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StudioTips Libraries

StudioTips is a multi-library Omnis Studio application that is used by Omnis developers to aid them with code development. When StudioTips is installed and opened on your computer a **Tips** menu is added to the Omnis Studio application menus. Using the **Tips** menu you can open the **StudioTips Browser** window. The **StudioTips Browser** window is an off-line interface to all of the tips, sample code, and demos which are included with the StudioTips libraries. The **StudioTips Browser** window has a **Go to URL** button which allows you to jump to the on-line version of the tip which you are currently viewing.

When you become a StudioTips member you can download and install the StudioTips libraries. You are licensed to use the StudioTips libraries as long as you are a StudioTips member in good standing. (Paying your annual membership dues.)

Installing StudioTips

1. Download the latest version of StudioTips.
2. Unzip the downloaded file.
3. Drag the `studiotips` folder and contents into your `Omnis` folder located either in the `Program Files` (Win) or `Applications` (Mac) folder.
4. Download the `open_studiotips` file.
5. Unzip the downloaded file.
6. Drag the `open_studiotips.lbs` file into your `Omnis/startup` folder. The `open_studiotips.lbs` library will automatically open the StudioTips when you start up Omnis Studio.

StudioTips Browser

The **StudioTips Browser** window is your interface to StudioTips. There are several ways to open the **StudioTips Browser** window.

1. **Tips** menu > select **Tips Browser**.
2. Use the shortcut key combination, Ctrl/Cmnd+B.

If the **StudioTips Browser** window is already open, pressing Ctrl/Cmnd+B will minimize the **StudioTips Browser** window.

If the **StudioTips Browser** window is minimized, pressing Ctrl/Cmnd+B will maximize the **StudioTips Browser** window.

When you close StudioTips the last state of the **StudioTips Browser** window is stored in a preferences file so that when you reopen StudioTips the **StudioTips Browser** window will be restored to the previous state.

There is a **Group selector** field at the top left corner of the **StudioTips Browser** window. The selector lists the different libraries which contain documentation. Think of each line in the group selector as representing a different book that you can pull off the shelf to read.

When you select a group, the **StudioTips Browser** builds a list of the topics available for that group. If there are numerous topics within a group, subgroups are listed in a tab pane across the top of the **StudioTips Browser** window.

The topic titles for the selected tab are displayed in a treelist on the left side of the **StudioTips Browser** window. Some topics may include several subtopics. The subtopics will be available as child nodes of the main topic.

You navigate the information contained in StudioTips by selecting a group, clicking a tab if displayed, and then selecting a topic node in the treelist.

Show/Hide StudioTips Libraries

You can hide the StudioTips libraries so that they are not listed in the **F2 Browser**.

Select the **Hide StudioTips Libraries** menu line in the **Tips** menu.

To show the StudioTips libraries select the **Show StudioTips Libraries** menu line in the **Tips** menu.

Reading StudioTips

In the StudioTips tips and instructions you see something like this:

F2 Browser > **Contacts** > **wWindowName** > **F6 Property Manager** > **Appearance** tab

The above instruction would *read* as: "Press the **F2** function key to open the **Browser** window, select the **Contacts** library, select the **wWindowName** window class, press the **F6** function key to open the **Property Manager**, then click on the **Appearance** tab of the **Property Manager** window."

If you see "**Ctrl/Cmd+B**", for Wintel users that means press the shortcut key combination "**Control+B**", for Mac users that means press the shortcut key combination "**Command+B**".

Any time you see a shortcut key combination, the part preceeding the "/" is for Wintel users, the part after the "/" is for Mac users. The parts on either side of the "/" group is for both users. For example **Shift+Ctrl/Cmd+B**, Wintel users press **Shift+Ctrl+B**, Mac users press **Shift+Cmnd+B**.

Searching StudioTips

You can search for any topic contained in StudioTips as follows:

1. Enter a *keyword* in the search entry field above the treelist and click the **Search** button to the left of the search entry field.
2. StudioTips will search all of the topic titles and present you with a list of the **Search Results**.
3. Clicking on a topic in the **Search Results** list will display information about the topic.
4. After selecting a topic, you can click the **Treelist** tab of the **Search Results** list to switch to the treelist view for the selected topic. Related topics will be visible on other nodes of the treelist.

Advanced searches can be done as follows:

1. **Full Text Search** - Shift-click the **Search** button. StudioTips will search both topic titles and tips text for matches.
2. **& Operator** - You can include '&' in your search criteria.

