

Using HelpSmith to create help files for PLCNext projects & function blocks.



Complete **XML-based** help authoring tool to create CHM HTML Help files, Web Help systems, Printed Manuals, Adobe PDF, Microsoft Word, ePub eBooks, and Markdown documentation from a single source.



Step 1: Start New Project

Start Page

Get Started



Start New Project
Create a new HelpSmith project.

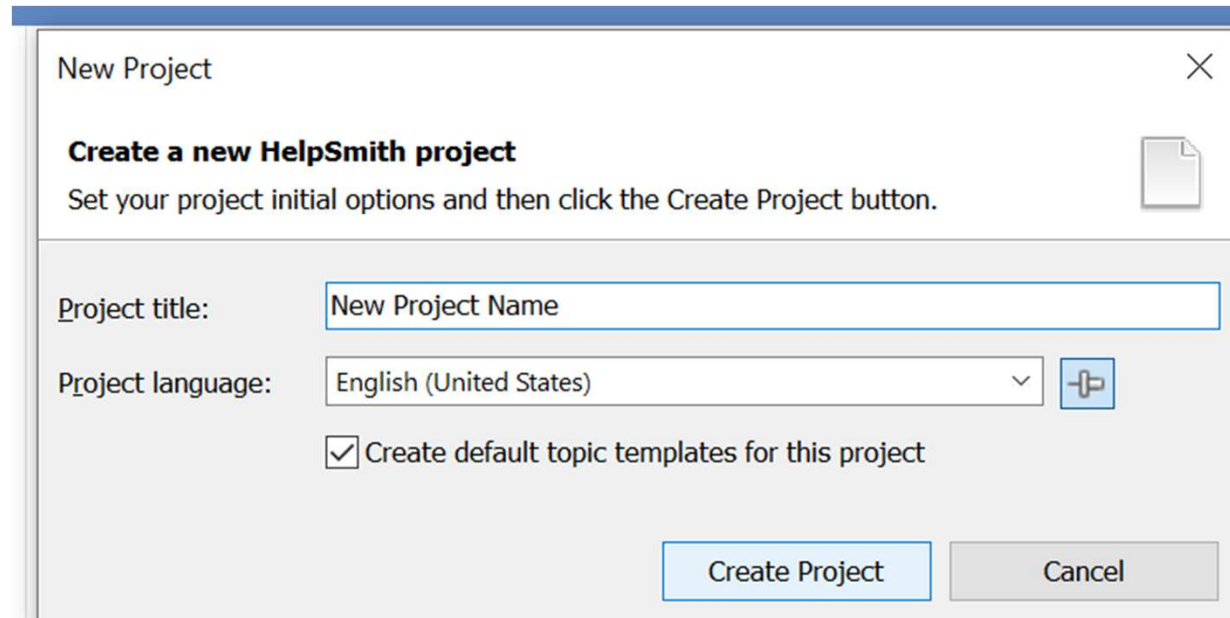


Open Project
Open an existing HelpSmith project.



Import Files & Folders
Import existing files.

Step 1: Start New Project




The screenshot shows a 'New Project' dialog box with a blue title bar. The dialog contains a close button (X) in the top right corner. Below the title bar, there is a section titled 'Create a new HelpSmith project' with a document icon to its right. Below this title, a subtitle reads 'Set your project initial options and then click the Create Project button.' The main area of the dialog has a light gray background and contains three input fields: 'Project title:' with a text box containing 'New Project Name'; 'Project language:' with a dropdown menu showing 'English (United States)' and a blue button with a plus icon; and a checked checkbox labeled 'Create default topic templates for this project'. At the bottom right, there are two buttons: 'Create Project' (highlighted with a blue border) and 'Cancel'.

