

# Tru64 UNIX Best Practice

---

## Creating an Action for the CDE Front Panel

**November 2000**

**Product Version:**                      **Tru64 UNIX Version 4.0 or higher**

This Best Practice describes how to create an action and add its control to the CDE Front Panel.



---

# Contents

## Creating an Action for the CDE Front Panel

- Is This Best Practice Right for You? ..... 1
- Before You Begin ..... 2
  - Online Help ..... 2
  - CDE Definitions ..... 2
- Applying the Best Practice ..... 4
  - Creating an Action ..... 4
  - Adding a Control to a Subpanel ..... 6
  - Replacing a Main Panel Control ..... 6
- Verifying Success ..... 7
- Troubleshooting ..... 7
- Alternative Practices ..... 7
- Comments and Questions ..... 8
- Legal Notice ..... 8



---

## Creating an Action for the CDE Front Panel

The Tru64 UNIX CDE Front Panel provides desktop controls to let you access frequently-used applications. This Best Practice describes how to create an action and add it to the CDE Front Panel.

See the Tru64 UNIX Best Practices Web page for more information about Best Practices documentation.

### Is This Best Practice Right for You?

Not all Best Practices apply to all configurations, so you must be sure that it is appropriate for your system and circumstances. To use this Best Practice, you must meet the requirements described in the following table:

Requirement	Description
Operating System	Tru64 UNIX Version 4.0 or higher
System Configuration	You must be using CDE as your graphical user interface, and your system administrator must not have locked CDE Front Panel customization.
Impact on Availability	None

You cannot use this Best Practice to create an action for an application if either of the following conditions apply:

- You want the user to see a different label than the action name on the action icon. For example, you cannot use Create Action to provide a local-language version of an existing action.
- The action requires some of the advanced features of the action database, such as launching commands on remote systems, invoking other actions, or running the action as another user, such as `root`, or behaving differently depending on the number of arguments supplied to the action.

You cannot use this Best Practice to create an action for an application if the command line requires a parameter other than a file name each time the command is executed. In this case, refer to *Alternative Practices* for information.

## Before You Begin

Before you apply this Best Practice, you should be familiar with the CDE Front Panel and the Tru64 UNIX operating system. This Best Practice describes how to create an action to start an application; it does not describe how to create a data type.

## Online Help

For more information about creating actions, access *Create Action Help* from the Help Manager control on the main panel.



1. Select the Help Manager control to display the *Welcome to Help Manager* topic.
2. Select **Common Desktop Environment**.
3. Select **Create Action Help**.

## CDE Definitions

This Best Practice uses the following standard CDE definitions:

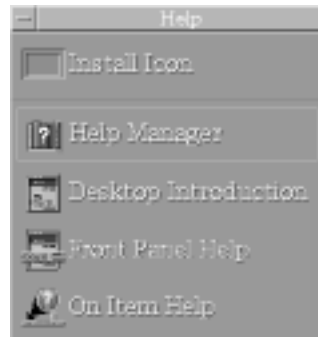
**Front Panel**                      A desktop window that resides in all workspaces. It has two major components: the main panel and subpanels.

**Main Panel**                        The horizontal window at the bottom of the display. It contains several controls for frequently used tasks and the workspace switch to let you access multiple workspaces.



**Subpanel**

A subsidiary panel providing access to additional controls, often related. Subpanels always contain an Install Icon control and a labeled copy of the control in the main panel.

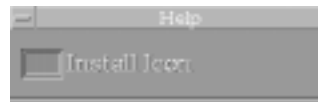


**Control**

A Front Panel icon that displays information, starts an application, or triggers an action. Controls can reside in the main panel or in subpanels.

**Install Icon Control**

A subpanel control that works as a target; icons dragged and dropped onto this control are copied to the subpanel. All subpanels include an Install Icon control.



**Pop-up Menu**

Each front panel control has a pop-up menu that displays available actions, such as adding a subpanel or activating the control. The content of pop-up menus differs with the type and location of the control. Point the cursor to the control and click mouse button three to display the control's pop-up menu.

Workspace	A single screen containing windows. You can have windows occupy one or more workspaces. CDE includes multiple workspaces.
Workspace Switch	The area in the center of the main panel that lets you display different workspaces. It includes workspace buttons that let you access each available workspace.



## Applying the Best Practice

Before you start creating an action for the CDE Front Panel, be sure to follow the recommendations in *Before You Begin*.

This Best Practice provides information to help you do the following:

- Create an action to start an application
- Add the action's control to a subpanel
- Replace the main panel control with the new action's control

## Creating an Action

Follow these instructions to create an action:

1. Open the Application Manager from the CDE Front Panel.



2. Select **Desktop\_Apps**. You see the available desktop applications.
3. Select **Create Action**. You see the Create Action dialog box.
4. Enter the Action Name to use as an icon label, for example: **server22**.

5. The Create Action dialog box shows the default action icon. To select a different icon:
  - a. Click on the **Find Set...** button. You see the Find Set dialog box.
  - b. Double click on an item in the Icon Folders list, for example: `/usr/dt/appconfig/icons/C`. You see that folder's icons in the Icon Files list.
  - c. Scroll through the Icon Files list and click on the icon you want to use, for example: `Dtterm`. You see the icon name in the Enter Icon Filename field.
  - d. Click on the **OK** button. You see the icon in the Action Icons area.