If you enter `$ctarget & Grid` and shift-click the **Search** button, StudioTips will search for topics and text that includes `$ctarget` and `Grid`. You can include as many '&' conditions as you like. Each & operator must have an *empty* character before and after it.

If you search for a keyword and can't find the tip you are looking for, send an email to doug@vencor.ca. Your request will be added to **StudioTips To Do** list.

Go to URL, Run Demo, Sample Code

When you click on a node in the **StudioTips Browser** treelist, the topic text is displayed in the area to the right of the treelist. At the bottom of the **StudioTips Browser** window several push buttons may appear.

1. **Go to URL**. This button opens your default web browser to the on-line version web page for the topic.
2. **Run Demo**. This button appears if there is a demo for the selected topic. Clicking the button runs the demo. The demo might be an OK message, a window, or it may take you to a *Breakpoint* in a method where code comments might ask you to step through the code to see how it works.
3. **Sample Code**. This button appears if the topic includes sample code. Clicking the button opens the method editor to the method which contains the sample code.

StudioTips members are free to copy and paste any sample code or demo code from the StudioTips libraries to their own application.



Most push buttons in StudioTips are coded so that if you shift-click on the button it will take you to *Breakpoint* in the `$event` method of the push button. This is useful if you want to step through the code in a demo.

Shortcut Keys

There are a few shortcut key combinations that you should learn and use to enhance your StudioTips experience.

1. Use the Ctrl/Cmd+B shortcut key combination to open/maximize or minimize the **StudioTips Browser** window.
2. The **Tips** menu has a menu line named **Top Window's Methods**. Selecting this menu line takes you directly to the top window's class methods in the method editor. The shortcut key combination is Shift+Ctrl/Cmd+T. When you get used to this shortcut it become indispensable. Try it on the **StudioTips Browser** window right now. Think of the shortcut key combination as a modified version OMST's Ctrl/Cmd+T shortcut key combination.

Omnis Studio Shortcut Keys

Click on the Omnis Studio **View** menu. You will see most of the IDE function keys listed in the View menu. For your information, here is a list of the IDE (Integrated Development Environment) function keys.

- F1 = Omnis Studio Help
- F2 = Browser
- F3 = Component Store (Except when "behind" a window or report, then F3 jumps you to the design/layout view)
- F4 = Notation Inspector
- F5 = Inheritance Tree
- F6 = Property Manager
- F7 = Browser Options (If the browser window is selected.)
- F8 = Opens the method(s) for the selected class, or the superclass method if `Do inherited` is selected.
- F9 = Catalog

Preferences

1. You can resize and reposition the StudioTips Browser window. It will reopen to the size and location you last closed it.
2. You can resize the treelist width by dragging its right edge. The treelist width is saved when you close the StudioTips Browser window.
3. StudioTips will reopen to the treelist you were working with when you last closed the StudioTips Browser window.
4. You can change the **StudioTips Browser** font size in the **Preferences**. (**Tips** menu > select **Preferences**)



To save screen space, StudioTips makes heavy use of context menus. Be sure to right-click on the various windows and fields to discover the context menu options.

Printing Tips

If you wish to print any of the tips, click the **Go to URL** button, and print the on-line version of the tip.

At the top of the on-line version page you will see a series of links to web pages which are higher up the directory tree. Clicking one of these links takes you to a **Table of Contents** page. Some of the table of contents titles include the description **All Contents**. The **All Contents** pages include all of the contents of the pages within that section (directory).

Technical Stuff

All of the documentation in StudioTips is stored in the `$desc` property of *object class* methods.

The **StudioTips Browser** window is similar to the **F2 Browser** in that it lets you navigate the libraries, classes, and methods, of the libraries which are currently open in Omnis Studio.

The **StudioTips Browser** window filters what you view to just the object classes and methods that begin with the @ character.

If you right-click the topic text and select **Switch to Edit Mode**, you can edit the StudioTips text. A toolbar appears in the **StudioTips Browser** window. The toolbar buttons are used add pseudo HTML tags to the tips text. The pseudo HTML is processed by StudioTips into XHTML, saved to a local file, and then uploaded to the studiotips.net website.



The **StudioTips Browser** window is designed so that any developer can use the **StudioTips Browser** window to write their own documentation and upload it to their own website where their users can read and print the documentation. Being able to write and update documentation without leaving Omnis Studio is a very fast and convenient way to write and publish documentation. Having the documentation stored inside Omnis Studio libraries makes it easy for multiple developers working with the VCS to share and maintain the documentation.

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