

Introduction

The Common Desktop Environment (CDE) windowing environment provides a whole collection of integrated tools that can interact to make your computing more convenient. You have already been introduced to the mail handler and a text editor. This brief tutorial introduces the Common Desktop Environment *file manager*.

Getting Started

To start the file manager you select **File Manager** on the **Files** submenu of the Workspace Menu. When it starts up it should present an open window rather than an icon (if an icon appears then open it). Move the file manager's window into a corner.

You should see three main areas of the window. At the top is a menu bar with several menu choices that give you access to various features of the file manager. Below that is a graphical representation of a path to the file manager's current working directory (more on this in a minute), and a small text window containing the path to the current working directory. Finally, below the path region is a larger pane that should contain icons that represent the files directories in the file manager's working directory. It should be the case that the file manager starts up with its working directory (the one whose files you see in the big window) set as your home directory.

The Menu Bar

The menu bar can be useful; we will investigate the View menu to start. Pull down the **View** menu (by clicking on the word **View**) and click on the second line (**Set View Options...**). A window that allows you configure the file manager tool as you like will appear. In the section labeled **Representation** you should select the option **By Name, date, size...** Having done this, select the **Apply** button.

You can explore other possibilities for configuring the file manager on your own time. As you become more familiar with the Common Desktop Environment environment and file manager you can try new configurations.

For those of you used to working on a PC or Mac, you should notice a similarity in functionality between this file manager and the Windows Explorer and Mac file manager.

The File Manager's Path

Just below the menu bar is a pane that contains a horizontal list of folder icons with names underneath. This represents the path to the file manager's working directory (the right-most in the diagram) and each folder icon represents a directory. Is it your home directory? If not (and even if it is) go to the text window just below the display of icons. If you click on that window, a cursor will appear. Delete the path name that is there and type `~/CS203/Labs`, and press return. This line is used for setting a new working directory for the file manager (which, by the way, should now be your Labs directory).

Note: Some of you may have used different capitalization when you set these directories up last week. Remember that path names are case sensitive, and you should use the appropriate capitalization for your directories if the version above does not work.

Notice that the path window has now changed! Locate the folder icon with CS203 in the **Path Graph** near the top and double click on it (you have moved into your CS203 directory). You should see in the **File List** window a list of icons and file information corresponding to what you have in your CS203 directory.

By typing relative or absolute path names in the text window you can move the file manager to a new working directory. By clicking on an icon on the path line you can move to a directory above the current directory.

The File List Window

Now turn your attention to the largest pane (the file list window). Before continuing return the file manager to your home directory (remember we did that just above here). You should now see in the file list window a list of files and file information. This should look a lot like the information you get when you execute the command `'ls -l'`. There should be a folder in the list for your directory CS203. Double click on the folder icon (this is a new way to move into a directory). Continue on and move into your Labs directory and into the Lab2 directory. Notice the change in the file manager's path.

Now back up so that you are in your Labs directory (there are probably just a few [maybe 2] files present [both folders, if you didn't run into problems in the previous lab]). You can now create your lab 3 directory as follows: pull down the **File** menu above and select **New Folder**. A window will pop up with a space for typing in the name of the new folder. Move your cursor over the space and type Lab3, then click on the **OK** button (if you choose **Apply**, the naming window will hang around, and you will need to click the **Cancel** button to make it go away).

The new folder will show up in the file list window.

Now move into your old Lab2 directory. You should see several files from last week. You will now see how the file manager and the text editor work together. Pick a file you would like to edit (one of the '.cc' files [you won't actually edit it!]). Put the pointer on the icon and double click. You should see either a new editor icon or an open editor window appear (if the icon appeared then open it). Notice that the file you selected is ready for editing. That is one easy way to start working with a text file. But there's more. Since you now have an editor window open you can drag-and-drop a file icon onto the editor to include a file into the file being edited. Set the cursor at the beginning of some line in the text editor (it doesn't matter where). Select another '.cc' file. Press and hold down the left mouse button while the pointer is over the icon. Now drag the mouse and put the icon over the text area of the text editor window. When you release the mouse button the dragged file should appear inserted where the cursor was previously set.

Note: This technique can be a great way to produce a `handin.txt` file. Just open a `handin.txt` edit window and then "drag" into it the banner file you created. If you have to include a program from a file you can drag that file into the `handin.txt` edit window as well.

Wrap-up

There are other interesting features of the file manager. You can learn about some of them by checking out the Help pages. They are accessible by clicking on **Help** on the menu bar.