Contents

1 Mac Menu Tutorial

This is a tutorial that demonstrates the "Mac Menu".

In order to use it in Alpha, you must first activate the menu by going to the menu item "Config –> Preferences –> Menus..." and selecting 'Mac Menu' by checking the corresponding checkbox.

The Mac Menu allows you to achieve with maximum flexibility all kinds of files manipulation from within Alpha and to interact with the MacOS file system in a very sophisticated manner.

This Tutorial, when opened from the Help menu in Alpha, is a "shell" window. None of the changes you make will affect the actual file. If you close the window and then click on the hyperlink again, you will start with the same example as before. Note that "Undo" is not available in shell windows.

The MacMenu menu can work in any mode.

2 Files Filters

The heart of this file manipulation system is the Files Filter : all the dialog windows in which you set your options contain a files filter. It is a regular expression which describes the names of the files you want to act upon.

Regular expressions are a very powerful syntax designed to describe abstractly almost any kind of strings. For more info about the regular expressions, read the "Regular Expressions" file in the Help Menu. They are not to be confused with the so-called "globbing syntax" used on some systems and in some Tcl commands.

As we shall see with a few examples, regular expressions give you maximal flexibility to describe filenames.

2.1 First example

Suppose you just want to get ridd of backup files (all the files which contain the previous version of a certain file). This means all the files whose name ends with a tilde ~. The files filter in this case will simply be :

```
.*~
```

2.2 Second example

Suppose you want all the files meeting the following requirements :

- first letter is A or P
- the extension is html or jpeg (we want text and images)
- the filename contains a suffix _XY or _XYZ

According to the basic rules of regular expressions, the files filter should be in this case :

```
[AP].*_XYZ?\.(html|jpeg)
```

2.3 Third example

If you are only concerned in selecting files with specific extensions, you should use the "Predef Exts" button which is present in allmost all the dialog windows. Just check the boxes corresponding to the extensions you are interested in and click on the OK button : the files filter will be built automatically.

If some extension is not in the list of checkboxes, you can enter it (with or without the dot) in the edit field called "Other Extensions". You can enter a list of extensions separated by a blank space.

You can alternatively add new checkboxes to the "Predef Exts" dialog window if your favorite extensions are not already there. This can be done with the Mac Menu Preferences. Open the preferences which the menu item called "Mac Menu Prefs..." in the "Packages" submenu of Alpha's "Config" menu.

3 MacMenu Examples

3.1 Using the menu items

All the mac Menu items bring up a dialog window in which you can set the required information to perform a certain action. Many options can be chosen additionally.

3.2 Setting other conditions

Not all conditions of course can be described by a regular expression. The files filter concerns only the name of the files you want to select. In all the dialog windows, there is an "Add conditions" button which displays a new window. All the settings in this window should be self-explanatory : it allows you to specify the file's type and creator, its modification and its creation dates, its size.

3.3 Selecting the remaining files

Sometimes it is easier to select files telling that they do NOT correspond to a certain scheme : for instance you want all the files which do not have a tex or a sty extension. This can be easily achieved with the option called "Negate Filter" : simply write the following files filter

```
.*\.(tex|sty)
```

and then check the checkbox called "Negate Filter".

3.4 Case sensitivity

If you are looking for files corresponding to a certain scheme and if casing does not matter, uncheck the checkbox called "case sensitive".

3.5 Files in a hierarchy

"Negate Filter" All the actions can be performed on all the files whose name correspond to the files filter :

- in the current folder (called source folder)
- in the current folder and in its subfolders down to a certain level
- in the current folder and in all its hierarchy of subfolders

This can be set in all the dialog windows using the popup menu called "Process". In the second case, you will have to enter the level down to which the package will have to look for corresponding files. Looking only in the current directory corresponds to level 0.

If you move or copy files taken out of a hierarchy, this hierarchy will be transported to the target folder : this comes in very handy if you want to extract a certain type of files out of a hierarchy of folders. All the necessary subfolders will be created in the target folder if they do not already exist.

3.6 Untrashing files

The untrashing action deserves some explanations. When you hold the option key down and open Mac Menu, some items change to the opposite action : Select becomes Unselect, Lock becomes Unlock, Trash becomes Untrash and Alias Files becomes Remove Aliases.