New Project

Create a new HelpSmith project

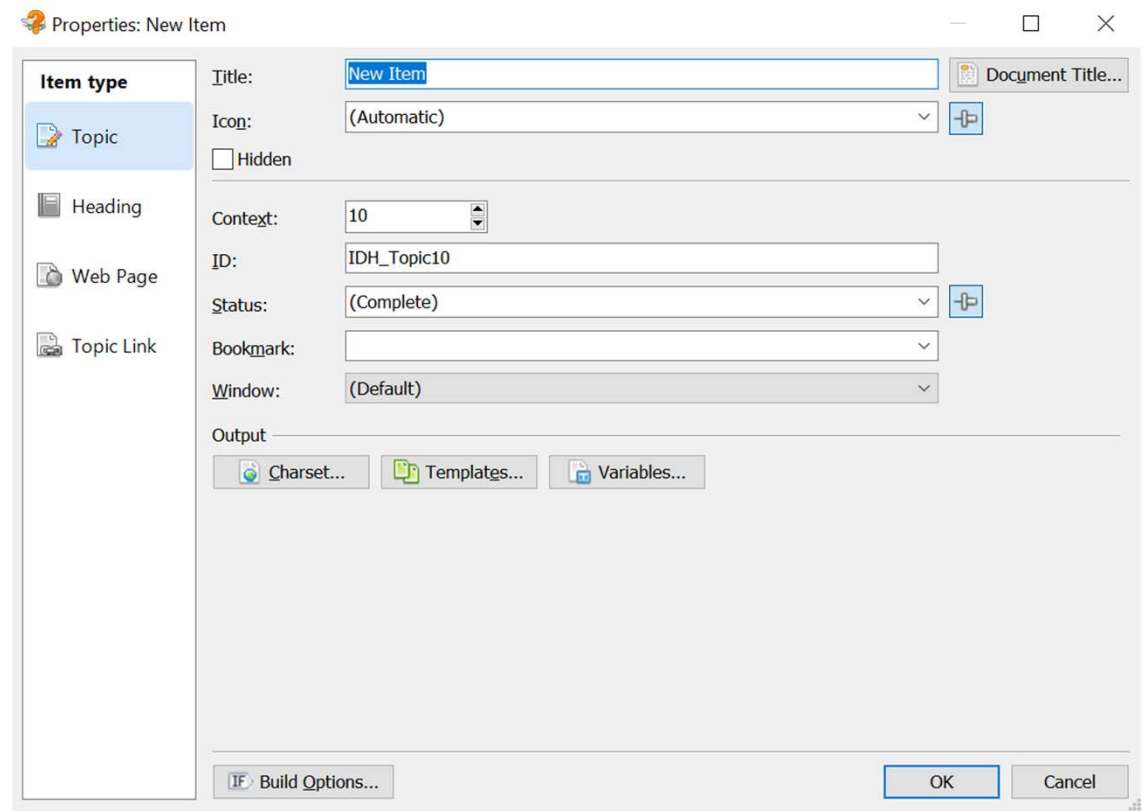
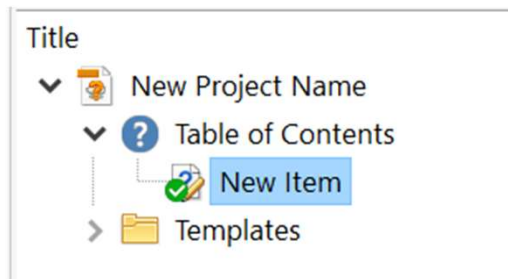
Set your project initial options and then click the Create Project button.

Project title:

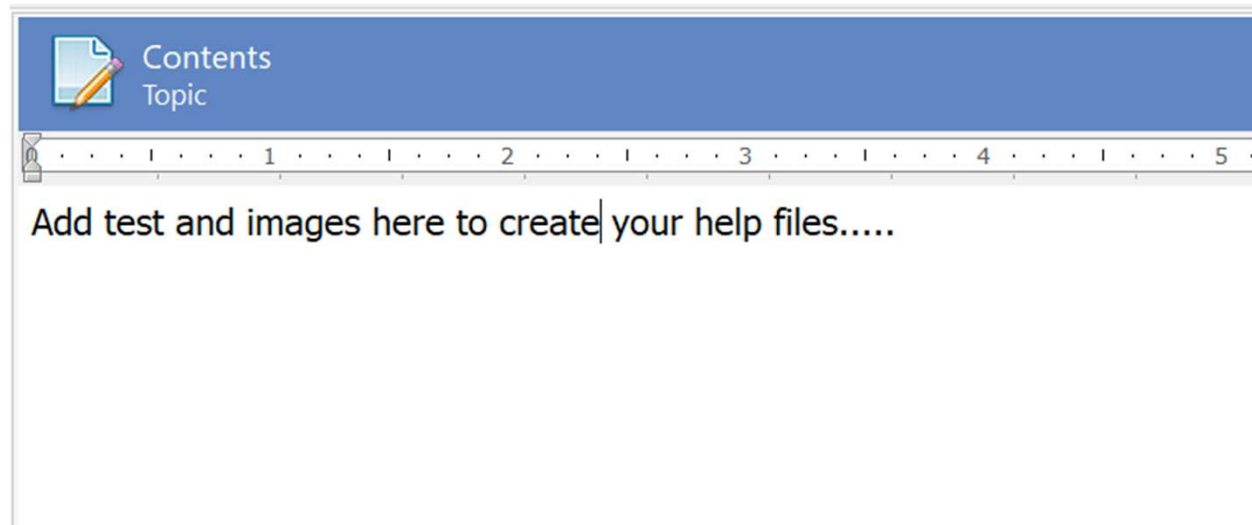
Project language: 

