

WindowHelper 3.5

About WindowHelper

WindowHelper is a tool that adds additional features to MapInfo Pro which helps you while working in especially map and browser windows.

With this new release of WindowHelper the tool has been ported to the new ribbon based interface.

WindowHelper 3.5 is consider a new tool even though it has been built on top of the earlier WindowHelper 2.1. But moving the tool to the 64-bit has made big parts of the tool obsolete as these features now are supported directly in the MapInfo Pro interface.

To get the most out of this tool it is recommended that you add this tool to the Tool Manager and sets it to Autoload.

The features of this tool have all been made in response to requests from customers.

If you have any requests or feedback on the WindowHelper, please send your feedback thru the Ideas Community: <http://ideas.pb.com/>

Add your feedback to the MapInfo Pro product and mark the subject with "WindowHelper tool".

Install WindowHelper

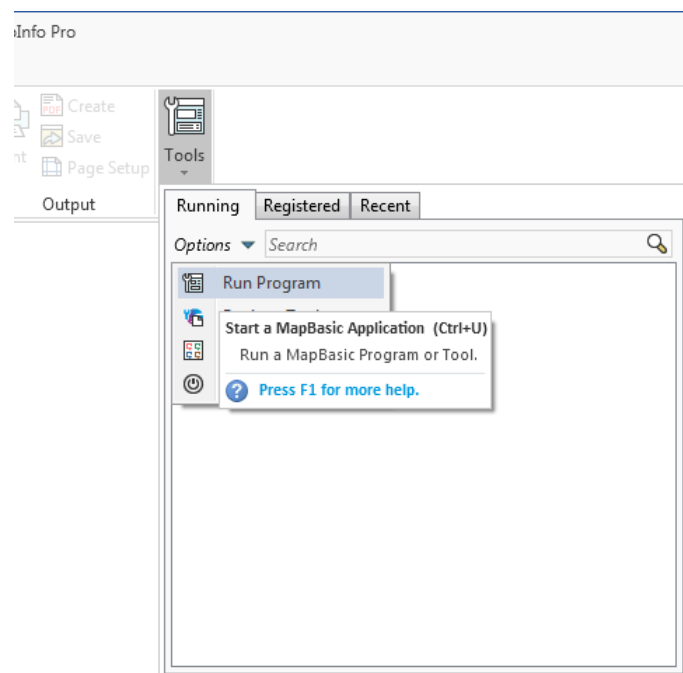
You install WindowHelper by downloading the WindowHelper.zip file. Extract the files into a new folder or into the folder with your other MapInfo tools.

It is not recommended to put this tool on a network drive as it is using a number of .NET resources that not easily can be run from a network drive.

So make sure you put the tool on your local hard drive.

Add tool to Tool Manager

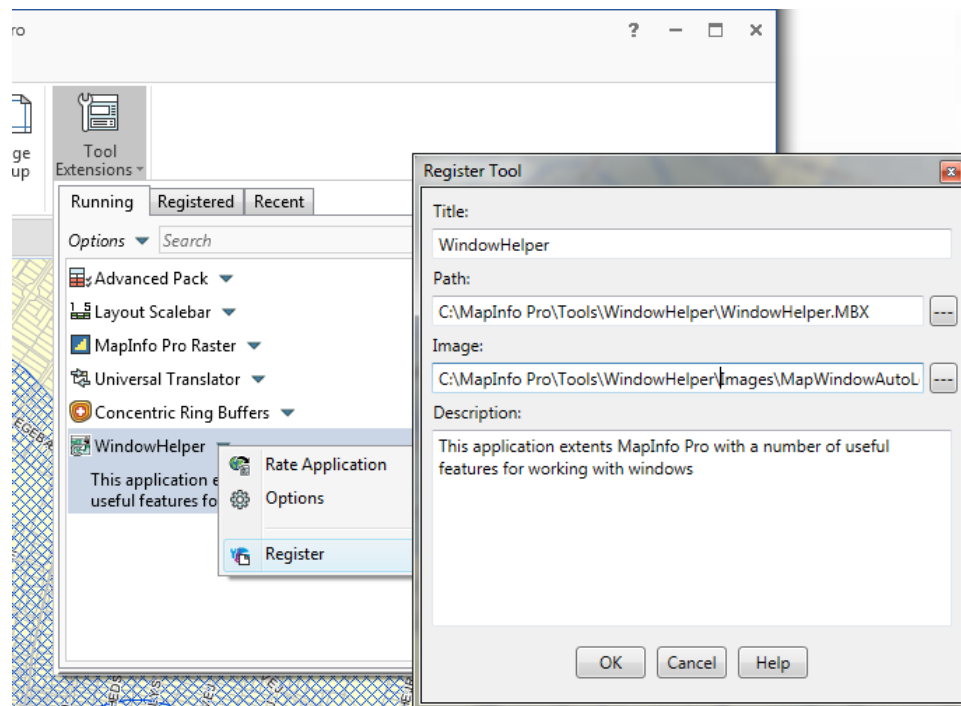
Go to Home > *Tools* and click on the *Run Program* in the *Options* menu.



