

Context-sensitive Documentation

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Overview

APL64 programmer technical documentation of specific APL primitive functions, system functions, system commands and other APL features is available directly in the APL64 developer version GUI.

To access this context-sensitive documentation:

- Identify the target text
 - Indicate the target text by placing the caret within the target text or immediately to the left or right of the target text in the APL statement containing the target text, or
 - Indicate the target text by selecting it in the APL statement containing the target text
- Click the F1 key
- The APL64 Developer version GUI will identify the APL64 feature and display the appropriate page of the pdf-format documentation file.

Search for APL Features in the Target Text

The APL64 interpreter will examine the target text identified by the APL64 programmer for an APL feature, and display the context-sensitive documentation, if any, for that APL feature.

- If the target text is selected, the APL64 interpreter considers only the selected text, and examines it for an APL feature starting from the beginning of the text.
- If the APL64 programmer has not identified the target text via selection, the APL64 interpreter will use the position of the caret in the APL statement to examine the target text for an APL feature. The line of the APL statement containing the caret will be deemed the target text. The APL64 interpreter first examines the target text to the right of the caret position for an APL feature. If an APL feature is not found to the right of the caret position, the APL64 interpreter examines the target text to the left of the caret position for an APL feature.
- APL features are identified in order:
 - System command, if first element of target text is a right parenthesis,)
 - User command, if first element of target text is a right bracket,]
 - APL primitive function
 - System variable
 - System function
 - User-defined variable
 - User-defined function

Examples

- If the APL statement is 5-12 and the caret is positioned immediately before or after the -, the APL primitive function documentation for – will be displayed.
- If the APL statement is 5-ι12 and the caret is positioned immediately before the -, the APL primitive function documentation for – will be displayed.
- If the APL statement is 5-ι12 and the caret is positioned immediately after the -, the APL primitive function documentation for ι will be displayed.
- If the APL statement is 5-ι12 and the caret is positioned immediately before the 5 or immediately after the 1 or 2, no help topic will be displayed and the pre-existing help topic being displayed, if any, will not change.
- If the APL statement is 5-ι12 and ι12 is selected, the documentation for ι will be displayed.
- If the APL statement is ρ□wsid and □wsid is selected, the APL system function documentation for □wsid will be displayed.
- If the APL statement is ρ□wsid and ρ is selected, the APL system function documentation for ρ will be displayed.

Documentation Content

In APL64, technical documentation of system features is provided in pdf format

Documentation Presentation Options

The APL64 Developer version GUI is designed to display the web-based pdf-format APL64 documentation files in the default browser. The on-line APL64 documentation files are maintained on an APL2K web server. Using this default configuration assures that the APL64 documentation files are up to date for the current APL64 version. When the default browser is used to display the APL64 documentation files, no modifications to the Help | Documentation Options dialog are necessary. An alternative documentation viewer, such as Adobe Acrobat, can be used.

Using Local APL64 Documentation Files

In some circumstances it may be desirable to use local APL64 documentation files. The instructions provided in this section apply only when local APL64 documentation files are being used. If local documentation is user-selected, the documentation should be downloaded at least after every APL64 version update is installed on the workstation, so that the documentation is up to date.