☒ Create default topic templates for this project

Step 2: Add new documents



Step 3: Enter help file text



The screenshot shows a software interface for creating help files. At the top, there is a blue header bar with a document icon and the text "Contents Topic". Below the header is a horizontal ruler with tick marks and numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. The main area is a large text box containing the text "Add text and images here to create your help files.....".

Step 4: Add additional pages as needed.

▼  Motor_Controls_FBs			Project
▼  Table of Contents			
 Motor_Amps	20		Topic
 Motor_Amps_WAlarm	30		Topic
 Motor_Control	40		Topic
 Motor_Fwd_Rev_Control	50		Topic
 Motor_Fwd_Rev_Inlock	60		Topic
▼  Templates			

Step 5: Select Compile tab and select type of file to create.



Compile Project

? X

Compilation settings

Define your compilation settings and then press the Compile button.



Output format:  HTML Help (CHM) v

Output filename: C:\Users\gjoyner\Documents\HelpSmith Projects\Untitled.chm ...

☒ Determine the path automatically

Build Tags:

Build Tag	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> #HTMLHelp	HTML Help Format
<input type="checkbox"/> #WebHelp	Web Help Format
<input type="checkbox"/> #PrintedManual	Printed Manual Format
<input type="checkbox"/> #PDF	PDF Document
<input type="checkbox"/> #Word	Word Document
<input type="checkbox"/> #ePub	ePub eBook
<input type="checkbox"/> Custom1	Custom Build 1


[Edit Build Tags](#)

