

Abstract

This is a help file for the User Menu in Alpha. It corresponds to version 0.6 of the menu. This file should be located in the Help subfolder of Alpha's folder to show up automatically in the Help menu when Alpha is loaded.

Contents

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| 1 Introduction | 1 |
| 2 Installation | 2 |
| 2.1 Automatic installation | 2 |
| 2.2 Manual installation | 2 |
| 2.3 After installing | 2 |
| 3 Menu Items Description | 2 |
| 4 Key Bindings | 3 |
| 5 Preferences | 3 |
| 6 Version History | 3 |
| 7 Known problems | 3 |
| 8 License and Disclaimer | 3 |

1 Introduction

The **User Menu** for Alpha is a menu designed to store your personal Tcl procs.

Once it is installed and activated, you have a new menu called "User" (represented by an icon showing an open menu and a user's head) with four items: *Add item...*, *Modify Item...*, *Remove Item...* and *Refresh Bindings*.

If you choose *Add Item...*, a dialog window asks the name of the item you want to add to the menu and the name of the procedure that will be triggered by this item. For instance suppose you have defined a proc called *Conv::HexNum* to convert hexadecimal numbers and you want to have a menu item called *Convert Hex Numbers* in the User Menu: all you have to do is to enter *ConvertHexNumbers* in the first field of the dialog and *Conv::HexNum* in the second field.

To make sure that the *Conv::HexNum* proc is effectively executed when invoking it with the *Convert Hex Numbers* menu item, this proc must have been loaded into the Tcl interpreter. This is the case for instance if the definition of this proc is stored in the *prefs.tcl* preferences file, or in any mode specific preference file (like *HtmlPrefs.tcl*, *TeXPrefs.tcl* etc.)

Note, in this example, that there is no space in *ConvertHexNumbers*: this is because the User menu automatically inserts a space before any uppercase letter in the name of an item.

2 Installation

2.1 Automatic installation

The simplest way of installing the package is to use the automatic installation file: just double-click on the "OPEN TO INSTALL" file coming with the distribution. Opening this file tells Alpha that a new package has to be installed : the procedure is automatic. Alpha knows where to store the different elements of your **User Menu** package.

2.2 Manual installation

If you prefer a manual installation, take the following steps :

1. put the "UserMenu.tcl" file in the "Menus" subfolder of the "Tcl" folder which is located at the same level as your Alpha application
2. put the "User Menu Help" files in the "Help" folder located at the same level as your Alpha application. Next time you launch Alpha, you will see a "User Menu Help" item in the Help menu.
3. launch Alpha. You have to rebuild the package indices and the Tcl indices. "Rebuild Package Indices" is in the Config-Packages menu, and "Rebuild Tcl Indices" is in the Tcl menu.
4. quit Alpha and relaunch it: that's all there is to it.

2.3 After installing

Have a look at the User Menu preferences in "Config -> Preferences -> Package Preferences".

3 Menu Items Description

Here is the list of all the fixed menu items which appear at the bottom of the User Menu.

Add Item... Displays a dialog window in which you specify the name of the item which will be inserted in the User menu and the name of the proc associated with this item: it is the proc which will be invoked when the item is selected in the menu. There is a "Bindings" button which lets you associate a key combination to the menu item.

Modify Item... Brings up a list to select an item and then displays a window similar to the *Add Item* window.

Remove Item... Brings up a list to select an item and removes it from the menu.

If you press the option key down, this item changes to "Reset Menu" and removes all the items from the User menu. Use with caution, it is not undoable.

Refresh Bindings It can happen that the menu bindings associated with the menu items get overridden by similar bindings defined in other packages. Use this menu item to restore the key combinations associated with items in the User menu.

4 Key Bindings

You can associate key bindings to the items in the User Menu using the **Bindings** button in the "Add/Modify Item" dialog windows.

5 Preferences

The User Menu Prefs can be accessed via "Config -> Preferences -> Package Preferences":

- if the "Sort Alphabetically" flag is not set, the items are listed in the order in which they were defined.

6 Version History

- 0.1 - 08/06/2000 - Created the User Menu.
- 0.2 - 10/03/2000 - Added menu bindings handling.
- 0.3 - 14/10/2000 - Added item to refresh bindings (just in case...)
- 0.4 - 09/04/2001 - Corrected a bug in "Modify Item" when cancel picklist
- 0.5 - 05/11/2002 - Minor fixes. Renamed global variables.
- 0.6 - 27/01/2004 - Complete rewriting.

7 Known problems

It can happen that the menu bindings associated with the menu items get overridden by other packages. Use the "Refresh Bindings" item to restore the key combinations.

Please e-mail any problem or bug you encounter : bdesgraupes@easyconnect.fr

Goto the Alpha utilities page :

<http://webperso.easyconnect.fr/bdesgraupes/alpha.html>

8 License and Disclaimer

Copyright Bernard Desgraupes, 2001-2004 All rights reserved. This software is free software distributed under the terms of the new BSD license : Redistribution and use in source and binary forms, with or without modification, are permitted provided that the following conditions are met:

- Redistributions of source code must retain the above copyright notice, this list of conditions and the following disclaimer.

- Redistributions in binary form must reproduce the above copyright notice, this list of conditions and the following disclaimer in the documentation and/or other materials provided with the distribution.
- Neither the name of Bernard Desgraupes nor the names of its contributors may be used to endorse or promote products derived from this software without specific prior written permission.

This software is provided by the copyright holders and contributors "as is" and any express or implied warranties, including, but not limited to, the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose are disclaimed. In no event shall the regents or contributors be liable for any direct, indirect, incidental, special, exemplary, or consequential damages (including, but not limited to, procurement of substitute goods or services; loss of use, data, or profits; or business interruption) however caused and on any theory of liability, whether in contract, strict liability, or tort (including negligence or otherwise) arising in any way out of the use of this software, even if advised of the possibility of such damage.