Untrashing files means sending files from the trash back to the location they come from : you might have accidentally sent files to the trash and want to 'undo' that. This is what Untrash does. Its dialog window lets you specify one of two actions : you can untrash only the files which were trashed by the last Trash action performed from the Mac Menu or the Mac Shell, or you can untrash all the files located in the trash no matter how and when they were trashed.

3.7 Renaming files

The syntax for the renaming scheme is the same as for substituion strings in regular expressions. Subexpressions of the source regular expression can be delimited by a pair of parentheses and refered to in the substitution string by \1, \2 etc. The entire name described by the regular expression can be refered to as &.

For instance let us suppose we want to ad a suffix _XY at the end of all the files names in a folder. The regulear expression should be .* and the replacement expression cuold simply be &_XY

Now if we want to suppress the _XY suffix we can just define the original regular expression to be (.*)_XY and the replacement string \1

Suppose now we just want to transform all the file names to uppercase letters. The original string is .*, the replacement string is & and we click on the Add Options button. In the new window, click on casing and choose UPPERCASE in the popup submenu.

4 Mac Shell Examples

All the actions of the Mac Menu items have an equivalent on the command line of Mac Shell. Not all options and conditions can be specified but most of them do. Mac shell has a few commands of its own. All of them accept arguments in a Unix-like style.

Furthermore you can use Mac shell as a Tcl shell and enter plain vanilla Tcl commands to be interpreted.

4.1 Opening the shell

You open Mac shell from the corresponding menu item or from the keyboard typing "opt-cmd-y" (this is easy to remember if you are used to the other Alpha shells : Tcl shell is called by "cmd-y" and Toolserver shell by "ctrl-cmd-y"). Alternatively you can use the key combination "ctrl-z" followed by "h".

The prompt at the beginning of the command line always contains the name of the current folder. When you open Mac shell for the first time after launching Alpha, it is set to Alpha's home directory which is usually called "Alpha ". When you change directory the prompt changes accordingly.

For instance type

```
pwd
```

on the command line then press return : you will have the full path name of the current directory. You can experiment with a few other basic commands such as : "eject" which will eject a currently mounted disk (Zip, CD-Rom, floppy) if any, "empty" which will empty the trash if it is not already, "restart" which will attempt to restart your computer. Type

```
ls
```

on the command line to have a list of all files and folders contained in the current directory. Type

```
ld
```

to have a list of only the folders in the current directory.

4.2 Getting help

Type

```
help
```

on the command line to have a list of all available commands. If you want to know the meaning of the various flags used with the "files" command then type :

```
help options
```

If the info provided is not sufficient, type :

```
help more
```

If you want to open this tutorial, type :

```
help tutorial
```

If you want info about available key bindings, type :

```
help bindings
```

If you want the version number of macMenu, type :

```
help version
```

4.3 Getting info

If you want to have system information about a file, a folder, a disk, an application, a currently running process or the computer's hardware you can use the "infos" command. It has to be followed by a subcommand telling the kind of item you want info about and by the absolute or relative path name of the item (or just its name in the case of a process). Experiment with one of the following :

```
infos hardware
infos process Alpha
```

If your hard disk is called MyHD, try

```
infos disk MyHD
```

If you have a file called Myfile in the current directory, try :

```
infos file "Myfile"
```

So if a file is in the current directory you can type just ist name. If it is located elsewhere you'll have to enter its full pathname (or to change directory to its location).

4.4 Browsing in the file system

To change the current directory you use the cd command. This command can be used in different ways. To change directory to the directory of the document you are currently working on (i-e your frontmost window, not including the shell window), just type :

```
cd .
```

To change to a subfolder of the current directory type cd followed by the name of this subfolder. If you are not sure which folders are therein, type ld to have the list. To move up in the hierarchy of folders, type

```
cd ..
```

If the current directory is "MyHD:Programms:Alpha :Tcl:Menus:" it will then be changed to "MyHD:Programms:Alpha :Tcl:" To move two levels up type

```
cd ..:..
```

and so on. If this is still too much typing, just type :

```
cd :
```

To go three levels up, type :

```
cd :::
```

If you want to change directory to another location you have to use the full pathname.

If you type cd with no argument, you go back to Alpha's home directory.

