

Using Menus For Command Line Programs and Scripts

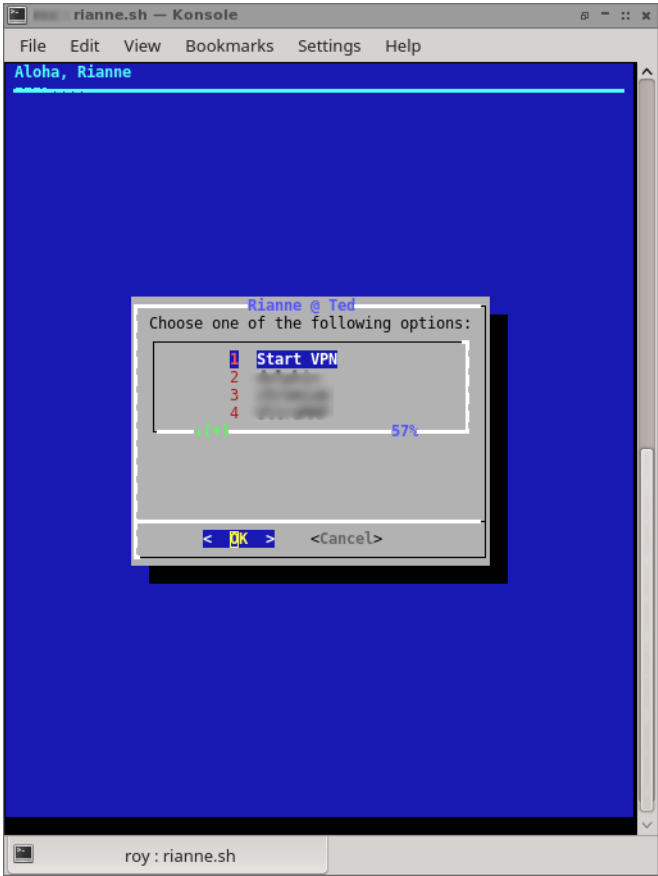
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THE holidays are coming (Christmas approaching), so I've taken advantage of some spare time to menu-ise commands that I use frequently. Those commands aren't the mere opening of an application and they often require dealing with input and output (in 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:



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

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

```

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:

[1] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/58>