Refer to To Use the Find Set Dialog Box online help topic if you want to use an icon that is not in the standard icon path list.

6. Enter the command to execute, including any command line arguments. For example:

```
dtterm -n server22 -ls -e rlogin server22 -l user07 &
```

- The `-n server22` argument changes the title of the window and its icon to `server22`. The default is `dtterm`.
- The `-ls` argument starts a login shell, executing the system and user startup files.
- The `-e rlogin server22 -l user07` argument executes `rlogin` with its command line arguments, logging `user07` onto `server22`. The `-e` option must be the last option on the `dtterm` command line.
- The `&` argument executes the command in the background.

If you want to use a sequence of commands, create an executable shell script and then execute the script in this field. For example: `/usr/apps/Scripts/s22u07.sh`, which could include something like the following script:

```
#!/bin/sh
xhost +server22
echo "\nLOGGING user07 ONTO server22\n"
dtterm -n server22 -ls -e rlogin server22 -l user07 &
```

7. Enter help text, if any. For example: `Login user07 to server22`.

8. Select a window type:

- Graphical (X-Window)

The application displays its own window. Use this window type for the `dtterm` example shown here.

- Terminal (Auto-Close)

The action displays a terminal window that closes when the action completes.

- Terminal (Manual Close)

The action displays a terminal window that the user must close.

- No Output

The application does not require a window.

9. Select **save** from the **File** menu to save the action to your home directory. If you are done, close the Create Action dialog box.

10. To test the action, open the File Manager and double click on the `Server22` icon.

## Adding a Control to a Subpanel

Follow these instructions to add a control to a subpanel:

1. Use the File Manager or the Application Manager to display the icon for the application you want to add. For example, `Server22` in your home directory.
2. Display the subpanel where you want to add the control.
3. Drag the application icon from its original location and drop it onto the subpanel's **Install Icon** control.

## Replacing a Main Panel Control

Follow these instructions to replace a control in the CDE Front Panel:

1. Click on the Subpanel Button to display the subpanel.
2. Click and hold mouse button three on the subpanel control to display the control's pop-menu.
3. Select **Copy to Main Panel** and release mouse button three. You see the front panel control replaced with your selection.

---

**Caution**

---

When you replace a default main panel control, it is placed in the subpanel where it is possible to delete it. These default controls are difficult to restore.

---

## Verifying Success

After you apply this Best Practice, double click on the new action's control and determine if the application executes successfully.

If the Best Practice was not successful, see *Troubleshooting* for information about identifying and solving problems.

## Troubleshooting

If you determine that the Best Practice was not successful, as described in *Verifying Success*, use the following table to identify and solve problems:

Problem	Possible Solutions
Action executes a single command line and application does not execute correctly	Open the action with Create Action and review the command line and the window type. Execute the command line from the shell prompt in a terminal window. Make any corrections in the Create Action dialog box and save the modifications.
Action executes a shell script and application does not execute correctly	Open the action with Create Action and review the command line and the window type. Review the shell script. Execute the commands in the shell script from the shell prompt in a terminal window. Make any corrections to the shell script or in the Create Action dialog box and save the modifications.

## Alternative Practices

Although this Best Practice is the recommended method for creating an action for the CDE Front Panel, if your system does not meet the requirements described in *Is This Best Practice Right for You?*, you can use an alternative method.

You cannot use this Best Practice to create an action for an application if the command line requires a parameter that is not a file name. For example, you cannot use Create Action to write an action like the following:

```
lp -ddevice filename
```

In this case, the user has to supply *device* and *filename* each time the command is executed.

You can write a script that does this and then use Create Action to execute the script. For example:

```
#!/bin/sh
echo "ENTER DEVICE: \c"
read DEV
echo "ENTER FILE NAME: \c"
read FILE
lp -d$DEV $FILE
```

In this case, use one of the terminal window types.

## Comments and Questions

We value your comments and questions on the information in this document. Please mail your comments to us at this address:

```
best_practices@zk3.dec.com
```

## Legal Notice

COMPAQ and the Compaq logo are registered in U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Tru64 is a trademark of Compaq Information Technologies Group, L.P.

UNIX and The Open Group are trademarks of The Open Group.

All other product names mentioned herein may be trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies.

Confidential computer software. Valid license from Compaq required for possession, use, or copying. Consistent with FAR 12.211 and 12.212, Commercial Computer Software, Computer Software Documentation, and Technical Data for Commercial Items are licensed to the U.S. Government under vendors standard commercial license.

Compaq shall not be liable for technical or editorial errors or omissions contained herein. The information in this publication is subject to change without notice and is provided "as is" without warranty of any kind. The entire risk arising out of the use of this information remains with recipient.

In no event shall Compaq be liable for any direct, consequential, incidental, special, punitive, or other damages whatsoever (including without limitation, damages for loss of business profits, business interruption or loss of business information), even if Compaq has been advised of the possibility of such damages. The foregoing shall apply regardless of the negligence or other fault of either party and regardless of whether such liability sounds in contract, negligence, tort, or any other theory of legal liability, and notwithstanding any failure of essential purpose of any limited remedy.

The limited warranties for Compaq products are exclusively set forth in the documentation accompanying such products. Nothing herein should be construed as constituting a further or additional warranty.