Using the Default Browser is Recommended for Local Documentation Files

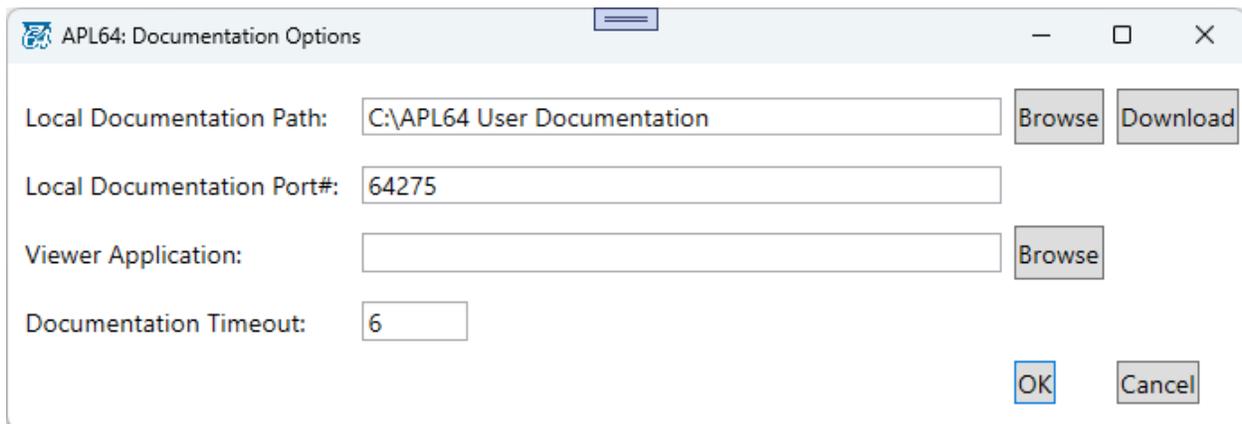
When the default browser is used for location documentation files, the F1 key for context-sensitive documentation access will operate as designed.

Adobe Acrobat is not Recommended for Local Documentation Files

If Adobe Acrobat is used as the documentation viewer for local documentation files, each time the F1 key is used, and after reading the desired content, close the documentation file in Adobe Acrobat. When this is done, subsequent use of the F1 key will operate as designed. If this is not done, and a different page of that documentation file is selected using the F1 key, Adobe Acrobat will not open the documentation file to the new selected page. This is a known limitation of recent versions of Adobe Acrobat used under program control.

Help | Documentation Options Dialog Settings for Location Documentation Files

Use the Help | Documentation Options dialog to select the documentation presentation options:



APL64: Documentation Options

Local Documentation Path: C:\APL64 User Documentation

Local Documentation Port#: 64275

Viewer Application:

Documentation Timeout: 6

Local Documentation Path

Leave this field empty if the on-line APL64 documentation will be used. If local APL64 documentation files will be used set this field to the full path of the target folder for the documentation files. This folder must have read and write access for the workstation user's credentials. Modification of this field will clear the Help | Documentation Topic History list. If the on-line APL64 documentation is to be used, leave the Local Documentation Path entry field empty.

Local Documentation Port#

This value should be modified only if there is an existing non-APL64 server accessible to the workstation which uses the same port number. The default value is 64275. The APL64 local documentation server is a 'local host' server within the APL64 Developer version instance when local documentation files are used.

This server can only present APL64 documentation files existing in the Help | Documentation Options | Local Documentation Path folder using the default web-browser.

