Application Setup

13 November 2017

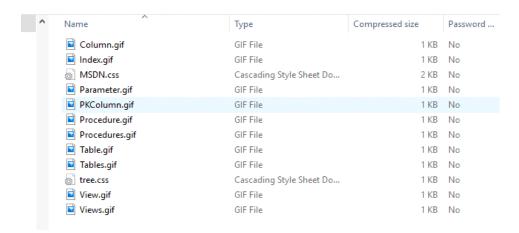
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- 1- Set up a folder structure that is easily accessible
- 2- 2- I found the best way is to have two folders, one contains the files ready to be compiled, the other as a staging area for new documents. I usually just do a quick scan of the documents in the staging folder for things like correct file extensions, valid document names (no special characters)
- 3- Unzip the resources zip file, it contains a few images and 2 CSS stylesheets
- 4- These style sheets are essential for the way the chm component operates internally
- 5- Execute the install MSI, follow the prompts
- 6- The installer should install a start menu item, if not, the executable will be found under program files X86
- 7- Depending on how tight your user access rights are setup, you might have to give the executable rights to run under an admin account



Proposed folder structure

Use C:\Articles\Articles\ as the main location and C:\Articles\Article Dump for staging

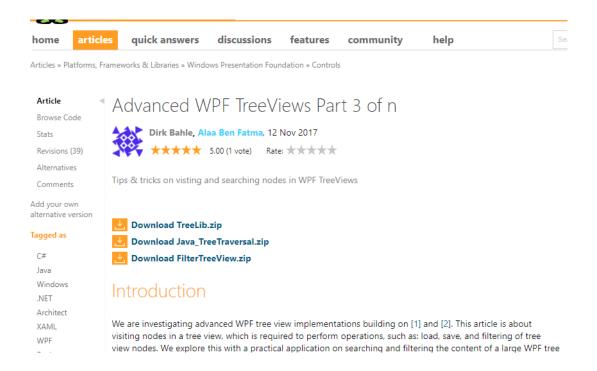


Contents of zipped resources file: extract them into your folder where all Your documents are ready to be compiled

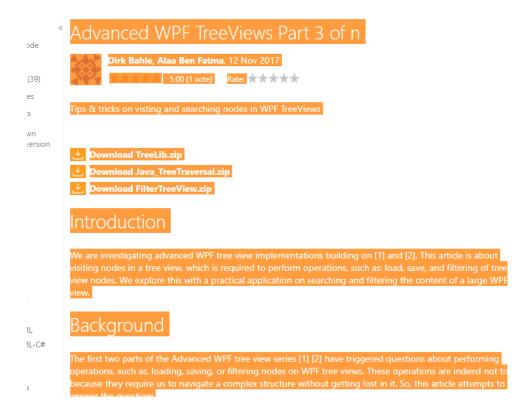
Saving Site Content

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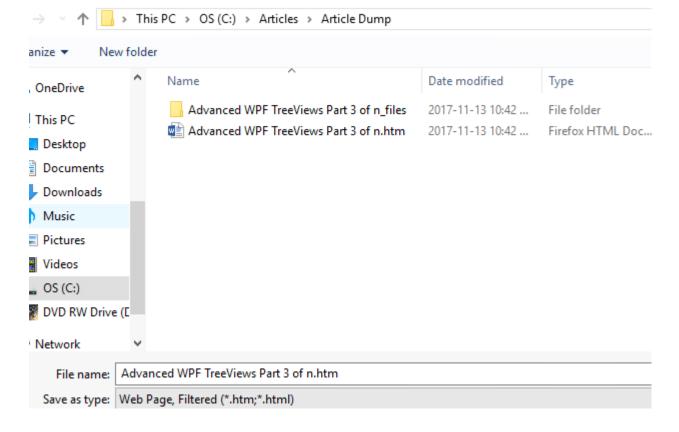
1- Navigate to the website containing the information you're interested in



- 2- Select the text you want and highlight to copy
- 3- Try to just select just the information you require and exclude any embedded advertisements, navigation bars and other unnecessary content, it just adds to the size of the end product