Now navigate to the location where you unzipped WindowHelper and select the file WindowHelper.mbx.

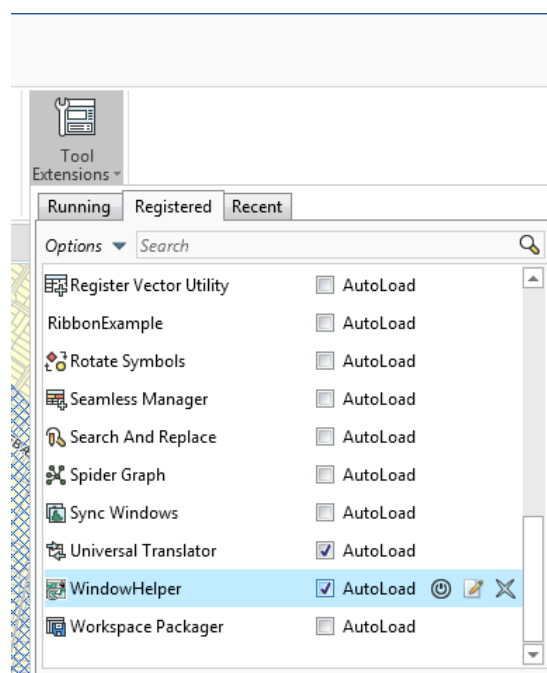
Once the tool has been loaded you can go back to the Tools window and click on the context menu of WindowHelper in the list of *Running* tools.

Then click on *Register* to add WindowHelper to the list of registered tools.



Notice that the values have been prefilled for you. Click *OK* to add WindowHelper to the list of tools.

Go back to the *Tools* window select the *Registered* tab to see the registered tools. Here you can check the *Autoload* checkbox for this tool to load it whenever MapInfo Pro starts up.



New features in WindowHelper 3.5

Number of selected records is now shown in the statusbar. This gives you a quick overview over how many records you have selected instead of having to browse the selection.

Browse in Floating window is a new feature that lets you browse a table directly into a floating window. You can access this via the TABLE tab, via Ctrl+Shift+F4 and via the context menu of the Table List.

Static Theme lets you create a thematic that uses the values from a selected column in combination with the styles from the spatial object in the table.

New shortcuts have been added for cloning a map window via the Map Context menu of the Layer List

The state of the InfoSelHandler is now stored and restored correctly between sessions.

Dialog with functions that can used with the new Exec() function in MapInfo Pro 17.0 such as getting coordinates from a map window to be used in a SmartText.

New features in WindowHelper 3.0

Advanced Rename Layer is one new feature in WindowHelper. This features lets you rename a layer or cosmetic layer in a map window. You can also save this new Friendly name as the default friendly layer name for the table so that the table always will use it. And you can ask to have the table renamed in all map windows.

Rename Multiple Layers is another new feature. This lets you rename all the layers of a map to match the file name of the table. It means that the underscores of the table name can be removed with spaces.

Filter Using Cell Value lets you quickly filter the records in a browser using the cell value of the cell you right click on.

Show Info on Selection shows the attributes of the selected record in the Info window.

Features of WindowHelper

When you run the WindowHelper tool, it will place buttons on the ribbon, menu items in a number of context menus and embed itself in the Tools window.

