exp:exphelp

Source file: doc/eng-us/examples/commands/exphelp.md Last changed 2026-11-04
https://doc.exponential.earth/exphelp/viewer/examples/commands/exphelp.md

The help system on the command line: build and describe the index of doc/, search it, show a page's metadata, check its links and images.

Script `bin/php/exphelp.php`, code in `kernel/private/classes/commands/exphelp.php`. Run it from the installation root, as the user the web server runs as:

Shell

```
./console exp:exphelp --help
./console exp:help --help
php bin/php/exphelp.php --help
```

Help text

```
The help system: the index of the documentation, its search and its link check

./console exp:help index                    build the index (if it is not current) and describe
it
./console exp:help index --rebuild          build it again, whatever is cached
./console exp:help index --list             one line per page: id, type, category, audiences, ti
tle
./console exp:help index --no-images        without fetching the pages' external images
./console exp:help search "clear cache"     search the pages (--audience, --category, --type, --
limit)
./console exp:help show guides/caches.md    the metadata and headings of one page
./console exp:help check                    check the links and images of every page (--below=gu
ides/)
./console exp:help pdf help/searching.md     the page as a PDF file (--out=file.pdf, --base-url=
https://host)
./console exp:help maps --language=ger-de   check doc/ger-de/.paths.json and .dirnames.json; --f
ix writes the
                                            union of both sides of a git conflict (and of --path
s=, --dirnames=)

Only git-tracked files below doc/ (and the doc/ of the extensions in exphelp.ini ExtensionDocDirs
[]) are
pages; nothing is changed except the cache in var/<site>/cache/exphelp. --json prints one JSON do
cument.
index builds the index of every language of exphelp.ini [DocLanguages] (doc/eng-us/, doc/ger-de/
...);
--language=ger-de limits it to one, and makes search, show, check and pdf read that language.
index also stores a copy of every https image a page shows (README.md's screenshots) in the cache
's
images/, served by exphelp/image, so the admin's Content Security Policy allows them.
Exit code: 0 fine, 1 check found errors (with --strict also warnings) or nothing was found, 2 err
or.
```

Options

Option	Value	Help
`--rebuild`		index: build the index again even when the cached one is current
`--list`		index: list every page
`--no-images`		index: do not fetch the external images of the pages (they stay links)
`--keep-search`		index: keep a current search index instead of building it again (the background build a help page starts)
`--json`		Print one JSON document instead of the text
`--audience`	required	search, index --list: only pages for this audience (editor, admin, developer, user)
`--category`	required	search, index --list: only pages of this category
`--type`	required	search, index --list: only pages of this type (guide, feature, bc, changelog ...)
`--limit`	required	search: the number of results (default 10)
`--below`	required	check, index --list: only the pages whose id starts with this (e.g. guides/)
`--all`		check: also list the notices (links to files that are not help pages)
`--strict`		check: exit 1 on warnings too
`--out`	required	pdf: the file to write (default: the page title as file name, in the current directory)
`--base-url`	required	pdf: scheme and host for the links and the page address (https://www.example.com)
`--language`	required	the documentation language: a directory of exphelp.ini [DocLanguages] Directories[] (eng-us, ger-de; the old en/us and de are accepted)
`--fix`		maps: write .paths.json and .dirnames.json as the union of their entries, sorted
`--paths`	required	maps --fix: also merge the entries of this JSON file into .paths.json
`--dirnames`	required	maps --fix: also merge the entries of this JSON file into .dirnames.json

Read from the option definitions in the code (`startup()`, `getOptions()`, `options()` or `ezcConsoleOption`). Every script also takes the standard options of the script framework (`--help`, `--siteaccess`, `--debug`, `--quiet`, `--allow-root-user` ...).

Related

- All console commands

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