

MAYA PLUGIN DEVELOPMENT

Smartshelf

Documentation

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1 Plugin description


The Smartshelf Tool is a plugin developed for Maya to display shortcuts from scripts stored on a server. These shortcuts are presented with icons as the default Maya shelf.



2 Manage the commands

The commands are shortcuts that execute scripts shared by administrators or user scripts. This section describes how to run a command, how to create a new one, and how to remove a user command.

2.1 Create a command

To add a new command, click the  button on the left-hand side of the Smartshelf. This opens a new dialog to create the new command (see figure 1).

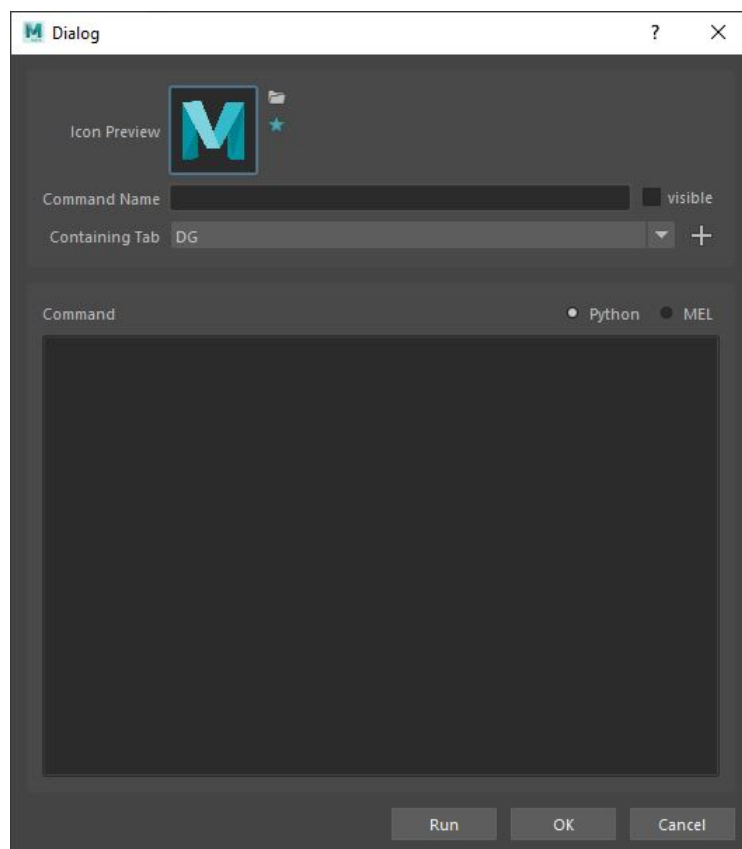




Figure 1: Dialog to create a new command

Here below are described the different field to setup for the new command.

2.1.1 Icon Preview

The icon can be customized by browsing an image from the computer (by using the  button) or an icon from the Maya session (by using the  button). This last option opens a new dialog with all icons from the current Maya session. A search bar in the top right corner allows to browse an icon by typing keywords (see figure 2).

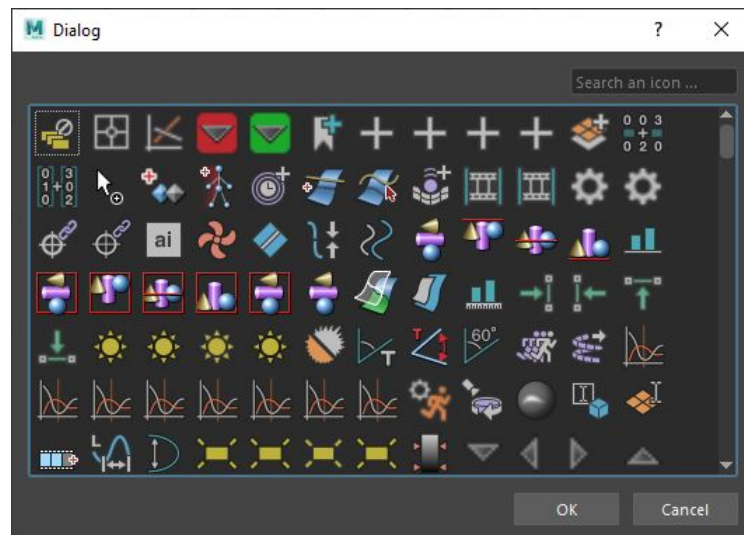



Figure 2: Dialog to browse a default icon from Maya with a search bar

① Images (png, jpg, tiff and svg) can be dragged and dropped within the icon area. Copy and paste also works similarly.