The *WindowHelper* tool embeds itself in a number of places. Some features are placed directly on tabs of the ribbon and you will also find many feature in context menu/right click menus in a number of places.

Creating Map Extent

You can use the WindowHelper tool to create the extent from one map window in another map window. This can be used for printing or simply for positioning your detailed map in an overview map.

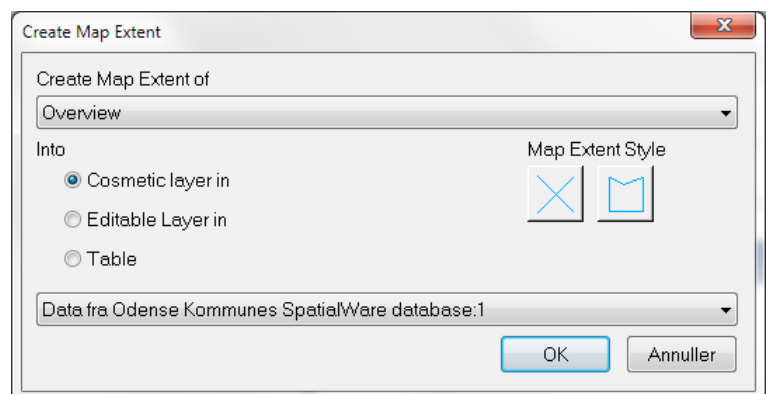
You can also create the map extent of the map window it the window itself. This can be useful if you need to find objects within the current map extent.

On the *MAP* tab in the group *Options*, click on *Map Extent* to start the process. You can also access this feature via the right click menu in the map window.

In the dialog *Create Map Extent* you can now pick the window which map extent you want to create.

You can choose three ways of storing the map extent:

- The cosmetic layer of a map
- The editable layer of a map
- A table



If you pick 1 or 2, you must also pick what map window to store the map extent into. If you pick the 3rd option you must pick what table to store the map extent into.

In the dialog, you can also change the style for the map extent created. The style will be written to the configuration file and used again next time you create a map extent.

Show Info on Selection

The feature has been moved into WindowHelper from a stand-alone tool called InfoSelHandler.

When activated, the tool show the attributes of the selected (and deselected) record in the Info window.

You can turn the tool on and off via the *Show Info* control in the *Options* group on the *MAP* tab.

This has been enhanced to also show the number of selected records in the statusbar. This is always active also when Show Info on Selection has been deactivated.



Locate File In Windows Explorer

In the right click menu of the *Tables* window and the right click menu of the layers in the *Layers* and the *Explorer* window you find this menu item, which lets you locate and select the file of a table/layer in Windows Explorer.

This feature works on one selected table or layer.

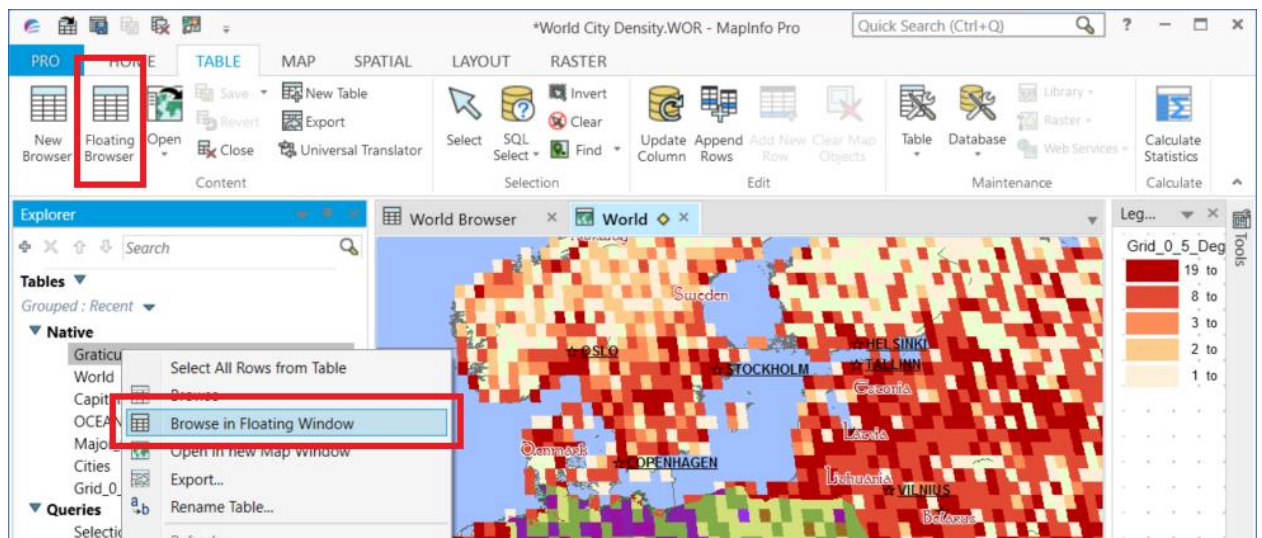
If you have selected a raster layer/table, you will be asked if you want to locate the tab file or the raster file.