Viewer Application

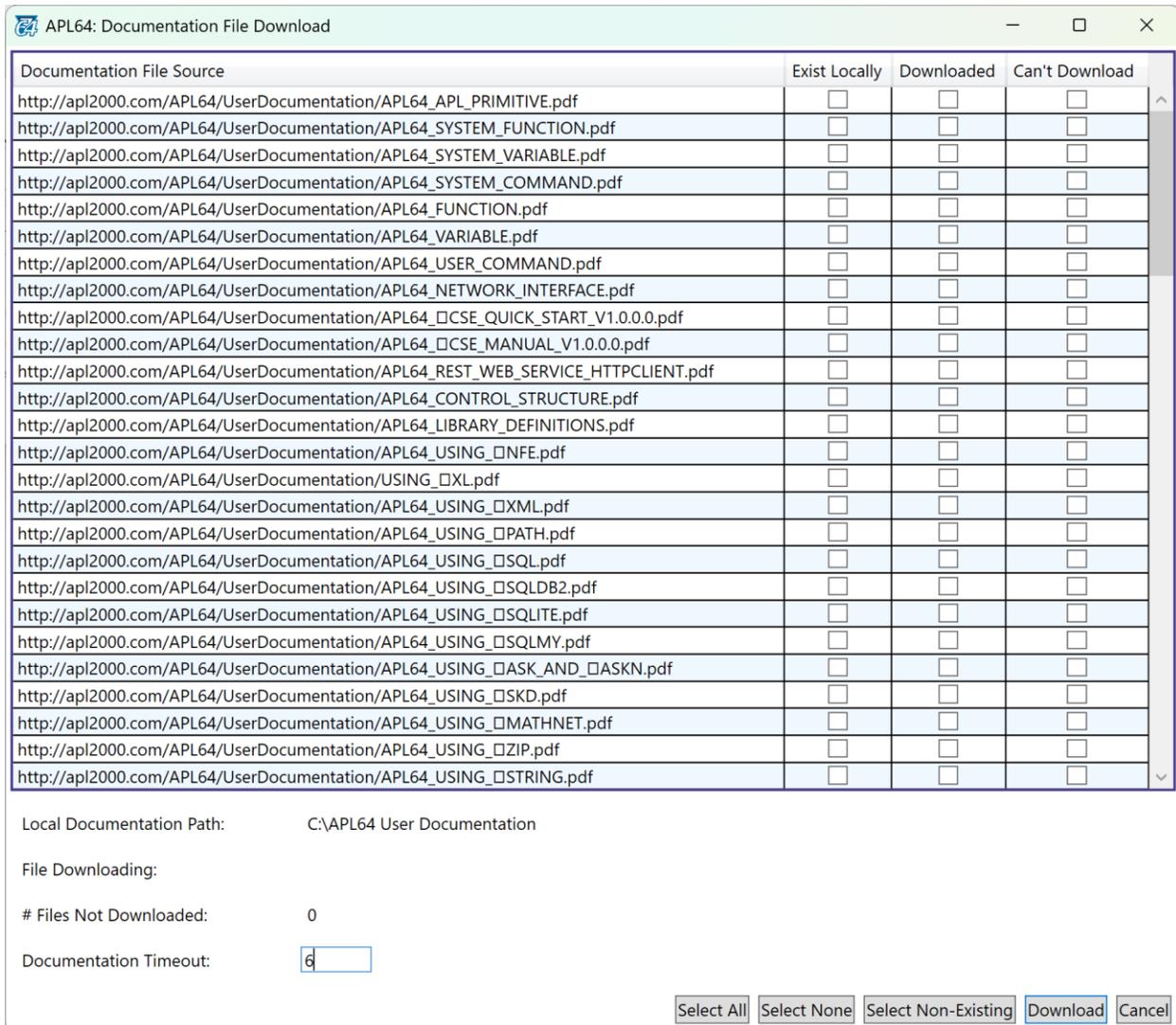
The viewer application selected must support pdf-format files. If the Windows default application for pdf-format files is to be used, leave this field empty. Otherwise, specify the full path of the viewer application on the workstation, e.g. Adobe Acrobat, which will be used to present the selected documentation instead of using the current Windows default application.

Documentation Timeout

This value is the number of seconds the APL64 system will wait to access the APL64 Developer documentation. If the timeout expires, the documentation access attempt will be abandoned. The appropriate value will depend on the quality of the Internet connection. Modification of this value will take effect when the 'OK' button is clicked. Enter the documentation access timeout as a positive integer. The default value is 5 seconds.

Download Button

Click the Help | Documentation Options | Download button to present the APL64 Documentation File Download dialog:



All available web-based APL64 documentation files are listed in this dialog.

The 'Exist Locally' column indicates those documentation files, if any, which exist in the 'Local Documentation Path' before the download operation begins.

Use the 'Select All' button, or the Ctrl+A, Ctrl+MouseClick, Shift+↑, Shift+↓ keyboard shortcuts to select the documentation files to download to the 'Local Documentation Path' on the workstation.

Click the 'Download' button in this dialog to begin downloading the documentation files.

Click the 'Select Non-Existing' button in this dialog to select those documentation files that do not exist locally.

As the download continues, the 'Exist Locally', 'Downloaded' and 'Can't Download' columns will be updated appropriately.

The 'Local Documentation Path' illustrates the user-selected local documentation folder on the workstation.

The 'File Downloading' field will be updated during the downloading process to illustrate the current file being downloaded.

The '# Files Not Downloaded' field will be updated, if necessary, during the download process. Generally, if a documentation file cannot be downloaded, the Help | Documentation Options | Documentation Timeout value is not large enough. If the number of files which cannot be downloaded increases significantly during the download process, cancel the download process and adjust the timeout value appropriately.