

# HTML Indexing in MACREX

(Need another help file? Try [Macrex Help Contents](#). MACREX help key <CTRL><ALT>F1 or <CTRL><ALT>F10)

MACREX has features to facilitate the indexing of hypertext documents. The default settings are for HTML, but other systems can be accommodated.

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## Introduction

The basic requirements are as follows

1. The source document (HTML, SGML, XML etc format) must be available on electronic form.
2. There is an editor (which might be a text editor or a specific editor for the source document format) available to edit this document.
3. This editor must be Windows compatible and support cut and paste.
4. Transfer of text (as the basis of indexing terms) from the source document to MACREX is achieved via the Windows clipboard. MACREX will paste text from the clipboard by pressing <CTRL>V and will copy text to the clipboard automatically when required.
5. MACREX has features to produce the text necessary for hypertext links in the form of a page reference.
6. Transfer of pre-formatted text to provide tags as the hypertext target is achieved by MACREX automatically copying this to the Windows clipboard.

As a result of this the MACREX-generated tags can be imported directly into the source document and match exactly the tags hypertext references generated as MACREX page references.

The example shown uses HTML as an example, but the system should be adaptable to other markup systems.

How to do it:

**Example 1 using a HTML source file in a Windows text editor** (we use Textpad which is an excellent shareware product available from <http://www.textpad.com/>).

1. Open your HTML document in Textpad
2. Open a new index in MACREX

3. Go to the MACREX General Options Menu 1 and set [R - Page number increment](#) to a suitable number (1 will do, but if you set it to higher than one there is space to fit new entries in between the ones you create, although this may not matter very much - see below).
4. On the same menu set [S - Current page number](#) to a suitable starting value. The number used to form you first hypertext locator will be the value set here plus the page number increment.
5. Select [7 Hypertext markup features](#) to get the following submenu

#### MACREX HYPERTEXT MARKUP MENU

```

A - Add hypertext markings? No
B - Text before page number <a href="#"
C - Text after page number ">Click here</a>
D - Clipboard text before <a NAME="
E - Clipboard text after "></a>
F - Numerical field width 4
G - Text before xref link {<a href="#"
H - Text after xref link ">}
I - Text after xref text {</a>}
J - Text before xref target {<a NAME="#"
K - Text after xref target "></a>}

```

Press <ESCAPE> to save defaults, ^L or ^S to load/save named option files  
 Select feature(s) to change; press <return> when done ==>

For the current example all of these settings can be left as the default, except for **A - Add hypertext markings?** Which must be set to **Yes**.

6. Go to the Add/Inspect screen and press **F4** to add entries.
7. Input the text of your first index entry. You can do this by either

Typing whatever you want

Swapping to the source document (<**ALT**>**TAB**) in Textpad (or whatever editor you are using), highlighting some suitable text and then using <**CONTROL**>**C** to copy it to the clipboard, the swapping back to MACREX and using <**CONTROL**>**V** to insert it.

8. Once the text of your entry (with whatever headings, subheadings you want) is completed, press **F9**. In our example, if the text was "Cows eat cheese", the first entry will appear as follow

```
Cows eat cheese {<a href="#000}2{">Click here</a>}
```

You can still modify the text of the entry if you wish. Press <**RETURN**> when you are happy with the entry.

This works as follows: In the middle we have **2** which is the number on which the locator is built. Everything before and after is enclosed in **{ }** so that MACREX will be quite happy to treat it as a normal page reference. The <a href="#" is derived from option **B - Text before page number** on the **MACREX HYPERTEXT MARKUP MENU** and is the first part of the html syntax for a hypertext link to a label which will be **0002**. The three zeros that follow are inserted by MACREX because the setting for **F - Numerical field width** is **4**, making the total field width 4. The {">Click here</a>} is derived from **C - Text after page number** and is the

closing sequence for html hypertext link. When the HTML file is produced by MACREX the words Click here will be underlined and form the link to the target tag, **0002**. Note that the defaults are designed assuming you want incorporate the .html file produced by MACREX into the file that you are indexing at the end of the job. If you want the HTML file containing the index to be a separate file, possibly referencing locations in many different source files, you can edit **B - Text before page number** to include the name of the file currently being indexed. For example if you were editing a file called desc.htm you would change option **B** to **<a href="desc.htm#**.