Browse in floating Window

The *Browse in floating Window* lets you browse a table in a floating browser window instead of a tabbed browser window which is the default behavior.

You can find this option on the context menu of the tables in the *Table List* and on the *TABLE* tab next to *New Browser*.

You can also use the shortcut *Ctrl+Shift+F4*.



Open File In Favorite Text Editor

In the right click menu of the *Tables* window and the right click menu of the layers in the *Layers* and the *Explorer* window you find this menu item, which lets you open the tab file of a table/layer in your preferred text editor, for example Notepad.

This feature works on one selected table or layer.

This gives you quick access to the content of the tab file and an overview of the table structure as well as the metadata of the tab file.

Close Table

In the right click menu of the layers in the *Layers* and the *Explorer* window you find the *Close table* menu item, that makes it easy to close the table for a specific layer.

This feature works on one selected layer.

Notice that when you close the table thru the layer, all windows only showing this table and queries based on this table are also closed.

Set Default View/Set Default View on All Layers

You will find this menu item in the right click menu of the Maps and of the Layers in the Layer Control.

If you use the menu item from the Maps right click menu, the default view will be set on all layers of the map that support this.

If you use the menu item from the Layers, you will set the default view of one layer at a time.

The default view is the zoom and center of a table used when the table is open as the first table in a new map window.

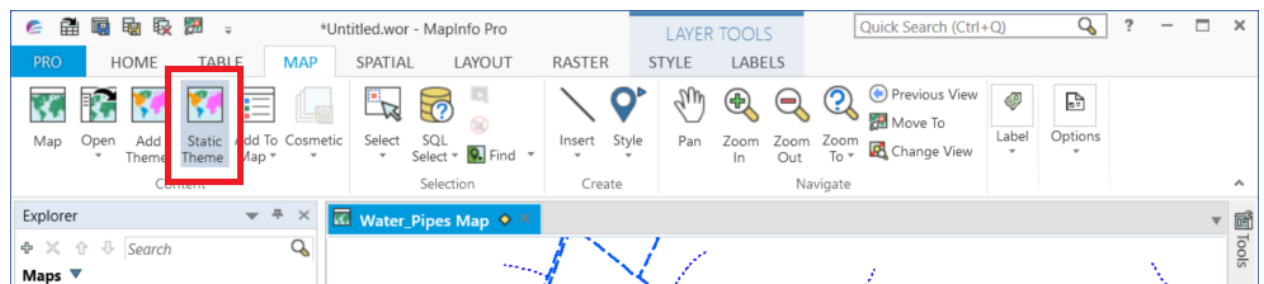
Static Theme

MapInfo Pro allows you to store the styling for a layer in different way: at an object level on the table, as a layer override and as a theme.

There are times where you might want to switch from the object level to a theme. This is where *Static Theme* can help you.

It lets you create a theme based on values in a selected column and the style matching one record with this value. It will of course work best if all your objects with the same value have the same styling.

