

Xfce Wiki

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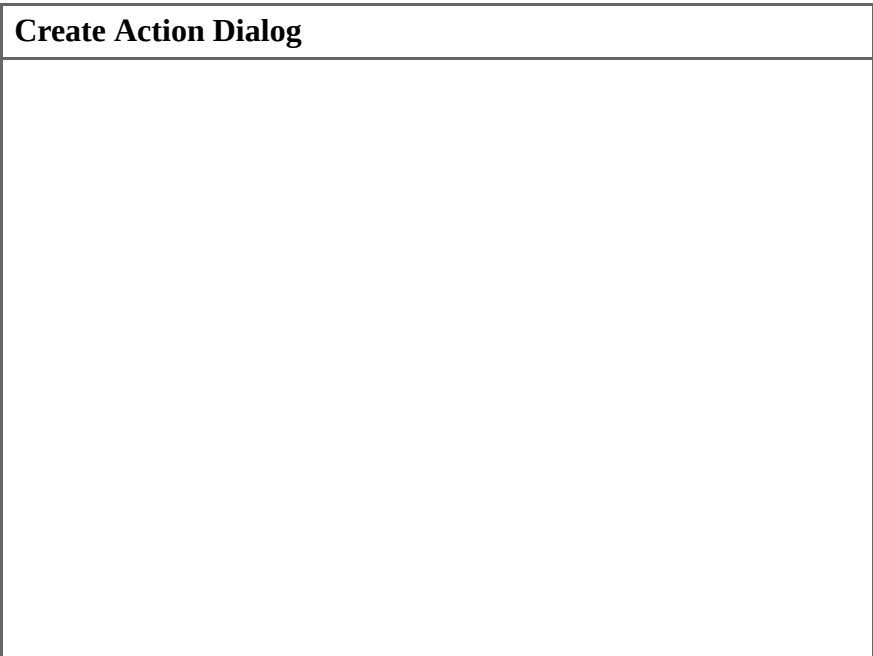
Custom Actions

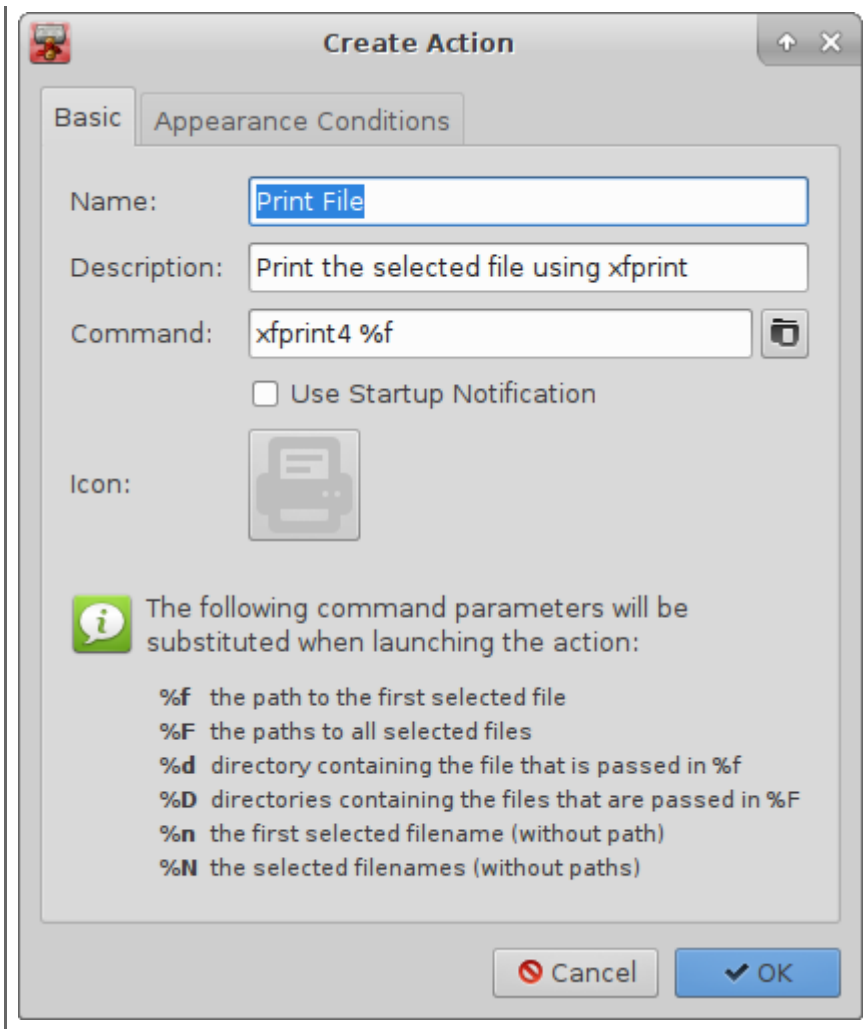
Thunar allows users to add custom actions to the file and folder context menus (by the use of the `thunar-uca` plugin, part of the Thunar distribution, in the `plugins/` subdirectory). You can set up new actions in the **Custom Actions** dialog, available via the **Configure custom actions...** item in the **Edit** menu.

