Make Dragon Commands

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Make Dragon Commands allows you to quickly generate Dragon DVC commands corresponding to keyboard shortcuts.

INSTRUCTIONS:

IN SHORT:

  1. SET UP a CSV file of COMMAND NAMEs and KEYBOARD SHORTCUTs (using SendSystemKeys key names).

  2. RUN Make Dragon Commands to create a Dragon XML file.

  3. IMPORT this XML file into the Dragon Command Browser and, when done,

  4. Change the properties of the newly imported commands (they will be set to the Make Dragon Commands application) to specify the actual specific application you want (the program should be running to show up in the drop-down list). When you are all done,

  5. GO into the application and say "What Can I Say" to see your commands.

  6. Have fun!

IN MORE DETAIL:

SETTING UP

First, get or create a list of keyboard shortcuts. I often find lists or tables of them on the internet. If you do copy a list from someplace, you will probably have to clean the list up a little to make sure the formatting and keynames are correct, and make sure the command names make sense. For example, numpad keys should be renamed as numkey, etc. Also, if you copy from the internet, some "spaces" between words may in fact be different non-printing characters and should be converted to actual spaces. You will know where this happens if, on importing the commands, you get an error when you validate. Pay attention to the command giving the error, and correct it.

Next, you have to arrange the list in a comma-separated-values ("CSV") file, which is just a text file that lists the "command name" followed by a comma and then the "keyboard shortcut". It should be named with the ".csv" extension. Note, Excel and Google Docs/Sheets can Save-As CSV so you may find it convenient to generate your list in one of these programs. Because Make Dragon Commands also provides an application-specific "What Can I Say" command to remind you of the Command Names and Keyboard Shortcuts, you may want to put your CSV file in the order that will keep the most useful commands near the top.

COMMAND NAME

Every command made by Make Dragon Commands will have up to four variants, the command name by itself is always one, and then the command name preceded by the words "Click" or "Show" or a word or words of your own choosing. So a command name of "File" will allow you to say "File" or "Click File" or "Show File" or "Words of Choice File". There is a dialog box that presents you with the options. You can pick them out individually for each command, or click "Apply to All" to apply the current options to all remaining commands. The <list_name> for the command will be "<mdc_command_name>". Of course, once the commands are created, you can edit the <list> for that command to reflect what you want (or don't want) to say. Because lists can't have spaces in their names, spaces in the command names are replaced with an underscore. So a command called "Actual Size" can be found as "<mdc_actual_size>".

KEYBOARD SHORTCUT

The keyboard shortcuts use a standard format comprising the keyname, or more typically, a modifier key (Ctrl, Shift or Alt) plus ("+") the keyname. Since the Dragon DVC commands that will be generated use "SendSystemKeys", you will want to use the DVC keynames that SendSystemKeys uses (see Reference below). Also, note, keynames are case sensitive, so Make Dragon Commands will turn capital letters into lowercase by default. If you need a capital letter in the keyboard shortcut, just add the "Shift" modifier so that "Ctrl+A" would be written as "Ctrl+Shift+A". Make Dragon Commands puts the keynames inside of braces by default, so if the keyboard shortcut is "Ctrl-A", Make Dragon Commands writes it as "{ctrl-a}". In some situations where a string of keys is needed, you should include the braces explicitly, so a combo key string like "{Shift+F10}{down 5}{enter}" would be entered in just that way (with the braces).

CAUTIONS

Dragon uses several keyboard shortcuts and if you use one of those keyboard shortcuts in a command, you will trigger that Dragon command, and not the command you actually expect in the window you are working in. Also, keymapping and macro software (like AutoHotKey) may be using some keyboard shortcuts. In AutoHotKey you can add a directive to keep the AutoHotKey shortcut from firing in a particular window that you want your Make Dragon Commands shortcuts to work in -- use #IfWinNotActive, WinTitle -- and then AutoHotKey will fire the shortcut everywhere except the Window you want your Make Dragon Commands to work in. Or you can specify only the Window to fire a shortcut in -- use #IfWinActive, WinTitle -- (see AutoHotKey help).