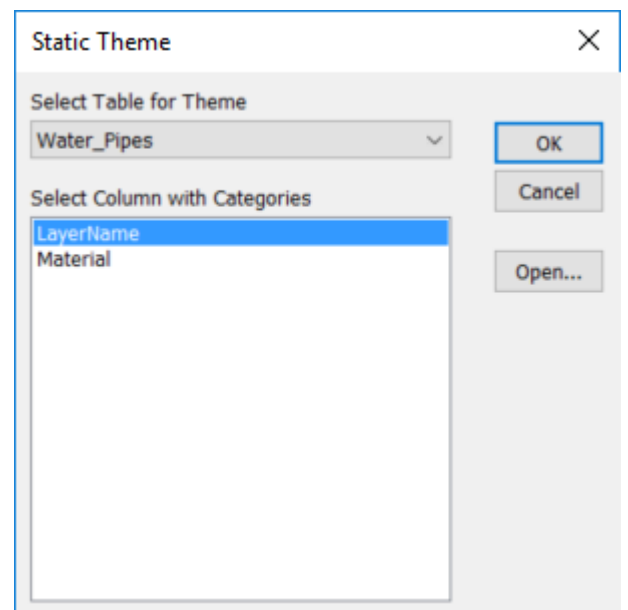
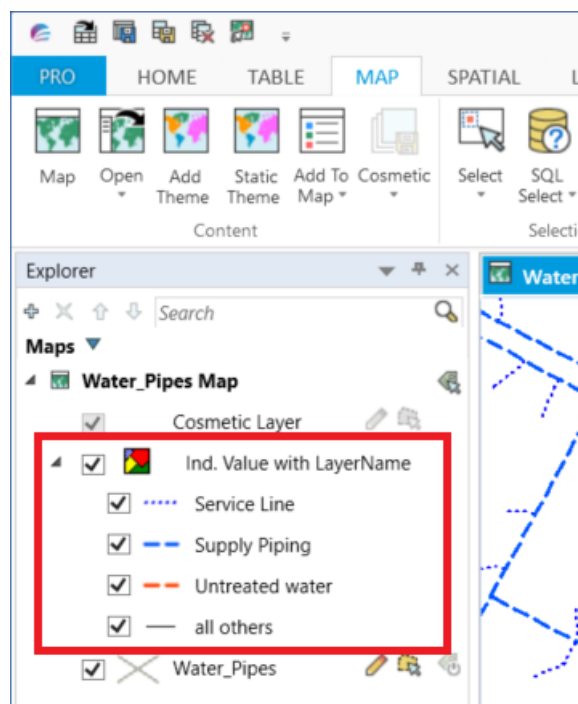
You can find *Static Theme* on the **MAP** tab right next to *Add Theme*.



First you need to select the table you want to create a Static Theme on and then the column holding the values.

WindowHelper will now create a theme based on the values in the column selected and the style of one of the records with the specific value.

The result can be seen as a new theme in the *Layer List*.



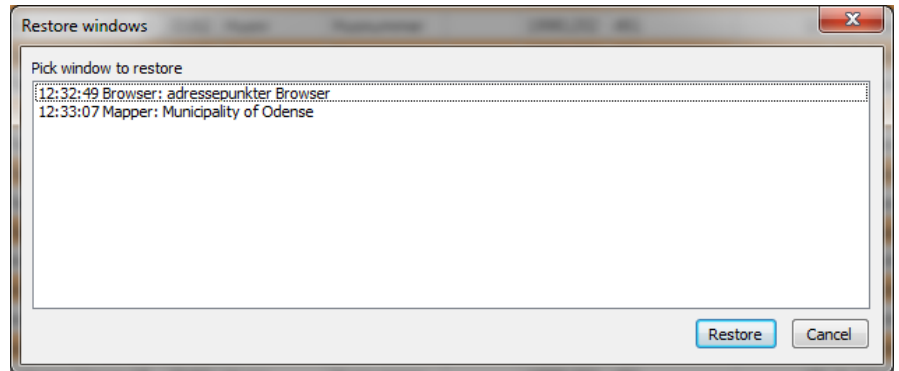
One use case for this is when you want to publish your table to Spectrum Spatial Analyst. If you have a theme on your layer, the legend in Spectrum Spatial Analyst will look a lot better than if the legend is created based on the styling from the objects in the table.

Restore Closed Windows

On the MAP tab in the group Options you also find the feature Restore Windows.

This option lets you restore windows that have been closed during the current session. This can help you recreate a map that you closed by accident.

Click on the *Restore Windows* button and select the window that you want to restore. Then click on Restore. When you have restored all the windows, you want to, close the *Restore Windows* dialog via *Cancel*.