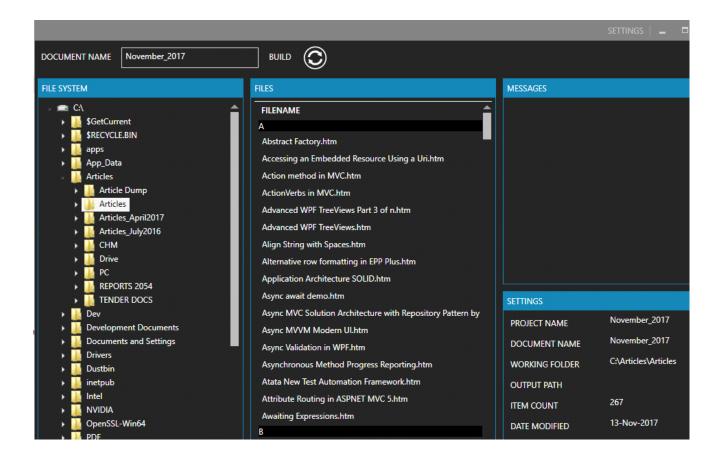
- 4- Open any word processor application and paste the content. Save the document into either your main folder location or your staging folder. (i.e. C:\Articles\Article Dump)
- 5- NB: Save the document as **web page filtered**, this is important for the CHM compiler component which uses web pages as the base document type in its compilation process.
- 6- Another reason for using this file type extension is that the document images are also saved in a separate sub folder which is picked up by the application and included in the chm when compiling.



Using the Application

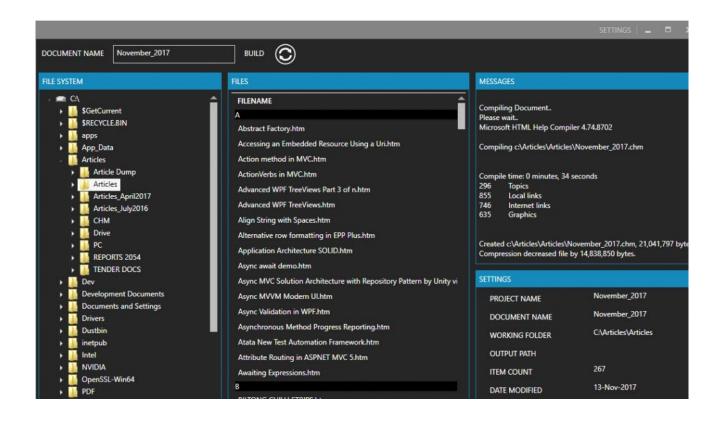
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- 1- Start the Article Compiler application
- 2- Select the main folder location where all your documents are sitting
- 3- The documents will be listed only if they have a .htm file extension
- 4- The default name of the final product is the current month, but it can be renamed in the text box provided
- 5- If you are happy with the selected location, press build



6-Once the application has finished the process, a confirmation message will be displayed with the size and location of the final CHM file.

7- Depending on the size of the file folder, it should take about 30 seconds to compile about 250 documents



Troubleshooting

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- 1-The Microsoft CHM compile component is usually part of the Windows OS, if it isn't, it can be downloaded from MSDN. Search for MS help Compiler
- 2-When saving your content, ensure that title of the document doesn't contain special characters
- Over time I found the ideal size of the chm is around 30megs (about 300/400 documents). It's another way to catalogue your information and make searching for content a lot easier

How the Application Works

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- The application takes the saved documents and rewrites them into a format that is understood by the CHM component like the TOC navigation bar
- The content and index pages are created by taking the names of the files, reformatted and inserted into custom Html pages with css classes which are specific to the CHM component's internal process of navigation
- These pages are then written out to the hard drive with all the supporting files needed by the CHM compiler to create the CHM document like folder structure, application settings etc
- Once the CHM has been complied, all the output of the process is removed and deleted.
- This is helpful for determining the source of any errors that have occurred during the compilation process.
- The whole point to this application was for the process to be quick and easy, so I used an alphabetic mechanism for cataloguing the documents. It is quite easy to make the indexing customizable, but that would defeat the purpose of a quick one-click process