This page serves as an introduction to the **Custom Actions** plugin, and includes a list of useful examples.

Adding a Custom Action

This section provides a step-by-step introduction to the **Custom Actions** plugin, demonstrating how to add a **Print File** action, which uses `xfprint` to print text files. We start by opening the **Custom Actions** dialog as explained above. In the dialog, click on the first button in the list of buttons (the one labeled with the `+`). The **Create Action** dialog will appear, as shown in the screenshot below.





On the first page, enter **Print File** in **Name:** and **Print the selected file using xfpri** in **Description:** Enter **xfprint4 %f** for the **Command:** (the %f will be replaced with the path to the selected file, as explained in the dialog), and select an icon by clicking **Icon:** (in the screenshot the printer-symbolic.svg icon was used).

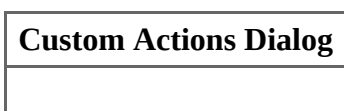
Thunar seems to do the sensible thing when passing file/folder names with spaces in them, so don't worry excessively about putting single or double quotes around the “%” placeholder.

Now, continue with the second page (the **Appearance Conditions** page).

We want to create an action that is only applicable to text files, so select the **Text Files** options and unselect the options for the other file types. Next you can specify a **File Pattern** to display the action only for text files that match a certain pattern. In the example, we set the file pattern to ***** (which matches all filenames) to indicate that the action should be displayed for all text files.

That's all. Click **OK** to close the **Create Action** dialog. The new action, labeled **Print File** will appear in the **Custom Actions** list.

Now close the **Custom Actions** dialog, select a text file in Thunar and open the context menu (right-click on the file icon). The newly created **Print File** action will appear in the context menu, as shown in the screenshot below.



You can use the [thunar-dev mailinglist \[https://mail.xfce.org/mailman/listinfo/thunar-dev\]](https://mail.xfce.org/mailman/listinfo/thunar-dev) to get in touch with the developers, if you have questions about this short tutorial or custom actions in general.

Examples

Here are a few useful examples of custom actions. Feel free to extend this list.

Finding files in the current folder

- Name: **Search...**
- Command: `gnome-search-tool --path=%f`
- File pattern: *
- Appears if selection contains: Directories

Note: For this action, you'll need to have `gnome-search-tool` installed, which is part of the `gnome-utils` package. This program also has a lot of other nice command-line options [<http://linux.die.net/man/1/gnome-search-tool>] which you could use to create even more specialized actions.

Finding files in the current folder with catfish

- Name: **Search files...**
- Command: `catfish --path=%f`
- File pattern: *
- Appears if selection contains: Directories

Note: For this action, you'll need to have `catfish` installed, which is part of the `catfish` package.

Finding files inside the selected folder with catfish

- Name: **Search files inside...**
- Command: `catfish --path=%f%d`
- File pattern: *
- Appears if selection contains: Directories

Note: For this action, you'll need to have `catfish` installed, which is part of the `catfish` package.

Working with archives (tar, gzip, etc)

- Name: **Extract here (bzip2)**
- Command: `tar xjf %n`
- File pattern: `*.tar.bz2;*.tbz2`
- Appears if selection contains: Other Files
- Name: **Extract here (zip)**
- Command: `unzip %f`
- File pattern: `*.zip`
- Appears if selection contains: Other Files
- Name: **Create tar.gz from folder**
- Command: `tar czvf %n.tar.gz %n`
- File pattern: *
- Appears if selection contains: Directories

Hint: You may prefer the Thunar Archive Plugin [<http://thunar.xfce.org/plugins.html#thunar-archive-plugin>], which does pretty much the same thing with less manual setup required on your part. It's either included with your distribution (in the case of Xubuntu [<http://xubuntu.org/>]), or available as a separate package (`thunar-archive-plugin` in Debian Etch). You might also need the `xarchiver` or “squeeze” package for things to work quite right.

Playing music files

- Name: **Play with XMMS**
- Command: `xmms %F`
- File pattern: `*`
- Appears if selection contains: Directories, Audio Files
- Name: **Enqueue in XMMS**
- Command: `xmms -e %F`
- File pattern: `*`
- Appears if selection contains: Directories, Audio Files

Hint: Works exactly the same with Audacious.

Burning an ISO file to a CD

- Name: **Burn with K3B**
- Command: `k3b --cdimage %f`
- File pattern: `*.iso`
- Appears if selection contains: Other Files

Viewing images

- Name: **View with GQview**
- Command: `gqview %f`
- File pattern: `*`
- Appears if selection contains: Directories, Image Files

Note: This tip also works just as well with GThumb

Converting PNGs to JPEGs

- Name: **To JPEG**
- Command: `convert %f -quality 75 %f.jpg`
- File pattern: `*.png`
- Appears if selection contains: Image Files

Hint: ``basename %f .png` .jpg` (be careful—those are *backticks*) will strip the old .png extension off of the original filename.