What happens is that WindowHelper takes a snap shot of the window just before the window is being closed. This snap shot is similar to the statement that you will find in a workspace.

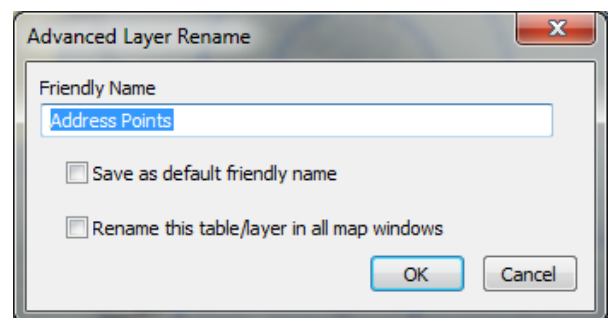
There is however one difference: WindowHelper does not "capture" which tables needs to be open. All it captures is the Window statement. So if you have closed some tables since you closed the window, the restore window might not work.

Advanced Rename Layer

The Advanced Rename Layer feature builds on the new feature added with MapInfo Pro 15.0 that lets you give a layer a friendly name.

This feature extends the capability slightly. You will find *Advanced Rename* in the context menu of the Layers in the *Explorer* and then *Layers* window.

When renaming a layer of a base table, you can now also save the friendly name as the default friendly name. This saves the friendly name as the table description to the metadata section of the table and MapInfo Pro can then automatically apply this name when you add the table to a map.



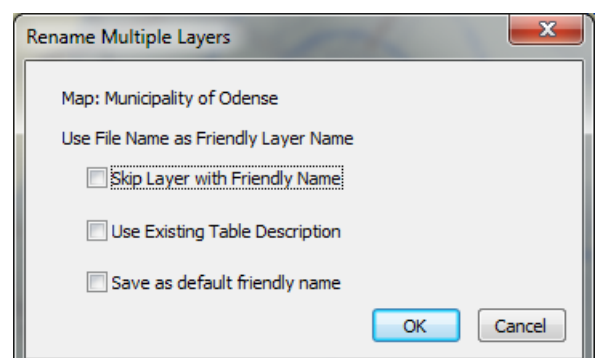
You can also rename the table in other map windows, if it should exist multiple times.

Rename Multiple Layers

Rename Multiple Layer is found in the context menu of the *Map* in the *Explorer* and *Layers* window.

With this feature, you can easily change the friendly name of all the layers in your map.

It will rename the tables to match the file name of the tables. This means that where MapInfo Pro normally would use an underscore instead of a space, you will now



see a space and so a nicer looking layer name.

You have a few options when renaming all your layers:

- *Skip Layer with Friendly Name* lets you keep the friendly name of layers that already have been given a different layer name
- *Use Existing Table Description* will check if the table has a description stored in the metadata section. If there is, this description will be used as the friendly name.
- *Save as default friendly name* will save the friendly name used as the table description in the metadata section of the individual tab file.

Filter by Cell Value

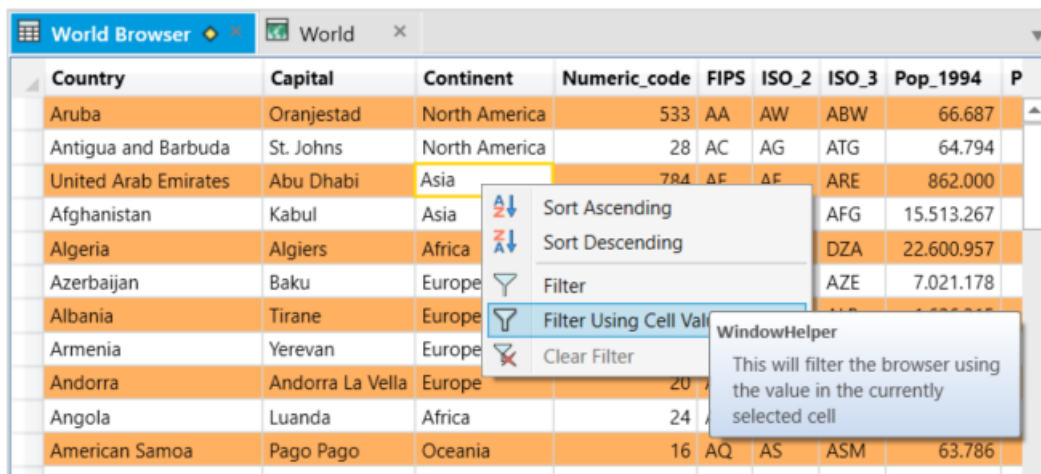
This feature can be found in two places:

- In the context menu of the browser window
- And in the *Filter* menu in the *Sort and Filter* group on the *TABLE* tab.

