

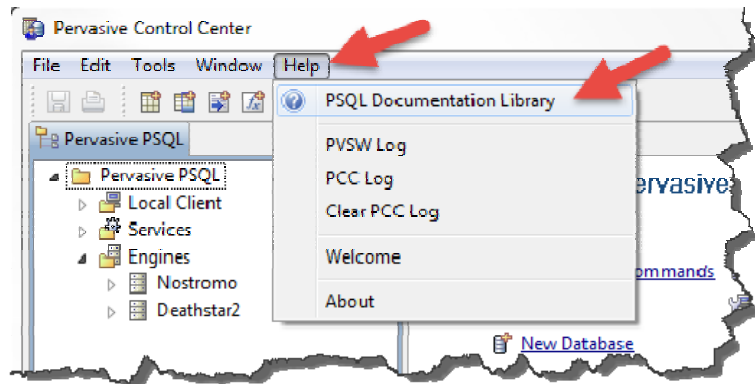
Tech Tip #19: Accessing Product Documentation

Overview: Finding the documentation, and figuring out which manuals to start reading

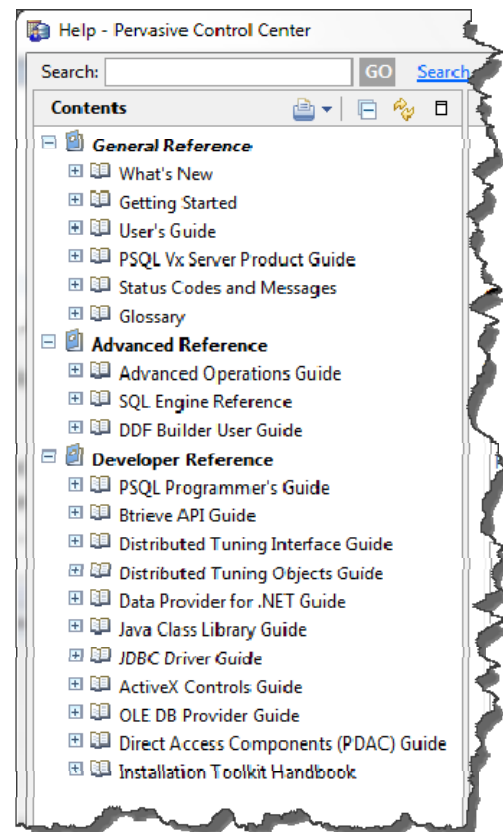
When in doubt about any specific setting, option, or screen, the PSQL product documentation is just a few mouse clicks away.

You access the documentation by launching the **Pervasive Control Center**, and then accessing the menu options *Help*, then *PSQL Documentation Library*.

This will open up the documentation screen for you. If you expand all of the main options here, you'll see a complete list of the manuals available to you. Let's see what is located in the more important ones.



- **What's New:** This book contains information on what has changed since the previous update or release. You should check this book out whenever you upgrade to a new version or install a new Service Pack.
- **Getting Started:** This book covers important topics like PSQL installation and engine configuration, as well as how to set up the Workgroup Engine in various configurations.
- **Users Guide:** This book covers the usage of various components, such as the PCC and SQL Editor, as well as many of the command-line tools. There's a good section on Licensing and authorization in here, too.
- **Status Codes & Messages:** This book has details covering the various error codes and messages you may see come back from the PSQL database.
- **Advanced Operations Guide:** This is the be-all, end-all book for the PSQL administrator. Here, you can find detailed documentation on all of the various engine and client configuration settings. It also contains detailed information about many common topics for administrators, such as security, backups, data file structures, and more. When asking "How do I do this?", you'll almost always start with the **AOG**.
- **SQL Engine Reference:** This book contains details on the SQL language and supported syntax, including DDF definitions, supported data types, keywords, built-in functions (scalars), system stored procedures, and more. In other words, if your problem is SQL-related, start here.
- **Developer Reference:** The Developer Reference manuals provide a lot more details on the underlying interfaces used by developers. If you are a programmer and wanting to access the database, then you'll want to go through this information first. If you're just an end user, then you can likely ignore these books altogether.



If you're not finding what you want quickly enough, just type in a keyword or two into the *Search* box at the top, and let the computer troll the documentation for you.

You say you hate on-line documentation? That's OK, too. I used to think the same thing, and I still print some technical manuals for either off-line reading or for marking up with my own notes and comments. You can download a PDF version of each manual from the Actian web site:

<http://www.pervasive.com/database/Home/Resources/Documentation.aspx>

Officially, Actian does make documentation sets available to order, but the cost is prohibitive. Instead, just download the PDF files, print out your manuals to three-hole paper, and add them to a binder, and you're all set!