

EpiData Analysis

Standard for help file system

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v1.1

The extended help file concept was developed in collaboration with Pedro Arias Bohigas and the contents of commands and descriptions with Jamie Hockin.

Audience for this file: Persons wishing to write help files or translate command specific parts.

Major ways of getting help when working with EpiData Analysis are:

Internal – not depending on internet - help to the end user:

1. By showing html formatted files in the **output window** (viewhtm)
2. By showing html formatted files in the **help window** (help command)
3. Via links on the start page shown when EpiData Analysis is started. (default **start.htm**)
4. By showing the pdf formatted introduction file (**via help menu**)
5. By showing the flowsheet pdf which is part of the introduction file or issued separately

External

6. Searching on the internet in EpiData-list archives (also **via help menu** in programme)
7. Specific notes and instructions written.

Viewing help files:

When EpiData Analysis is used to show files internally (one-three above) the files must conform to general html formatting and style sheets. Javascript is not supported.

The remaining part of this focuses on internal viewing of files (one-three above):

Folder structure:

During installation the following is created: (sys: where the exe file resides)

sys\docs\en\ Is use for default files in case the language specific file is missing
sys\docs\{languagecode}\ language code is eg. "es" for Spanish.

Docs*. * contains: basic documentation and pdf files

Docs\..*. * contains command specific and two overall help files (commands.htm and howto.htm)

Stylesheet files: Help files in general should contain the style definitions as part of the header, except for the command specific help files.

Standard installation:

... to be completed later....

Standard translated installation:

... to be completed later....

Translation

To manage efficiently translation and the combination of internal programming - fixed – and

contents of html files (easy to change at runtime) – most files will at the creation of the installation file be copied from the version in english to the local language version. An exception to this are the extended help files, which will be copied to the english folder. Files residing at lower level than countrycode will get the extension _xx where xx stands for language. Whereas **NO** files in the {language} subfolder to "docs" will have the xx as part of the name.

This means that the preference order for translation is:

Minimum translation

- a. Files for installation and text strings used in the installation routine.
- b. Startfont.htm
- c. Start.htm
- d. Ack.htm
- e. info.htm
- f. scguide.htm
- g. EpiDataAnalysis_Introduction_{languagecode}.pdf

Routine daily used files

Command specific extended help files for most common commands.

Further levels

howto.htm
commands.htm

Types of help files: a. Start up file system b. Content files

a.

When EpiData is invoked the file defined by the "set start page=" parameter is shown in the output window (default **start.htm**). This file is created based on the user choices after installation. The start0.htm is the standard coming with the installation which is renamed during installation and setup. The start.htm used when setting up the programme can be accessed later as **startepi.htm** this first file creates a epidatastat.ini file based on user choices. The content of the **start.htm** is giving links to core files and explanation to screen elements, plus a link to the extended example file **info.htm** placed in the **docs** subfolder to where EpiData Analysis was installed.

b.

Two core file types are documenting commands:

Commands.htm This single file works as the core specification for all commands. Each command and function is described with options and limitations but in a condensed form.

xxxx.htm Specific extended commands can be supplied in these files. The name "xxxx" **must** be the same as the command.

Additional hints and extending limitations are shown in:

Howto.htm Containing hints and solutions for common questions (a faq list)

Access

The help file window of EpiData Analysis is a html browser window called in three ways:

- a. Issuing the help command (example: write "help read" in command prompt)
- b. Pressing the F1 button (example: write "read" in command prompt and press F1)
- c. Pressing Ctrl+F and asking to search in commands or in howto documents

A hierarchical structure is used for what happens when the help window starts as a and b above:

Assume the command written in the command prompt was "read". Now start the hierarchical structure, meaning that continue with next point until a file is shown or an error:

1. Check if {sysdir}\{language}\read.htm (or read.html) exist,
if so show this file and stop else:
2. Check if {sysdir}\en\read.htm (or read.html) exist
if yes show this file and stop else:

3. Check if {sysdir}\{language}\commands.htm exist
if yes show this file, search for the word (here read) and stop else:
4. Check if {sysdir}\en\commands.htm exist
if yes show this file, search for the word (here read) and stop else:
5. Show an error that {sysdir}\en\commands.htm was not found

{sysdir}: the folder in which EpiDataAnalysis.exe is installed

{language}: the language code for the current language (default is "en")

Default detailed help file structure.

A default structure has been defined. See "EpiCmd help template.htm"

All detailed command specific help files **must** conform with this for the help file to work correctly.

Default commands.htm help file structure.

A default structure is shown in the issued commands.htm. Notice in particular the way each command is mentioned as well with as the name itself. Notice also that in this way additional keywords that the user might write can be added.