The feature gives you a very easy way to filter your browser window using a value in a cell.

Click in the cell with the value that you want to filter the table using. Be aware that the tool by default ignores the top left cell, so avoid using this cell.

Now click on *Filter by Cell Value* in one of the two places.



The browser window will now only show records matching the value you highlighted.

Function List

MapInfo Pro 17.0 has a new function that lets you call/use custom subprocedures and functions in a running MapBasic application from multiple places in MapInfo Pro. You can use these functions from a label expression, in a SmartText in a Layout, in a SQL Select statement, in an Update Column statement and in multiple other places.

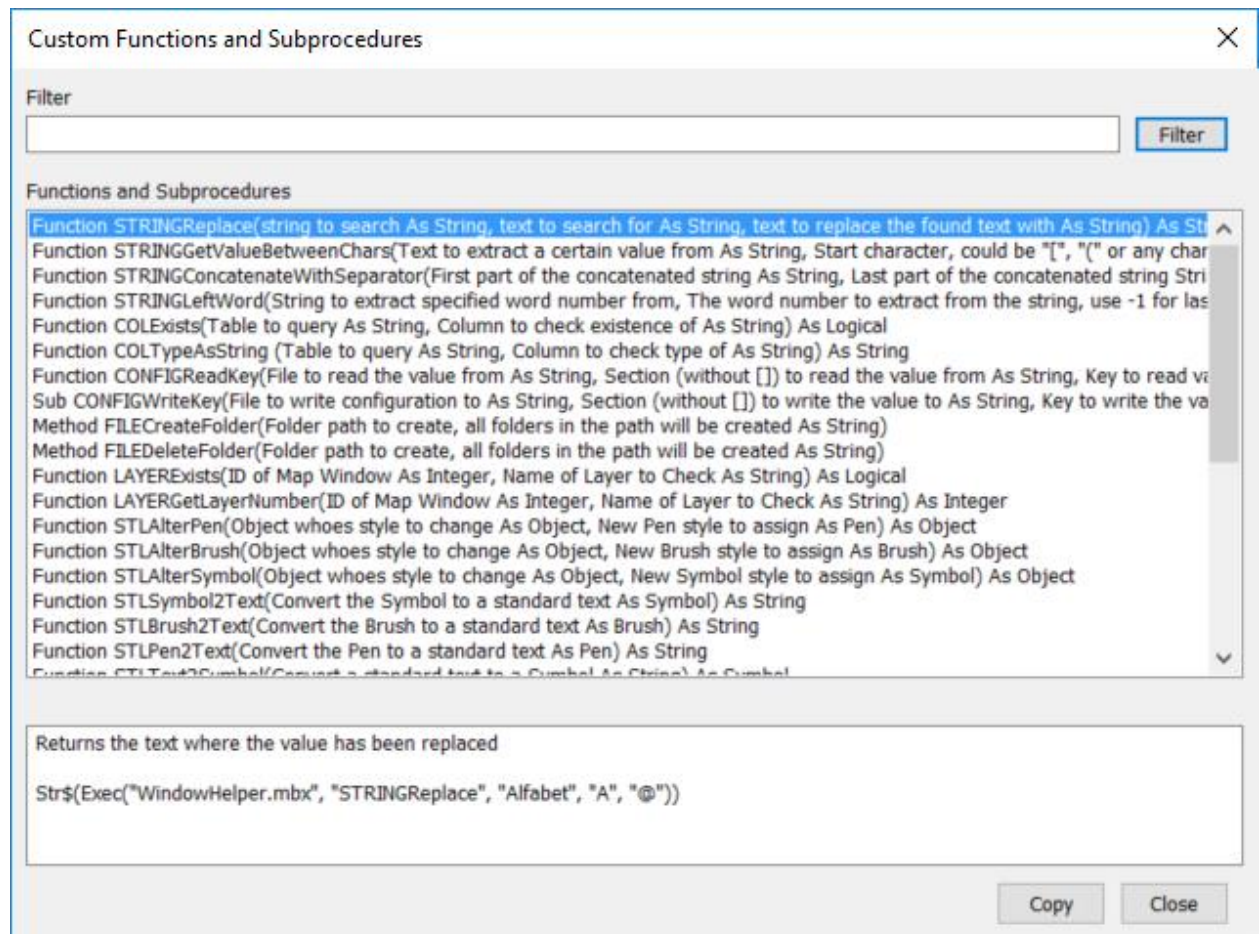
The problem often is to know which functions a MapBasic application provides you access to.