Losslessly Rotating JPEGs

- Name: **Rotate Clockwise**
- Command: `for file in %F; do tempfile=$(mktemp); (jpegtran -copy all -rotate 90 $file > $tempfile); mv -f $tempfile $file; rm -f $tempfile; done`
- File pattern: `*.jpg;*.JPG;*.jpeg;*.JPEG`
- Appears if selection contains: JPEG Image Files

Note: jpegtran is available as part of the libjpeg or libjpeg-progs packages of most distributions. Unlike using “convert”, the complicated loop structure is necessary with “jpegtran”: “jpegtran -rotate 90 -outfile %F %F” will produce a 0kb file.

Opening a terminal

- Name: **Open in a terminal**
- Command: `terminal --default-working-directory=%d`
- File pattern: `*`

- Appears if selection contains: Directories

Note: You might need to type `xfce4-terminal` instead of just `terminal` for some distributions.

Opening a root terminal

- Name: **Open a root terminal here**
- Command: `gksu "xfce4-terminal --default-working-directory=%f"`
- File pattern: *
- Appears if selection contains: Directories

Note: You should rewrite the command with normal straight quotes.

Opening a root Thunar

- Name: **Open a root Thunar here**
- Command: `gksu thunar %f`
- File pattern: *
- Appears if selection contains: Directories

Note: Some distributions no longer include `gksu`. Use `pkexec` instead.

Editing as root

- Name: **Edit as root**
- Command: `gksu put-your-favourite-text-editor-here %f`
- File pattern: *
- Appears if selection contains: Text files

Note: You'll need to replace `put-your-favourite-text-editor-here` with your favourite text editor (e.g. `mousepad` or `geany`). Also, see previous note about `gksu`.

Creating a symbolic link

- Name: **Create symlink**
- Command: `ln -s %f "%n (symlink)"`
- File pattern: *
- Appears if selection contains: Directories, other files

Saving the selected file/folder's pathname to the clipboard

For fans of the Windows “SendTo Extensions” power toy. **This tip requires the `xclip` program, which you may need to install using your distribution's package manager.**

- Name: **Copy Pathname to Clipboard**
- Description: Copies file's full pathname to the X PRIMARY selection
- Command: `echo -n %f | xclip -i`
- File pattern: *
- Appears if selection contains: *any*

Setting an image as the desktop background

- Name: **Set as desktop background**
- Command:
`xfconf-query -c xfce4-desktop -p /backdrop/screen0/monitor0/image-path -s %f`

- File pattern: *
- Appears if selection contains: Image Files

Viewing the disk usage of the current directory

- Name: **Disk Usage**
- Command: baobab %d
- File pattern: *
- Appears if selection contains: Tick all the boxes

Note: The idea is to get a visual picture of the current directory and any subdirectories. You could also use fsview or filelight, but the visuals are crisper in baobab.

Using 'nano' text editor

- Command: terminal -x nano %f

Since nano isn't a GUI app, you must start it in a terminal window.

Comparing selected files/directories

- Name: **Compare**
- Command: meld %F
- File pattern: *
- Appears if selection contains: Directories and Text files

Note: You will need the meld package.

Changing OpenDocument-supported formats

Note: You will need unoconv package for all following actions.

- Name: **Convert to ODT**
- Command: unoconv -f odt %F
- File pattern: *.doc;*.docx
- Appears if selection contains: Other files
- Name: **Export to PDF**
- Command: unoconv -f pdf %F
- File pattern: *.doc;*.docx;*.odt;*.odp;*.pps;*.ppt;*.xls;*.xlsx;*.ods;*.pptx
- Appears if selection contains: Other files

You can go on, try `man unoconv` for details.

Download subtitles with periscope

- Name: **Download subtitles**
- Command: periscope -l en %F && zenity --info --title "Done" --text "Subtitles downloaded successfully" || zenity --error --title "Error" --text "Subtitles not downloaded successfully"
- File pattern: *
- Appears if selection contains: Video Files

Note: You will need python-periscope package. Get it [here](http://code.google.com/p/periscope/) [http://code.google.com/p/periscope/]. You'll also need zenity package. This command will try to get the English subtitles, change -l en to something else (fr, de, pt-br, ...). You should rewrite the command with normal straight quotes.

Rename subtitles easily

- Name: **Rename subtitles**
- Description: Select video and subtitles file. Subtiles will be reanmed based on the video name.
- Command: subrmn %F
- File pattern: *.avi;*.mp4;*.crdownload;*.srt;*.sub
- Appears if selection contains: Video Files, Text Files, Other Files

Note: You will need subrmn script. Get it [here \[http://pastebin.com/DA8jwHz3\]](http://pastebin.com/DA8jwHz3). You'll also need zenity package.

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