2.1.2 Command Name

The command name of the current command is the label displayed at the bottom of the icon. This label at the bottom can be shown(resp. hidden) by checking(resp. unchecking) the `visible` checkbox.

2.1.3 Containing Tab

This combo box allows to choose the destination tab that will contain the new command. To create a new tab, press the  button on the right-hand side of the combo box.

① By default, the tab selected is the one that was opened in the Smartshelf.

2.1.4 Command

The text area will contain the script to be executed by the command. It can be python scripts or mel scripts. The targeted language can be switched using the radio button (Python or MEL).

① Data can be loaded into the text area by dragging and dropping text or text files.

① A faster way to create a command consists of dragging and dropping text or text files directly into the Smartshelf.

① Scripts from the text area can be tested by pressing the Run button at the bottom of the dialog or by pressing CTRL + RETURN (like the Maya script editor).

2.2 Edit a command

To edit a command from a tab within the Smartshelf, right click on the icon of the command to edit and select **edit** from the context menu (see figure 3) .

⚠ Command shared by admin cannot be edited (see figure 4).

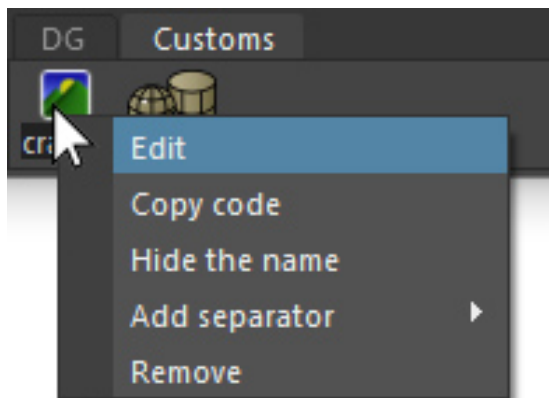


Figure 3: Edit a command created by the user

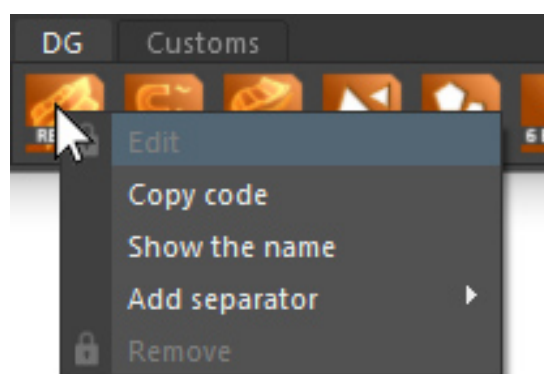


Figure 4: Unable to edit a command from the admin

2.3 Remove a command

To remove a command from a tab within the Smartshelf, right click on the icon of the command to remove and select **remove** from the context menu (see figure 5) .

⚠ Command shared by admin cannot be removed (see figure 6).

