

WinWriters Daily Hot Sheet Online Help Conference

Wednesday, February 24, 1999



ForeHelp, RoboHELP, HomeSite among Walden winners

by Chuck Martin

A small, upstart company, Allaire, joined ForeFront and Blue Sky Software as winners last night at the first--and last--WinWriters Author's Choice Awards.

HomeSite (for Best HTML Authoring Tool), ForeHelp Premier (Best WinHelp Authoring Tool), and RoboHELP HTML Edition (Best HTML Help Authoring Tool) all won Waldens, named after WinHelp creator Ralph Walden, in voting by Help authors.

Work Write's Cheryl Lockett Zubak, co-author of the book



Cheryl Lockett Zubak accepts the All-Time, All-Around Help Guru award as Matthew Ellison looks on.

Designing Windows 95 Help, took home 2 Waldens, one for Best Speaker or Instructor and one for All-Time, All-Around Help Guru. The award ceremony

culminated a sparkling evening of socializing, feasting, and reminiscing.

Microsoft's Shane McRoberts opened up the post-dinner cer-



Joe Welinske, Scott Boggan, and Dave Farkas accept their Waldens for the book *Developing Online Help for Windows 95*.

emony, page 2). Master of Ceremonies Joe Welinske subsequently added his own historical anecdotes before introducing the various award presenters.

seemed truly surprised to win the award for Most Valuable Problem Solver Online, a category that has quite the history of its own, stretching back to

List of Walden Award winners

Best Speaker or Instructor	Cheryl Lockett Zubak
Best HTML Help Authoring Tool	RoboHELP HTML Edition
Most Valuable Problem Solver Online	Paul Neshamkin
Best HTML Authoring Tool	HomeSite
Most Valuable Online Communication Book	<i>Designing and Writing Online Documentation</i>
Most Valuable Help Authoring Utility	<i>Paint Shop Pro</i>
Most Valuable Help Book	<i>Developing Online Help for Windows 95</i>
Best WinHelp Authoring Tool	ForeHelp Premier
All-Time, All-Around Help Guru	Cheryl Lockett Zubak

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Credits

Editor, photographer Chuck Martin

emony by announcing the newest HTML Help MVPs. Then the Father of WinHelp himself, Ralph Walden, took the audience through the history of WinHelp, from the days of DOS prompts to the future of HTML Help (see full

Both the nominees and the presenter list read like a Who's Who of the WinHelp world, including Mary Deaton, Scott Boggan, Dana Cline, Dave Farkas, Ben Weisner, and JoAnn Hackos.

Paul Neshamkin

CompuServe days. Other winners were the books *Developing and Writing Online Documentation* and *Developing Online Help for Windows 95* and the utility *Paint Shop Pro*.

Help founder traces history of Help

by Chuck Martin

When was the last time you saw a DOS prompt? I mean, a real, full-screen, that's-all-that's-running-on-the-machine DOS prompt?

For those who were at last night's Author's Choice Awards dinner, it was during WinHelp creator Ralph Walden's talk on the history of WinHelp.

According to Ralph, some of the origins of today's Help systems came from the early DOS-based Help systems that ran in full-screen DOS sessions.

Along the way, he, along with the rest of the audience, said his farewells once more to some of the Help systems that

fell along the way between then and now: Viewer, DOS 5, PMQH (Presentation Manager QuickHelp [OS/2]), "tigger," and "quill." In addition, in the "dead but shipping" category, was Advisor (still shipping in Windows NT although development stopped 9 years ago), WinHelp, and MediaView (ships with Encarta 99).

In addition to the past, Ralph also took a look forward into the future. That future includes multiple interfaces for HTML Help, interfaces such as HTML Help, HTML UI (as in Money 99), Embedded HTML, and voice recognition.



Ralph Walden



Everyone's enjoying the Help Conference

Two special awards

Just as the Walden Awards ceremony was about to close, it was interrupted by Chery Lockett Zubak and Scott Boggan bounding up to the stage. Rather than the evening being over, they had created two special awards to recognize luminaries in the Help industry.

For his commitment to creating and evangelizing Help technologies, an award went to WinHelp creator Ralph Walden.

For his long-time service to the Help community, an award went to Online Help Conference founder Joe Welinske.

Both awards were original-edition caricatures of the award winners.

After the award ceremonies, both awards were signed by many present in tribute to all that both have offered.

ForeFront Announces Cooperation with E.S.M.M.I.

ForeFront, Inc., a leading supplier for visual authoring tools for online Help development, proudly announces its cooperation with E.S.M.M.I., a new help authoring tool vendor from Israel. ForeFront will be including a 30-day trial version of E.S.M.M.I.'s MMhelper in both upcoming releases of its new ForeHTML Pro 3 demo CD and ForeHelp Premier 99.

MMhelper lets your Help file users add context-sensitive help and customized information to existing applications without having to recompile

the applications. When you use MMhelper you don't need the programmer, just the program.

ForeFront and E.S.M.M.I. believe that Help authors could use MMhelper to offer end-users a tool for adding their own notes and details to their application. It is a productive value-added tool for both Help authors and end-users.

Make sure to place your orders for ForeHelp Premier 99 (info@ff.com or 1-800-357-8507) and look for your 30-day trial version of MMhelper!



Joe Welinske holds his special community award.

A whole slew of prizes...

