Zmenu Application

Introduction

Normally, activation of CLI routines is achieved either through BASIC or the Filer. Zmenu is a neat little application program which allows the user to utilize CLI routines in a much more natural form. Individual routines are labeled, and combined in a single Pipedream file, enabling a very organised library of CLIs to be built up. For activation of a routine, the user selects Zmenu and then enters the appropriate label, as though it were a command.

Calling a CLI routine with Zmenu

Calling a routine using the Zmenu application is extremely simple. The user activates Zmenu either by highlighting it with the cursor in the index menu, or by entering square M. A prompt then requests the user to enter a command. The command is then compared with the routine names held in the Zmenu file and if there is a match, the corresponding CLI is called. An unknown command is reported back to the user.

Creating and writing a Zmenu file

As mentioned earlier, all the CLIs are held in one file. To enable Zmenu to recognise the file, the user must call it MENU.DAT, and it must be present in the default device set in the pane. The file can be created and edited in Pipedream and must be saved/loaded as a plain text file. The routine below shows a small CLI routine for activating BASIC and automatically CHAINing the patch. Despite its simplicity the routine does serve as a paradigm, demonstrating the format understood by Zmenu in the MENUDAT file.

```
%basic
.;Enter BASIC and CHAIN patch
#B CH. "PATCH"~E
```

Each routine must begin with a percentage delimiter sign. A routine is identified by a label/command string, which must immediately follow the percentage sign or the same line. It can consist of up to 20 characters. Spaces are allowed and the case of the letters is ignored. On the following lines a CU routine can be presented. Additionally, comments can be formatted on separate lines to aid in user readability. Any comment line must be preceded by .; so that Zmenu can ignore that line.

The CLI routine including any comments must not exceed 100 characters. This amount is adequate for may routines, but for longer routines, this restraint can be overcome by automatically activating Zmenu and hence calling another routine from within the original CLI routine.

Each routine is terminated by the preceding percentage delimiter of the next routine label. It follows that the very last routine will end with a single percent sign on a separate line.

Typical MENU.DAT file

```
%Tidy up
.;Erase multiple files in ram.-
#F |ER:RAM.-//*~EN~E
.;
%Pipe to basic
.;Pipe prog to basic
#P|~U##B~E|N
.J~E|NNEW~E|FS|Dc.exe~D~D~D~DY~E
#F|EXc.exe~E*erase c.exe~E
.;
5Basic to pipe
.;List prog to pipe
#BL.#+S~E#-S#P|FL:ram.-/s.sgn~D~D~DY~E|D|~D|D
#F|ER:ram.-/s.sgn~EY~E#P
.;
%Basic patch
.;Enter BASIC and chain patch
#B CH."RAM.*/PATCH"~e
%
```