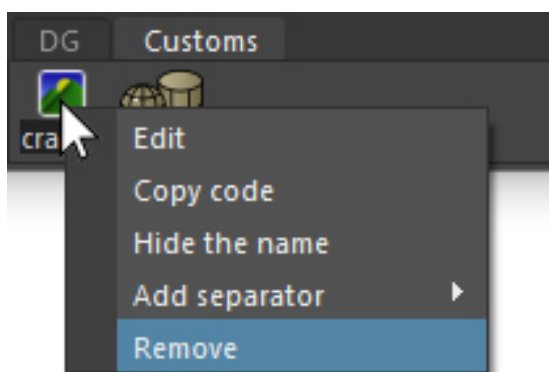


Figure 5: Remove a command created by the user

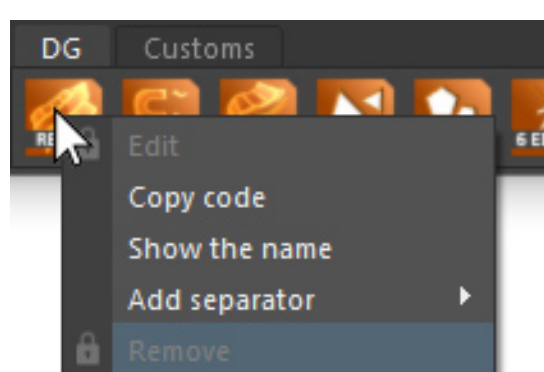


Figure 6: Unable to remove a command from the admin

3 Organise a tab

Tabs and icons can be reorganised by using drag and drop. Separations between icons can be added by right click on an icon or the tab background and select a new separator.

4 Settings

The settings dialog allows to edit the tabs, to filter the commands to display, to change the icon size and to clear user settings (see figure 7).

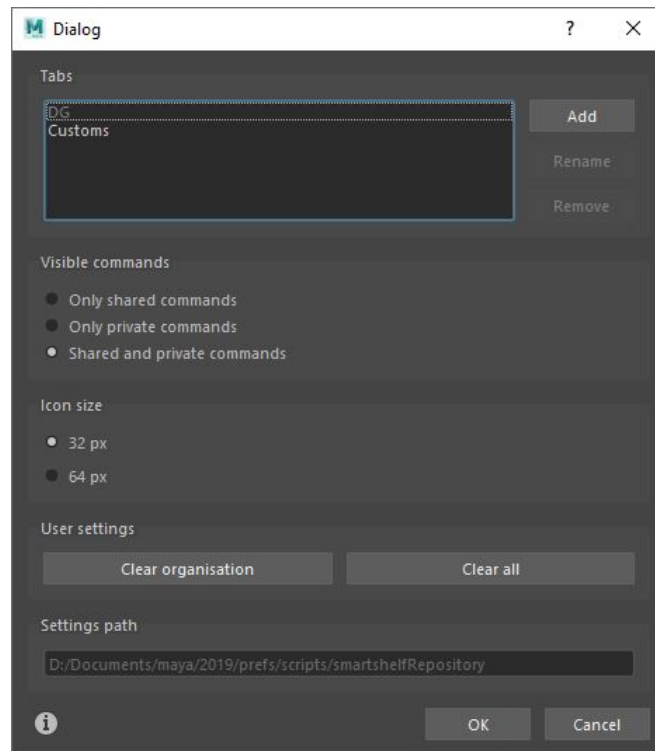



Figure 7: Settings dialog to customise the Smartshelf

4.1 Manage the tabs

The **Tabs** group allows to

- Create a new tab by clicking the **Add** button
- Rename a tab by selecting it from the list and by pressing the **Rename** button or by double clicking the tab from the list.
- Remove a tab by selecting it from the list and by pressing the **Remove**.

 Command shared by admin cannot be renamed or removed.

4.2 Filter the commands

From the **Visible commands** group, there are three filtering options to display commands:

- **Only shared commands** : display only commands created by administrators
- **Only private commands** : display only commands created by the user
- **Shared and private commands** : display all admin and user commands

4.3 Change icon size

From the `Icon size` group, the size of the icons displayed in the Smartshelf can be switched from 32px to 64px (and reverse).

4.4 Clear user settings

Smartshelf can be reset by clearing some user modifications. Two options are available:

- `Clear organisation` : remove the organisation made by the user (icon organisation, added separators, ...)
- `Clear all` : remove all user modifications (organisation and user commands, tabs, ...)

5 Unsolved bugs

- When changing visible command state, the user organisation may be reset.

6 Future features

- Better vertical classification
- Let the admins directly change shared repos
- Better highlight for clicked button
- highlight mel programming
- faster opening for default button search
- floating tab if need to be detached
- let the user to custom locally admin commands (icons, title, ...)