Concept: Using Help

Goal

Become familiar with using the **Context Help** window, the *LabVIEW Help*, and the NI Example Finder.

Description

This exercise consists of a series of tasks designed to help you become familiar with the *LabVIEW Help* tools.

NI Example Finder

1. You are writing a LabVIEW program and you want to change the user's cursor depending on what the program is doing. Use the NI Example Finder to find a VI that can modify the user's cursor.

   - ❑ Open LabVIEW.
   - ❑ Select **Help»Find Examples** to open the NI Example Finder.
   - ❑ Confirm that the **Task** option is selected on the Browse tab.
   - ❑ Double-click the **Building User Interfaces** folder.
   - ❑ Double-click the **General** folder.
   - ❑ Select **Change Cursor Icon.vi**. Notice that a description of the VI is provided in the **Information** text box so that you can verify that this VI meets your needs.
   - ❑ Double-click **Change Cursor Icon.vi** to open the VI.
   - ❑ Close the VI after you finish exploring it.

2. You want to learn more about using Express VIs to filter signals. Use the NI Example Finder to find an appropriate VI.

   - ❑ The NI Example Finder should still be open from the previous step. If not, open the NI Example Finder.
   - ❑ Click the **Search** tab in the NI Example Finder.
   - ❑ Enter `express` in the Enter keyword(s) field to find VIs that contain Express VIs.

- ❑ Double-click the `Express` result that appears in the **Double-click keyword(s)** field.
- ❑ This keyword is associated with many example VIs, as demonstrated by the number of VIs returned. You can select any one of these VIs and read the description in the **Information** text box.
- ❑ Double-click **Express Filter.vi** to open it.

Context Help Window

3. Use the **Context Help** window to learn about the Express VIs used in the Express Filter VI.
   - ❑ Open the block diagram by selecting **Window»Show Block Diagram**.
   - ❑ Open the Context Help window by selecting **Help»Show Context Help**.
   - ❑ Move the **Context Help** window to a convenient area where the window does not hide part of the block diagram.
   - ❑ Place your mouse cursor over the Simulate Signal Express VI. The **Context Help** window content changes to show information about the object that your mouse is over.
   - ❑ Move your mouse over another Express VI. Notice the **Context Help** window content changes corresponding to the location of the mouse cursor.
   - ❑ Move your mouse over one of the Tone Measurements Express VIs.
   - ❑ Examine the configuration details in the **Context Help** window. This gives you the information about how the Express VI is configured.
   - ❑ Double-click the Tone Measurements Express VI to open the configuration dialog box. Notice that the selections in the configuration dialog box match the information in the **Context Help** window.
   - ❑ Click **OK** to close the configuration dialog box.

4. Anchor the **Context Help** window so that you can move your mouse without the contents of the window changing. The **Context Help** window should show information about the Simulate Signal Express VI.

   - ❑ Move your mouse over the Simulate Signal Express VI.
   - ❑ To anchor the context help window, select the **Lock** button in the lower left corner of the window.

Tip If the contents of the window change before you lock the window, avoid passing your mouse over other objects on the way to the **Context Help** window. Move the window closer to the object of interest to view **Context Help** for that item.

   - ❑ Move your mouse over another object. Notice the contents of the window do not change while the Lock button is selected.
   - ❑ Deselect the **Lock** button to resume normal operation of the window.

5. Modify the **Description and Tip** associated with the **Simulated frequency** control to change the content shown in the **Context Help** window.

   - ❑ Select **Window»Show Front Panel** to open the front panel of the VI.
   - ❑ Move your mouse over the **Simulated frequency** control.
   - ❑ Read the contents of the **Context Help** window.
   - ❑ Right-click the **Simulated frequency** control.
   - ❑ Select **Description and Tip** from the shortcut menu.
   - ❑ Replace the text in the **"Simulated frequency" Description** box with the text: `This is the description of the control`.
   - ❑ Replace the text in the **"Simulated frequency" Tip** box with the text: `This is the tip for the control`.
   - ❑ Click the **OK** button.
   - ❑ Move your mouse over the **Simulated frequency** control.
   - ❑ Notice that the contents of the **Context Help** window changed to match the text you typed in the **Description** field of the **Description and Tip** dialog box.
   - ❑ Run the VI.

- ❑ Place your mouse cursor over the **Simulated frequency** control.
- ❑ Notice that the tool tip that appears matches the text you typed in the **Tip** field of the **Description and Tip** dialog box.
- ❑ Click the **Stop** button.

LabVIEW Help

6. Use the *LabVIEW Help* to learn more information about the Filter Express VI.
   - ❑ Select **Window»Show Block Diagram** to open the block diagram of the Express Filter VI.
   - ❑ Right-click the Filter Express VI and select **Help** from the shortcut menu. This opens the *LabVIEW Help* topic for the Filter Express VI.

Note To access the *LabVIEW Help* for this topic, you can also select the Detailed Help link in the **Context Help** window while the Filter Express VI is selected, or click the question mark in the **Context Help** window.

   - ❑ Explore the topic. For example, what is the purpose of the **Cutoff Frequency (Hz)** dialog box option?
   - ❑ Close the *LabVIEW Help* window.

7. Close the Express Filter VI when you finish. Do not save changes.

End of Exercise

Notes

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