

Chapter IV-5 — User-Defined Menus

In this example, the text for the menu item is computed by the `MacrosMenuItem` function. It computes text for item 1 and for item 2 of the menu. Item 1 can be enabled or disabled. Item 2 can be checked or unchecked.

The dynamic keyword specifies that the menu definition contains a string expression that needs to be reevaluated each time the menu item is drawn. This rebuilds the user-defined menu each time the user clicks in the menu bar. Under the current implementation, it rebuilds *all* user menus each time the user clicks in the menu bar if *any* user-defined menu is declared dynamic. If you use a large number of user-defined items, the time to rebuild the menu items may be noticeable.

There is another technique for making menu items change. You define a menu item using a string expression rather than a literal string but you do not declare the menu dynamic. Instead, you call the `BuildMenu` operation whenever you need the menu item to be rebuilt. Here is an example:

```
Function ToggleItem1()
    String item1Str = StrVarOrDefault("root:MacrosItem1Str", "On")
    if (CmpStr(item1Str, "On") == 0)      // Item is now "On"?
        String/G root:MacrosItem1Str = "Off"
    else
        String/G root:MacrosItem1Str = "On"
    endif
    BuildMenu "Macros"
End

Menu "Macros"
    StrVarOrDefault("root:MacrosItem1Str", "On"), /Q, ToggleItem1()
End
```

Here, the menu item is controlled by the global string variable `MacrosItem1Str`. When the user chooses the menu item, the `ToggleItem1` function runs. This function changes the `MacrosItem1Str` string and then calls `BuildMenu`, which rebuilds the user-defined menu the next time the user clicks in the menu bar. Under the current implementation, it rebuilds *all* user-defined menus if `BuildMenu` is called for *any* user-defined menu.

Optional Menu Items

A dynamic user-defined menu item *disappears* from the menu if the menu item string expression evaluates to `""`; the remainder of the menu definition line is then ignored. This makes possible a variable number of items in a user-defined menu list. This example adds a menu listing the names of up to 8 waves in the current data folder. If the current data folder contains less than 8 waves, then only those that exist are shown in the menu:

```
Menu "Waves", dynamic
    WaveName("", 0, 4), DoSomething($WaveName("", 0, 4))
    WaveName("", 1, 4), DoSomething($WaveName("", 1, 4))
    WaveName("", 2, 4), DoSomething($WaveName("", 2, 4))
    WaveName("", 3, 4), DoSomething($WaveName("", 3, 4))
    WaveName("", 4, 4), DoSomething($WaveName("", 4, 4))
    WaveName("", 5, 4), DoSomething($WaveName("", 5, 4))
    WaveName("", 6, 4), DoSomething($WaveName("", 6, 4))
    WaveName("", 7, 4), DoSomething($WaveName("", 7, 4))
End

Function DoSomething(w)
    Wave/Z w

    if( WaveExists(w) )
        Print "DoSomething: wave's name is "+NameOfWave(w)
    endif
End
```

This works because `WaveName` returns `""` if the indexed wave doesn't exist.

Note that each potential item must have a menu definition line that either appears or disappears.