How to Organize Our Content

# Introduction

This document defines how our Table of Contents and source files for HydroDesktop Online Help should be organized.

This is currently a draft as we are still working out the details.

This help system will be largely task-oriented, much like a “user’s manual.” There will be a page for How To Print, How To Navigate the Map, etc. If we are smart about the keywords we use for indexing these pages, the index can serve as an A to Z “reference manual.”

# Table of Contents

The initial page (index.html) will have the title “Welcome to HydroDesktop Help” and will include a brief introduction to HydroDeskop, a link to the Quick Start tutorial, and a table of contents (TOC) like the one below. The items in parentheses are notes to help authors and will not be visible in the actual TOC. The actual TOC might only be two or three levels deep. More levels are shown in this document to illustrate the content for each entry.

Recognizing that the first edition of the help will take some time to create, and that the user interface for HydroDesktop is still a bit fluid, the first edition of the help might only be broken down into the 2nd level of headings shown below. Later editions can expand upon existing topics or add new ones.

* **Welcome** (what is hydrodesktop, what is cuahsi his, pointer to codeplex)
* **General Concepts**
  + **Data Management** (time series database, metadata catalog. Now that you know about database, you get data into the database via search)
  + **Search** (general search concepts, ontology, this is a search for time series data. Once you’ve searched and built your database, you can save your project.)
  + **Projects** (what gets saved in a project)
  + **Getting Help**
    - **Using the Online Help**
    - **Asking for Help on the Forums**
* **Extensions**
  + **Introduction to Extensions**
  + **HydroModeler**
  + **HydroR**
  + **(Other Extensions…)**
* G**uide Books** (this is where tutorials, quick tasks, case studies, and functionality/GUI info can go)
  + **Introduction to Guide Books** (Guide books focus on specific tasks that a user might perform. The reader can browse quick tasks like how to open a project, or walk through comprehensive tutorials that illustrate how to use HydroDesktop to answer science questions.)
  + **Using the Orb**
    - **Creating a New Project**
    - **Opening an Existing Project**
    - **Saving a Project**
    - **Printing**
      * **Creating a Layout**
      * **Setting Up a Printer**
    - **Enabling/Disabling Extensions**
    - **Changing Application Settings**
    - **Getting Your HydroDesktop Version Number**
  + **Home Tab**
    - **Using the Map**
      * **Navigating the Map**
      * **Adding Spatial Data to the Map**
      * **Exploring Spatial Data**
      * **Using Online Basemaps**
    - **Searching for Time Series Data**
      * **Selecting a Search Area**
      * **Selecting a Date Range to Search**
      * **Selecting Data Sources to Search**
      * **Selecting Keywords to Search**
    - **Managing Time Series Search Results**
      * **Selecting Time Series to Save**
      * **Saving Time Series as a Theme**
      * **Saving Search Filters**
      * **Restoring Search Filters**
  + **Selecting Time Series To Display**
  + **Table Tab**
    - **Viewing Tabular Time Series Data**
    - **Managing Themes**
      * **Refreshing Themes**
      * **Deleting Themes**
      * **Exporting Themes**
    - **Managing the Time Series Database**
      * **Changing the Time Series Database**
      * **Creating a New Time Series Database**
    - **Managing the Metadata Catalog**
      * **Registering Web Services with the Metadata Catalog**
      * **Downloading Metadata into the Metadata Catalog**
  + **Graph Tab**
    - **Plotting a Graph**
    - **Interacting with the Plot**
    - **Changing the Plot Type**
    - **Changing Plot Options**
  + **Edit Tab**
    - **Editing Series**
    - **Deriving New Series**
    - **Restoring Data**
    - **Saving Changes**
    - **Edit Functions**
      * **Changing a Value**
      * **Interpolating a Value**
      * **Flagging a Value**
      * **Adding a Value**
      * **Deleting a Value**
    - **Filtering the Data**
  + **Working with Databases**
  + **Tutorials**
    - **Tutorial: Examining the 1998 Texas Flood**
      * **Exercise 1: Finding flood data** (search plugin, San Marcos is a good place to search, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_1998_Central_Texas_floods>)
      * **Exercise 2: Visualizing flood data with HydroDesktop** (table view, graph view)
      * **Exercise 3: Communicating flood data with a map** (create a layout and print)
    - **Tutorial: Examining groundwater trends**
      * **(See** [**http://his.cuahsi.org/cswelllevels.html**](http://his.cuahsi.org/cswelllevels.html)**)**
    - **Tutorial: Building a digital watershed**
      * **Exercise 1: Setting up a project for the Little Bear River watershed in Utah** (what HUC is this? – probably should do this for a HUC)
      * **Exercise 2: Downloading all data for a watershed**
      * **Exercise 3: Working with your digital watershed** (editing data, deriving new data, managing the database)
* **Version History** (what’s significant and new in each major version release)

# Folder Structure

Source rst files for the main content go directly in the source folder without subfolders. Images for these files go in the \_images folder without subfolders. Keeping these rst files at the same level will help ensure that we use intelligent titles (which will likely be reflected in the filenames) for these help pages.

Each extension (aka plug-in) gets its own subfolder within the extensions folder. Extension authors can place tutorials, images, and any other supporting files about their extension into their extension folder. Each extension folder is thus a standalone package of help documentation for that extension.

An example of the folder structure for the source files is:

* OnlineHelp\source
  + \_images
  + extensions
    - HydroModeler
    - HydroR