SAMPLE

Here is what an appropriate CSV file might look like (the first line is optional, but if it is included, make sure it is just as shown -- in ALL CAPITALS):

    COMMAND NAME,KEYBOARD SHORTCUT

    File,Alt+F

    Select All,Ctrl+A

New Desktop Background,{Shift+F10}n

View,Alt+V

Full Screen,F11

Help,Alt+H

Note, there are no spaces (except, multi-word Command Names can have spaces in them). The program will trim off leading and trailing spaces usually, so " File , Alt+F " should also work, but if you have troubles, look closely at the validation messages or at the command that is generated (after importing into Command Browser) to make sure the Dragon DVC command name and action looks right: SendSystemKeys "{Alt+f}".

MAKE AN XML COMMAND FILE

Once the CSV list is generated, run Make Dragon Commands and select that file. Make Dragon Commands will generate a Dragon Commands XML file in the same location as the original, but with an .XML file extension.

IMPORT COMMANDS INTO DRAGON

Now, in the Dragon Command Browser, import the XML commands. Be sure to allow "validation" and note any errors in validating the document as it will be a clue to badly-formatted command names or keyboard shortcuts. The commands will be imported as Application-Specific commands, for the application "[FileName] - Make Dragon Commands" and with the group name set as "[FileName] - Make Dragon Commands".

MODIFY PROPERTIES OF IMPORTED COMMANDS

To apply the imported commands to the actual application you want to use, go to "Manage" in the Command Browser, select the Make Dragon Commands, and click on "Edit Properties" where you can assign the correct Application (it should be running if you want it to show up in the drop-down list) and change the Group name if desired.

WHAT CAN I SAY

Make Dragon Commands also generates an "HTA" file on the fly to use as a pop-up window displaying your Command Names and Keyboard Shortcuts. When you are in the application, just say "What Can I Say" and it will pop up. It is a little tricky, but the main part of the pop up HTA is a HTML table, and if you are careful (and know a little about HTML), you can edit the Dragon What Can I Say command (in the command browser) to group commands, apply bold or italics, or make other helpful edits and additions.

Hope this is a useful tool for you. Have fun,

DRAGON SENDSYSTEMKEYS REFERENCE:

"Key"   "Key Code"

Note, don't use the braces: {Alt} is Alt (except for a strings of keys, like: {Shift+F10}{Down 4}{Enter})

ALT	{Alt}
BACKSPACE	{BackSpace}
BREAK	{Break}
CAPS LOCK	{CapsLock}
CENTER	{Center}
CONTROL	{Ctrl}
DELETE	{Del}
DOWN ARROW	{Down}
END	{End}
ENTER	{Enter}
ESCAPE	{Esc}
HELP	{F1}

HOME	{Home}
INS	{Ins}
LEFT ARROW	{Left}
NUM LOCK	{NumLock} (extended keyboards only)
PAGE DOWN	{PgDn}
PAGE UP	{PgUp}
PAUSE	{Pause}
PRINT SCREEN	{Prtsc}
RIGHT ARROW	{Right}
SCROLL LOCK	{ScrollLock}
SHIFT	{Shift}
SPACE	{Space}
SYS REQ	{SysReq}
TAB	{Tab}
UP ARROW	{Up}
WIN	{Win}

F1, F2, F3,...F16	{F1}, {F2}, {F3},...{F16}

Numeric keypad

{NumKey/}, {NumKey*}, {NumKey-}, {NumKey+}

{NumKey0},...{NumKey9}

{NumKey.},{NumKeyEnter}

(These codes are handled as if NUM LOCK were on)

Extended Keys

These keystrokes are generated by the extended keypad keys that are available on most keyboards. Most applications treat them the same as the corresponding keystrokes that do not have the Ext prefix (listed in the preceding table).

{ExtDel} {ExtDown} {ExtEnd} {ExtHome} {ExtIns} {ExtLeft} {ExtPgDn} {ExtPgUp} {ExtRight} {ExtUp}

Notes

If you need to specify one of two ALT, CTRL, or SHIFT keys, use {LeftAlt} or {RightAlt}, {LeftCtrl} or {RightCtrl}, and {LeftShift} or {RightShift}. And remember, you don't write the braces for any simple keys: {Left} is Left. But for more complex strings, you do use them: {Shift+F10}{Down 4}{Enter}

Have Fun!

CREDITS

; Make Dragon Commands, Ver. 0.8, original content (C) 2016 PG Service

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; Make Dragon Commands is built on AutoHotKey ("AHK") <http://ahkscript.org> and you can find additional help here: https://autohotkey.com/docs/AutoHotkey.htm

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; Based on (w/ gratitude and attribution to):

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