THE holidays are coming (Christmas approaching), so I've taken advantage of some spare time to menu-ise commands that I use frequently. Those commands aren't the mere opening of an application and they often require dealing with input and output (in the command line). So I've created `menu.sh` and used `dialog` to craft the following menu, e.g. for operations associated with *Techrights*. I invoke this menu with the click of one button (of the mouse).

Rianne has a similar menu for commands she often runs (which are long and would otherwise need pasting or typing in length). Her menu looks something like this:

![Rianne's menu](image)

Here's the code (bash file) that renders the menu above (it's really *that* simple!):

```bash
#!/bin/bash
HEIGHT=15
```

---

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Home > Blogs > Roy Schestowitz's blog > Using Menus For Command Line Programs and Scripts
WIDTH=40
CHOICE_HEIGHT=4
BACKTITLE="Aloha, Rianne"
TITLE="Rianne @ Ted"
MENU="Choose one of the following options:"
OPTIONS=(1 "Start VPN"
        2 "REDACTED"
        3 "REDACTED"
        4 "REDACTED"
        5 "REDACTED"
        6 "REDACTED"
        7 "REDACTED"
)
CHOICE=$(dialog --clear \
   --backtitle "$BACKTITLE" \
   --title "$TITLE" \
   --menu "$MENU" \
   $HEIGHT $WIDTH $CHOICE_HEIGHT \
   "${OPTIONS[@]}" \
   2>&1 >/dev/tty)
clear
case $CHOICE in
   1) echo "You chose Option 1"
      sh ~/vpn.sh ;;
   2) echo "You chose Option 2"
      REDACTED COMMAND ;;
   3) echo "You chose Option 3"
      REDACTED COMMAND ;;
   4) echo "You chose Option 4"
      REDACTED COMMAND ;;
   5) echo "You chose Option 5"
      REDACTED COMMAND ;;
   6) echo "You chose Option 6"
      REDACTED COMMAND ;;
   7) echo "You chose Option 7"
      REDACTED COMMAND ;;
esac

Hopefully this inspires other people out there to do the same. It takes a while to set up, but it's a big time saver over the long run.

Howtos

Source URL: http://www.tuxmachines.org/node/131424
Links: