

Menuing System on Central UNIX

SYNOPSIS

This chapter describes the UNIXMENU system available as an optional interface for users of Central UNIX.

NOTE: The actual menus available in the UNIXMENU system are not documented here because of their potentially fluid nature. As use increases, their state may change because of the needs of the user community. The on-line help facility will be updated as necessary to keep pace with these changes.

INTRODUCTION The UNIXMENU system is based on the lynx World Wide Web browser and some special capabilities which have been designed into it. The menus provided are the default menus and may be customized as described later under "Customizing Your Environment".

USING UNIXMENU WITHOUT IT SET AS A DEFAULT ENVIRONMENT The UNIXMENU System has two basic modes for user access. It can be set as the default environment for an account (when you log in, it starts up automatically as part of the login process), or you may run it from the system command prompt as another application. To run the UNIXMENU system when it is not your default environment, enter

% *unixmenu*<CR>

This will start lynx using the special UNIXMENU HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) pages.

When you quit the UNIXMENU System, you will be returned to the system prompt.

NAVIGATING THE UNIXMENU STRUCTURE Since UNIXMENU is based on lynx, reading the chapter on "Using lynx" later in this publication is a must for getting the most out of the menuing system. Until you have the time to read that chapter, the following keys should be enough to get you by in navigating the menus:

↓ (Down arrow)	Highlight next topic
↑ (Up arrow)	Highlight previous topic
→ (Right arrow), <CR> (Return), or ↵ (Enter)	Jump to highlighted topic
← (Left arrow)	Return to previous topic
SCROLLING:	
+ (or space)	Scroll down to next page
- (or b)	Scroll up to previous page

NOTE: Some menu items will start programs other than lynx to perform a task. If it is a program which requires knowledge of that program, the user will be warned before going to the new program. Otherwise, the user will just be prompted

Press <return> to return to Lynx

There are several ways for the user to customize their environment. The following sections deal with performing these functions within the UNIXMENU environment.

A. MAKING THE UNIXMENU YOUR DEFAULT ENVIRONMENT

If you elect to make UNIXMENU your default environment, you can do so by performing the following:

1. Start the UNIXMENU system by entering

% *unixmenu*<CR>

2. Select the menu item "Setting and viewing the menu environment".
3. Select the menu item "Start UNIXMENU on Login".

Follow the instructions provided and answer the question as described.

4. Quit the menuing system by entering

q<CR>

The next time you login to Central UNIX, the menuing system will startup at the end of the login sequence.

B. REMOVING UNIXMENU AS YOUR DEFAULT ENVIRONMENT

If you wish to remove the UNIXMENU system as your default environment, you can do so by performing the following while in the menuing system:

1. Select the menu item "Setting and viewing the menu environment".
2. Select the menu item "Start UNIXMENU on Login".

Follow the instructions provided and answer the question as described.

3. Quit the menuing system by entering (this will also log you out)

q<CR>

The next time you login to Central UNIX, you will get the UNIX command environment.

C. CHANGING OPTIONS AND VIEWERS WITHIN THE UNIXMENU ENVIRONMENT

You can change several items while using the UNIXMENU System. Some of these items will have no affect on the menuing system while others may affect the system in some unforeseen way. The default options and viewers were chosen based on their ease of use and friendliness with the menuing system.

1. CHANGING VIEWERS

You can customize the viewers, or helper program, which UNIXMENU will call to perform some of the functions that must be performed external to the menuing system. Care should be taken in selecting these viewers. Wherever an incompatibility is known about a specific program and its relation to UNIXMENU or another program, a note will be made in the appropriate subsection.

All of the following changes are accessed via "Setting and viewing the menu environment" from the main menu and "Change menu environment" from that sub-menu. Each of the change functions provides multiple

choices on what the options are, including an option for you to specify your own view instead of one of the choices presented. These choices may change from time-to-time as more programs become available or your environment changes.

NOTE: Any or all of these settings may be overridden by setting the same environmental variable before the ***unixmenu*** command is initiated. If the changes appear not to take effect the next time you run ***unixmenu***, check for the variables getting set elsewhere such as your ***.cshrc***, ***.cshrc.nine***, ***.login***, and ***.login.nine***.

a. Change the default EDITOR

This is the editor that will be used for creating files, and is also used by other programs such as News for determining which editor is to be used for the creation of messages. (Please refer to the chapters on "*Using pico*" and "*Using vi*" later in this publication.)

b. Change the default PAGER

The pager allows you to view files which would normally scroll off the screen too fast. It will scroll a screenful at a time for you and provide a pause so you can read the information.

c. Change the default MAILER

The mailer is the program that will be used to read and/or send electronic mail. (Please refer to the chapters on "*Using pine*", "*Using elm*", and "*Using mail*" later in this publication.)

d. Change the default NEWS_READER

The news reader is the program that will be used to read NETNews articles.

e. Change the default POST_NEWS

The post news program is used to post new news articles to NETNews. NOTE: Some news readers also have the ability to post new news articles.

f. Change the default GOPHER_CLIENT

The gopher client is used to look at information in gopher space. A menu-oriented way of navigating the Internet. (Please refer to the chapter on "*Using gopher*" later in this publication.)

g. Change the default WAIS_CLIENT

The WAIS client is used to search indexes of documents stored at many servers around the network.

h. Change the default WEB_CLIENT

The Web client is used to look at information on the World Wide Web. a hypertext oriented way of navigating the Internet. (Please refer to the chapter on "*Using lynx*" later in this publication.)

i. Change the default PH_CLIENT

The Ph client allows you to look up people and their phone numbers at Cal Poly and many other institutions. (Please refer to the chapter on "Using Ph" later in this publication.)

j. Set Your Main Menu Page Location

Once you have created the page(s) for your own custom menus, you must set the UNIXMENU main menu page location. The format of the location description is

file: //localhost/full_path_to_menu_page/menu_page_name.html

Because of the special functionality built into lynx which allows the menu capability, and the security concerns it can raise, the above format must be adhered to.

2. CHANGING THE LOGIN PROCESS

The latest versions of the account environmental resource control files (commonly called "dot files" because of their leading character being a period) provides for a level of customization in the login process. This customization falls into several areas as outlined in the following subsections.

a. Resource Control File Control File

The resource control file control file (or **.cprcrc**) controls the behavior of the .login file upon its execution during the login process. various options may be turned on or off based on settings in the file. If the file is not present or the proper variable settings are not present, they will default to a TRUE setting (or vt100 in the case of the default terminal type).

b. Checking for Mail in Your In-Basket

If this is set to TRUE, the system will ask you if you want to check the recent contents of your incoming mail (the last 15 lines). If you answer with "**yes**" or any abbreviation of the word, the system will then check to see if the mail server is available and at a low enough load to provide you with the list in a reasonable length of time (within two minutes). Sometimes, there may be an occurrence where it takes up to two minutes to check the system for availability; the script should still proceed after such a wait.

c. Check For Terminal Type

If this is set to TRUE, you'll be asked to enter your terminal type with the default being the "default terminal type"; set to FALSE and it assume the setting of the "default terminal type".

d. Set Default Terminal Type

Sets the terminal type that will be provided in the prompt when checking for the terminal type. It will also be used as the terminal type if "Check for Terminal Type" is set to FALSE.

- e. Check for New System News

If set to TRUE, the system news article titles which do not appear to have been read are displayed. If set to FALSE, a warning message is put out as a reminder to read the system news frequently.

- f. Set UNIXMENU As A Default Environment

If set to TRUE, the system will ask you if you want to start the UNIXMENU system. If set to false, the system leaves you at a system prompt.

D. CUSTOMIZING YOUR MENUS

The menus available in the UNIXMENU System are written in HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language). You may customize part or all of the menuing system by creating your own menu HTML pages using the UNIXMENU System pages as a guideline. These pages are located on the system in the `"/usr/local/share/lib/unixmenu"` subdirectory.

For this to work properly, you must replace the top level menu and all other menus at levels between the top and the level at which you would like to modify with a custom menu. You must then point lynx to your top level menu, and in turn, it points to all subsequent menus.

Once you have created the page(s) for your own custom menus, you must set the UNIXMENU main menu page location as described above in the subsection entitled " Set Your Main Menu Page Location". The format of the location description is

file: //localhost/full_path_to_menu_page/menu_page_name.html

Because of the special functionality built into lynx which allows the menu capability, and the security concerns it can raise, the above format must be adhered to.

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NOTES