WindowHelper comes with a dialog that lets you view some of the available functions in the tool. You can then quickly copy an expression using each function and use these in MapInfo Pro.

You access this list of functions from the context menu of the WindowHelper application in the Tools window, see image under Options further down in this document.

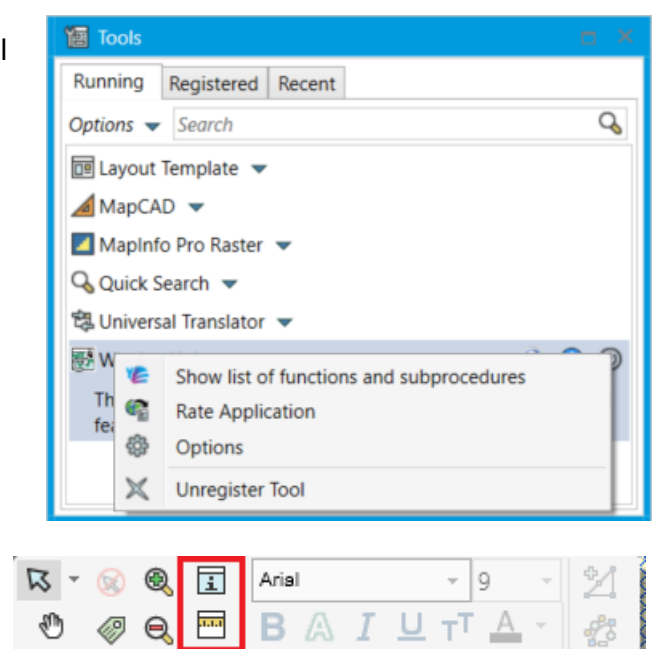
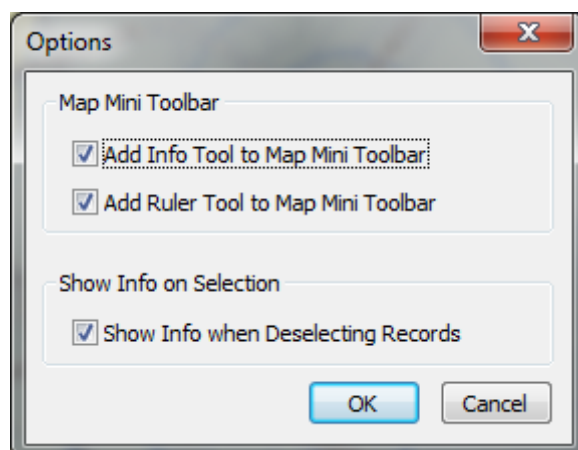
Use the *Filter* option to search for specific functions and click on a function in the list to see a description of the function and an example expression.

Use the *Copy* button or double-click on a function in the list to copy the sample expression to the clipboard.



Options

If you right click on the WindowHelper tool in the Tools window, you can access the options for the tool.



The options lets you specify if you want to add the *Info Tool* and the *Ruler Tool* to the *Map Mini Toolbar*. These have been disabled if you are using MapInfo Pro 17.0 or newer as you can modify the *Map Mini Toolbar* via the *Customize Ribbon* dialog.

We have in certain cases seen issues when the tool shows information about the deselected features. If you start to see misbehaviour, you can turn of the showing of information when deselecting records.

Known issues