4.5 Completion

There is a very nice facility concerning all the Mac shell commands and the folders and files names as well : you can type just the first letters and MacShell will try to complete. This is obtained by using the TAB key (like on most Unix shells). For instance type

```
infos ha
```

then hit the TAB key : "ha" will be completed to "hardware". Suppose you are in the directory "MyHD:Programms:Alpha :Tcl:", type

```
cd Us
```

then hit the TAB key. It will be completed to "UserModifications". Suppose you are in the directory "MyHD:Programms:Alpha :Tcl:Menus:", type

```
infos file fi
```

then hit the TAB key. In this case there are several possible completions. A pick list displaying all the possibilities will show up for you to choose the one you want.

4.6 More examples

The "files" command is the most elaborate because it accepts a lot of options. All these options are specified by an endash followed letter such as -f, -s, -l etc. Most of these options have default values so you are not obliged to use all of them : they are needed only if the default value is not what you want. Type 'help' or 'help options' (without the quotes) on the command line to have a list of all available options and their meaning.

With the -s flag (source folder) you can enter a relative path name if you want to designate a subfolder of the current folder. Other wise you must enter the entire path name.

Here are a few more examples.

To get the list of all files whose name starts with a P, type

```
files list -f P.*
```

To trash all backup files (files ending with ~) in the current directory, you can type :

```
files trash -f .*~
```

If you want the same action to be taken in all the subfolders, type :

```
files trash -f .*~ -l all
```

If you have a remorse, type :

```
files untrash
```

If you want to send back all the files currently in the trash, type :

```
files untrash -all
```

If you want to copy all tex files to directory "HD:blah", type :

```
files copy -f {.*\.tex} -t "HD:blah"
```

If you want to lock all the files in the current directory and its subfolders at the first level, except for those having htm or html extension, type the following :

```
files lock -f {.*\.html?} -n 1 -l 1
```

If you want to make aliases for all the files contained in the subfolder "HD:blahblah" :

```
files alias -s "HD:blahblah" -all
```

The -all statement overrides any -f option replacing it with ".*".

If you want to change the creator of all the files whose name ends with a digit other than 0 or 1 followed by an extension htm or HTM to give them Netscape Navigator's creator type (MOSS), then type :

```
files change -f {.*[2-9]\.htm} -i 1 -c MOSS
```

In order to change the type use the -t flag like in :

```
files change -f .* -t TEXT -c MOSS
```

Note that regular expressions containing escaped characters (such as \., \w, \d etc.) must be protected by a pair of brackets. Without the brackets the last example should have be written like this

```
files change -f .*\[2-9\]\\.htm -i 1 -c MOSS
```

Now let us rename all the files in the current folder. If you want to uppercase all file names, type :

```
files rename -r & -k u
```

In this last example, we do not specify the filter so it is .* by default, i-e all files. -r & means replace the name by itself and -k u means set the casing option to u (for uppercase). Since & is the default value for the -r option, we can omit it in the previous command and just write :

```
files rename -k u
```

If you want to truncate all filenames to the MS-DOS format, type :

```
files rename -x 8.3
```

Numbering of files can be obtained with the -d flag set to 1. The numbering scheme can't be specified on the command line so the proc will use the last settings made in the Rename Files dialog window (or their default values). Here is a more elaborate example. To append a suffix _XY to all files with an html extension, type :

```
files rename -f {(.*)(\.html)} -r {\1_XY\2}
```

5 MacMenu Key Bindings

Most of the actions can be triggered from the keyboard instead of opening Mac Menu. All of them are obtained by typing 'ctrl-z' on the keyboard : MacMenu then expects you to enter a letter to specify which action you are interested in. For instance, to empty the trash without leaving Alpha press 'ctrl-z', release, then hit 'e'. Here is the meaning of the different letters you can use with 'ctrl-z' :

a	to make 'a'liases
b	to show the 'b'indings info window
c	to 'c'opy files
d	to 'd'uplicate files
e	to 'e'mpty the trash
f	to 'f'ree (unlock) locked files
h	to open Mac s'h'ell
j	to 'e'ject a disk
k	to change files 'k'reator
l	to 'l'ock files
m	to 'm'ove files
p	to show the cli'p'board in the Finder
r	to 'r'ename files
s	to 's'elect files
t	to send files to the 't'rash
y	to change files t'y'pe
u	to 'u'ntrash files

Please e-mail any problem or bug you encounter : <berdesg@easynet.fr>
Visit the "Alpha utilities" page :
<http://perso.easynet.fr/~berdesg/alpha.html>