9. Use <ALT>TAB to swap back to Textpad and the HTML source. Make sure the cursor is positioned where to exactly where you want the index entry to take the reader and press <CONTROL>V. The text

```
<a NAME="0002"></a>
```

will appear in the text at this point. This has been created by MACREX and automatically placed on the Windows clipboard. It is formed in a similar way to the locator above, but uses the text in **D - Clipboard text before** at the beginning and **E - Clipboard text after** at the end. The default text used for these options leads to the formation of a tag for the target that is guaranteed to be the same as that use for the reference in the index.

10. Repeat 7-9 until you have done the index!
11. Go to the print subprogram, load HTML.MWP and HTML.LAY and make a WP file. This file can be added to the end of your HTML document and will form the index.

### Example 2 using a HTML source file in the Netscape HTML editor.

1. Start Netscape, select **File->Edit Page** to get Netscape Composer and then select **File->Open Page** (and Browse if necessary) to load you HTML source file.
2. Do 2-4 as above
3. When on the MACREX HYPERTEXT MARKUP MENU Change **A - Add hypertext markings?** to **Yes** then choose options **D - Clipboard text before** and **E - Clipboard text after** and delete the default text by pressing <ESCAPE>. This is because Netscape composer will generate the HTML coding to go with the target by itself and doesn't need MACREX to do it.
4. Do 6-8 as above.
5. Use <ALT>TAB to swap back to Netscape Composer. Make sure the cursor is positioned where to exactly where you want the index entry to take the reader and then select **Insert->Target** (<ALT>Ia if you don't like the mouse). When the target properties dialogue box is displayed press <CONTROL>V and automatically paste the target name 0002 then press OK.
6. Repeat swapping between MACREX and the source editor until you have done the index
7. Go to the print subprogram, load HTML.MWP and HTML.LAY and make a WP file. This file can be added to the end of your HTML document and will form the index.

### Cross References

Hypertext links for cross references to be automatically generated. This is done by inserting “see” and “see also” references in the normal way. When the index is complete and the cross-references have been checked, you run the merge programme with the merge option to check [cross references](#) set to **Yes** and the new option [A - Insert hypertext xref links](#) also set to **Yes** on the Merge Options Menu 2. This will use the cross reference term as the link (from the see also reference) and the target of the link in the target entry. For example

Afrikaners, ^see also^ Boers

and

Boers 181-182

will become

Afrikaners, see also [{<a href="#BOERS">}Boers{</a>}](#)

and

[{<a NAME="#BOERS"></a>}Boers 181-182](#)

Options G-K on the [Hypertext Markup](#) Menu to let you define the text used for the hypertext markup - in this example html. Where these bits of text are used is indicated by the underlining above (the underlines are not inserted in the index).

Note that the text use for the links (BOERS in the example above) is derived from the cross reference term. If the cross reference term is very long for example

SA (Sturm Abteilung, stormtroopers, brownshirts)

the text used for the link will also be long (in the current example

[<a href="#SASTURMABTEILUNGSTORMTROPPERSBROWNSHIRTS">](#)

This means (i) that you need to make sure that there is plenty of spare record length before running the merge with the option to insert the links and (ii) that the print program has to know that these pieces of text are not shown on the screen, otherwise it will produce inappropriate line breaks. The second point is accommodated by a new option on the print layout options, menu 3

I - HTML Codes in WP file?

This should be set to Yes whenever a html file is being made.

## Notes

- By changing the options on the **HYPERTEXT MARKUP MENU** it should be possible to accommodate other coding systems, eg SGML, XML.
- The repeated operations in MACREX (for example <CONTROL>V, F9, <RETURN>)

can be done as a MACRO.

- Depending on the whether the editor (HTML or other) has a macro facility, some of the repeated tasks done there may be partly automated.
- This system does not require that you index sequentially. The links will still work even if you jump around. However for editing and checking it will be easier if they are more or less sequential.
- The rather clumsy system of *[Click here](#)* for making the links is for an example. The print program will be modified to allow the lowest level of subheading in the entry to form the link.
- All the options in the **HYPERTEXT MARKUP MENU** are automatically saved in the .mx8 file with each individual index.
- The settings of the **HYPERTEXT MARKUP MENU** can be saved as a default or a named file, with the extension .htx.
- The algorithm used to generate sequential unique tags which currently produces numbers with optional leading zeros could be changed to produce (for example) numbers with a different base (base 36 will produce combinations of all 26 letters of the alphabet and the digits 0-9) or roman numerals.
- When you save from the hypertext markup menu the options are saved as \*.HTX files.