

Fast and efficient – product documentation on CD-ROM

Electronic publications are now a generally accepted standard for technical documentation. Compared to conventional print media, they offer the user a whole number of decisive advantages: faster location of information through integrated search functions and navigation aids as well as more up-to-date information thanks to simpler distribution. Moreover they are easier to deal with thanks to far less volume and weight. The new CD-ROM for the Universal Radiocommunication Testers R&S CMU200/300 aims to combine all these features.

The functionality of an electronic publication depends on how it is distributed. Pre-recorded sources such as CD-ROMs allow fast access to extensive documents and efficient searching for information. In contrast, the World Wide Web makes up-to-date information available to any number of users and provides means for interaction. CD-ROMs which also include links to the Internet combine the advantages of both.

The CD-ROM for the R&S CMU 200/300 comes with a user interface that can be displayed by all common, Java-compatible standard browsers. A fixed navigation frame permitting direct access to the contents appears on the left. The CD-ROM contains operating and service manuals for the models R&S CMU 200 and R&S CMU 300 as well as for all CMU software options in printable PDF format (Acrobat Reader). Frequently used manuals are also available as onscreen Web help (FIG) and as compiled HTML files (*.chm). The help formats with integrated table of contents simplify fast information finding by an index and full-text search. Texts can be simply copied, e.g. for errorfree transfer of remote-control commands into programs.

The browser-oriented approach provides direct access to the R&S Web site, to look for upcoming events and latest publications, or to contact people at Rohde & Schwarz and send much appreciated feedback.

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User interface of CD-ROM for R&S CMU with integrated Web help

The screenshot displays the user interface of the R&S CMU CD-ROM within a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window. The browser's address bar shows the local file path 'G:\chapter1_m.htm'. The interface is divided into several sections:

- Navigation Menu (Left):** A vertical list of blue buttons for 'Home', 'Online Help', 'Operating Manuals', 'News', 'Application Notes', 'Data Sheets', 'Service Manuals', 'Archive', 'Contact', 'Training', and 'Back'.
- Contents Pane (Middle-Left):** A tree view under the 'Contents' tab, listing various manual sections with expandable icons. Key sections include 'Preparation for Use', 'Front and Rear View', 'Putting the Instrument into Operation', and 'Software Update and Version Management'.
- Main Content Area (Right):** A yellow background featuring the title 'Universal Radio Communication Tester CMU200/CMU300' in large, bold black text. Below the title is a photograph of the R&S CMU instrument. Underneath the photo is a section titled 'About this WebHelp' with a short paragraph describing the help content.