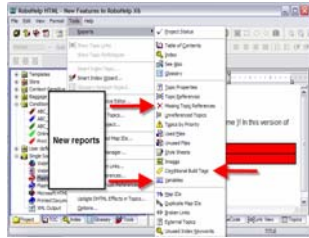
RoboScreenCapture

- Bundled with RoboHelp and added to the Tools tab
- Good
 - Has the basic features to capture, crop, scale, and do some basic editing to screen shots
 - Has an interesting command line interface
- So-so
 - No torn page effect
 - Doesn't have "great" annotation/callout tools

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i New Reports

- Added 3 new reports
 - User-defined variables
 - Conditional build tags
 - Missing topic references



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i Mark of the Web/Flash Security

- Allows WebHelp and FlashHelp to run locally without IE 6+ blocking active content using the Mark of the Web
- Allows FlashHelp to run locally for testing despite increased Flash 7+ security



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i Word Imports

- Imports headers and footers
- Improves import of bulleted and numbered lists
- Maintains styles used in tables



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i Compelling Reasons to Use RoboHelp

- Familiarity
 - Large, experienced user base
- Masks complexities from the users
 - No coding or scripting required
 - Simple setup
- Supports source control
 - Multi-authoring
 - Version control
- RoboServer
 - Tracking users questions
 - Searching external Office and PDF documents
- Can migrate WinHelp projects
- FlashHelp output

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i Reasonable Doubt

- RoboHelp is a small fish in the big Adobe pond
- Adobe does not comment about future releases (not for features or schedules)
- With other acquired products such as Framemaker, Adobe has slowed down the development cycle (and some say the innovation)
- RoboHelp is being developed primarily in India by a new (albeit an experienced) development team
- Adobe is continuing to recommend Webworks Publisher as a HAT solution

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i So Many Possibilities

- Adobe has stated its intention to focus on the technical communication industry
- Adobe has a lot of amazing tools for leveraging existing technology
 - Framemaker, Captivate, Acrobat, Contribute, Dreamweaver, Flash, InDesign, Fireworks, Visual Communicator, Connect, Authorware, Director, and that's not all of them
- RoboHelp is still the most widely used HAT in the industry

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The UA World Is Changing Rapidly

- **User assistance is changing (so far much faster than the HATs)**
 - Gathering more information about/from users
 - Allowing SMEs and users to create and manage content without a local copy of a HAT
 - Managing user communities
- **Macromedia's treatment of RoboHelp has revived competition in the UA industry**
- **Custom XML solutions are gaining popularity**

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Conclusion

- **RoboHelp 6 is a minor (but significant) release**
- **Your decision depends on your current situation and future needs**
 - If you already use RH and you can use these new features, go for it.
 - If you already use RH and you don't need these new features, consider staying put.
 - If you don't use RH already, look closely at where you want to take your user assistance and decide who can help you get there.

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Thank you!

- **Please feel free to contact me if you have additional questions or comments about this presentation.**

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