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The **ARRIS** middle mouse button menu help system is a comprehensive system designed to give information about the command executed with a given **ARRIS** menu box. **ARRIS** Menu boxes can do many things, such as display information, execute commands, and execute an alternate command when the box is selected using the right mouse button. The Menu Help system is the **ARRIS** equivalent to the windows "Tool Tips". The Help system is also used for functions such as assigning a custom alternate command to the menu box for mouse right click, and adding the command executed by the box to the user customized tool bar.

## Source Code File (.mt)

- The help for a given menu box is designated in the menu source code file. The source code file keyword HELPTX is used to indicate a help text line. Each HELPTX line refers to the menu box specified by the last BOX line.

Example:

```
BOX;.....  
CMDD;.....  
HELPTX;First line is the Title or "Short Help"  
HELPTX;All subsequent lines before the next BOX  
HELPTX;entry are lines of the long help text. Spaces  
HELPTX;are allowed by a blank after the HELPTX keyword  
HELPTX;and semicolon.  
HELPTX;  
HELPTX;There is no limit to the number of help lines.
```

- This system is used to simplify the writing and maintenance of help text. When a menu box is written or altered in the menu source code file, the help may be altered right along with it. If the box is moved to another location in the file, or more boxes are inserted above the specific box entry, it's help stays with the box designation.
- The old HELP and DESC menu source file keywords are no longer used.



## Menu Help File (.mh)

- When the menu is compiled (using **ARRIS** Developer), a menu help file is optionally created. This file may be created during the compile of the menu, or it may be created independently without compiling the menu. The source file is read and the menu help (.mh) file is created in a Menu Help subdirectory in the development working directory. The file is named the same as the menu for which it is created and uses the .mh extension. Note that the file name is the same as the actual menu name (in upper case characters by convention) and not the name of the source code file, which is usually a little different and in lower case letters.
- The menu help files for **ARRIS** are stored in the \$ARRIS\lib\Menuhelp directory. Menu help files for custom applications should be stored in a directory named Menuhelp in the application directory - i.e. \$ARRIS\ap\xxx.vn\xxx.ap\Menuhelp.
- Users who create their own custom menus and who wish to use Menu Help may create a Menuhelp subdirectory in their standards directory and store their menu help files there.
- When menu help is called, **ARRIS** will look for the appropriate menu help file first in the Standards directory, then in loaded applications, and then finally in \$ARRIS\lib. This insures that if a user has customized a menu named the same as an **ARRIS** menu, the system will find the user's help first.
- Besides the actual help text for each box on the menu, the menu help file contains other information about the menu box such as the text which appears in the box or the name of the repeated item used as an icon in the box.
- If no help has been written for the menu box, the designation <None> will appear in the menu help file. When the menu help menu is displayed in **ARRIS**, a message will appear indicating that no help is available for that box.
- For legacy purposes when the menu help is compiled, if there is no HELPTX designation for a box but there is an old HELP and keyword line, the menu help compile will check for an old menu help source file in the working directory. If one is found, this file will be read. If the proper keyword is found, **ARRIS** will use the help text found in the old file in creating the new menu help .mh file. This allows the compilation of old menus with help if no changes have been made. It also allows a gradual migration to the new system instead of having to update hundreds of menu source files all at once.