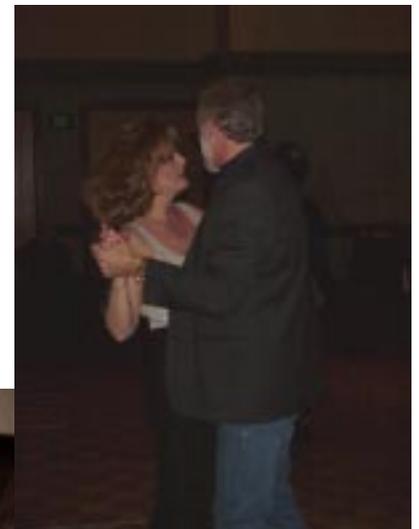
Prizes for filling out session evaluations

Lorraine Kieviet, EZ Data Quick View Plus, JASC Software
 Catherine Willis, Magellan Corp. Paint Shop Pro, JASC Software
 Denise Box, Promus Hotels Developing Online Help for Windows 95, WinWriters
 Linda Saldana, Autodesk, Inc. Enterprise Publishing SE, Live Linx Extensible Solutions
 Renate Bruck, 3Com EAuthor/Help, HyperAct, Inc.
 Diane Orzepowski, ATL Products Notebook/laptop attache, WinWriters
 Cheryl Colehour, University of Washington CD carrier and leather portfolio, WinWriters

Prizes given out at the awards dinner

Cyndi Dike, The Help Universe Enterprise Publishing SE, Live Linx
 Robert Gruen, SPSS, Inc. MMHelper, E.S.M.M.I.
 Laura Reite, IntegraTrak, Inc. RoboHELP Office 7, Blue Sky Software
 Matt Wilburn, Enabling Technology, Inc. TECHCOMM 99 Registration, SOLUTIONS, INC.
 Jackie Charley, EDS HomeSite, Allaire Corp.
 Robert Crump, Sterling Software HWA WinHelp (w/ free upgrade to HyperText Studio 3.0, Olson Software
 Amber Clarke, TEC-AD AnswerWorks/HelpXtender, WexTech
 Karen Questell, ENRON Trade Quick View Plus, JASC Software
 Mino Miyashiro, WonderWare Corporation Paint Shop Pro, JASC Software
 Linda Bebernes, Analogy, Inc. WebWorks Publisher, Quadralay

A few photo memories...



Wednesday schedule

	Grand A/B	Grand C	East	Metropolitan	West	Aspen	Cedar
9:00-10:15	How to Use Conceptual Information in Online Help	Expanding Our Understanding of Users...	Help Author's Toolkit	Jazzing Up Your HTML Help with DHTML and Scripting	Indexing and Other Access Strategies	Delivering Self-Updating Cross-Platform Help...	
10:30-11:45	Building "Show Me" Demos into Windows Help	(continued)	Using Adobe Acrobat for Online Help	Demystifying Context-Sensitive Help	Working With WebHelp	Prototyping Techniques for Interactive Design	Developing for Multiple Online Targets
12:00-1:15	Winning Help Systems	Life on the Bleeding Edge: Meeting the HTML Help Challenge	Coordinating Cross-Platform Help Development	Introduction to DHTML	Seamlessly Integrating Content Into Windows Applications		
1:30-2:45	Deconstructing Microsoft's Use of Dynamic HTML...	RoboHELP Office Tools Overview	The Effect of Document and Reader Characteristics...	Custom Crafting Help for Web-Based Products	Making the New Media Wrok for You	Adobe Acrobat Q & A	Intuit Roundtables
3:00-4:15	Text, Links, and VideoTapes...	Building a Browser-Based Help System	(continued)	Winning Entries from the STC...	Eliminating Common Errors of First-Time RoboHELP Authors		

Wednesday events and notes

Conference evaluations

Throughout the conference you've (hopefully) been filling out the session evaluations (and maybe winning some nice prizes for doing so). Before you leave, we'd like to hear your thoughts on the conference as a whole.

In your registration bag, you'll find a yellow Overall Conference Evaluation sheet. Please take a few moments to fill it out and drop it at the conference Registration Desk.

Of all conference evaluations turned in, one will be chosen and its author will win a free registration to the 8th Annual WinWriters Online Help Conference in San Diego next March.

Literature table

To the right of the conference Registration Desk there's a literature table. Drop by to find information about many companies in the online Help industry.

Last day for the bookstore

The special conference bookstore, sponsored by Magnolia Bookstore, is open for business in the Douglas Room only until 2:00pm today. Stop in before you leave and peruse a wide range of useful books.

If you don't want to drag your new books on the plane home, Magnolia Bookstore will gladly ship your books for you.

Unclaimed prizes

Several people have not claimed prizes awarded earlier this week.

Check your SOLUTIONS, INC. buttons! The owner of button #633 has not claimed the prize of a free registration to TECHCOMM 99 in Washington, D.C., this July.

Sarah Senders of DIRECTTV, El Segundo, CA, won a copy of WebWorks Publisher from Quadralay Corporation.

Ellen Thournir of Quickpen Intl., Englewood, CO, won a copy of ForeHelp Premier from ForeFront.

Handouts available

Whitney Quesenberg's Monday morning session handouts "Building Documentation into the Interface" can be picked up at the conference Registration Desk.

Corrections

Yesterday's Daily Hot Sheet had a photo caption identifying Microsoft's Lead Program Manager for the HTML Help team as Shane McReynolds. His name is Shane McRoberts.

Also, it was reported that the ship date for Microsoft's Internet Explorer version 5.0 is March 17. The correct ship date was announced to be March 18.

See you next year!



Allaire's HomeSite won the Walden for Best HTML Authoring Tool