☐ Compile topics with status "Complete" only

☒ Open compiled documentation upon successful compilation

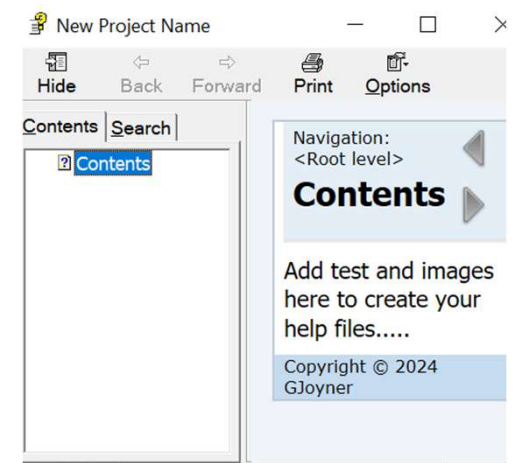
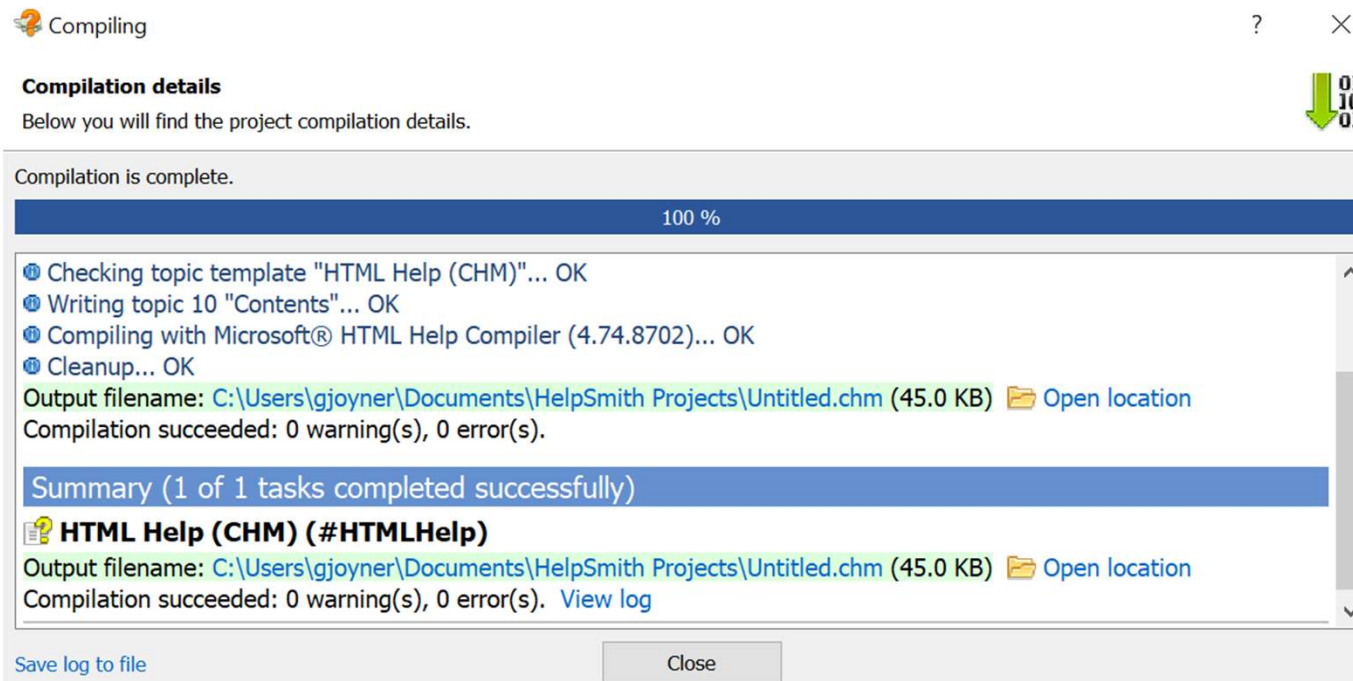


Task Manager →

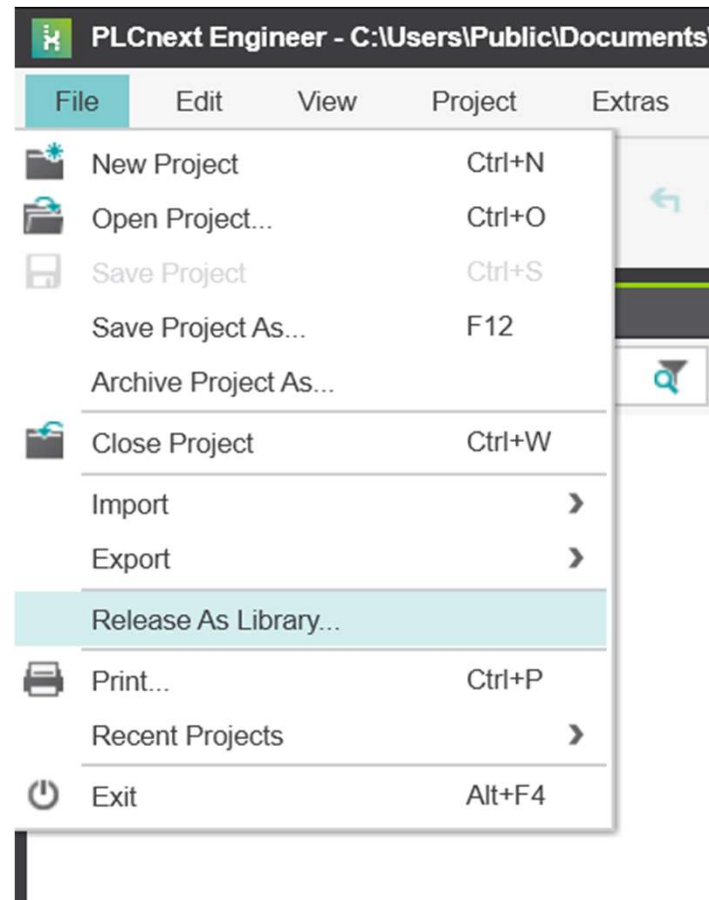
 Project Options...

Cancel


Step 6: Select See compile details for file location. Also see help file that opens & check for errors.
















Step 7: In your PLCNext project select release as library.



Step 8: Add files created in Helpsmith to your Help Files list as shown below. Select “release” tab on bottom right.
Note: Name of project & help file name must be the same adding “FBFun” to help file name. Ext will be as shown.

Library:	C:\Users\Public\Documents\PLCnext Engineer\Libraries\Assorted_FBs.pcw\lx		
Version:			
Description:			
Help file(s):	Assorted_FBs_FBFun.chm	<input type="button" value="Add file(s)"/>	Library description
		<input type="button" value="Remove file"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Use HTML5 help system		
Redistribution: ⓘ	 Unlimited (cascaded) ▼		

Step 9: Select parts of project to release & select visibility. Select “release” when ready to save library.

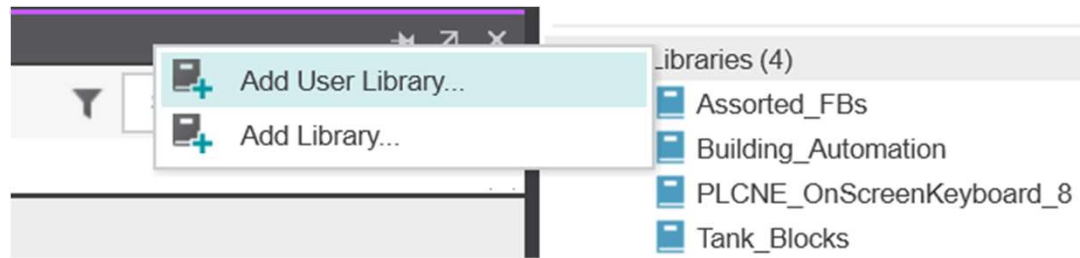
Name	Selection	Info	Visibility	Version	Additional information
▼  Programming	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		▼		
▼  Local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		▼		
▼  Functions & Function Blocks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		▼		
 Motor_Amps	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		 Visible ▼		
 Motor_Amps_WAlarm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		 Restricted ▼		
 Motor_Control	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		 Visible ▼		
 Motor_Fwd_Rev_Inlock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		 Visible ▼		
 Motor_Fwd_Rev_Control	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		 Visible ▼		

Release

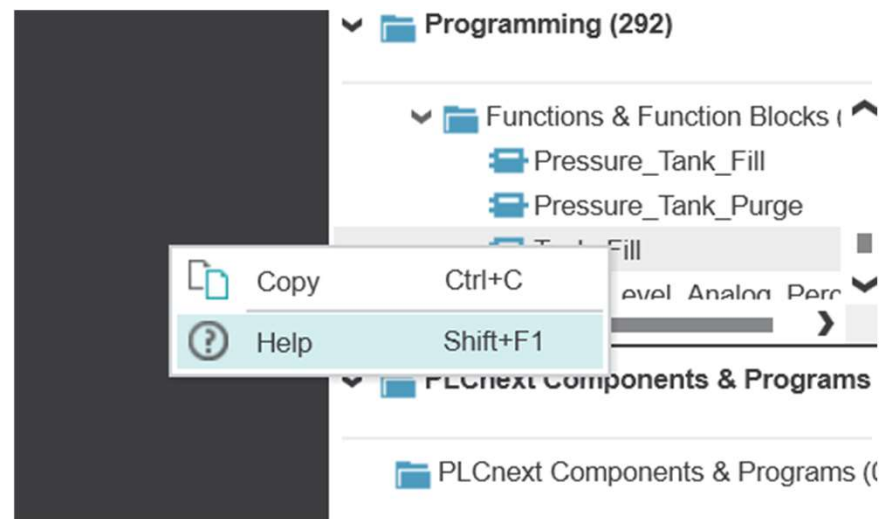
Save

Close

Step 10: Add User library to PLCNext project. Right click FB for help file.



Step 11: Right click FB for help file.



Step 12: Help file should open as shown below..

