

Power Selecting and Pasting

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Based on something I read in "login:" a long time ago.



The Gist of It All

Goals

- Speed up text selection.
- Reduce pasting errors.

Techniques

- Multi-click selection (xterm and TeraTermPro)
- Using NULL Command Prompts.

X11 Quick Selections

- **Single-Left-Click and drag**
Selects with "character" resolution.
- **Double-Left-Click (and drag)**
Select with "word" resolution.
- **Tripple-Left-Click (and drag)**
Select with "line" resolution.
- **Quadruple-Left-Click (rare, Motif/Lesstif/Netscape)**
Select with "buffer" resolution.
- **Single-Right-Click**
Extend selection using previous granularity.

Bourne Shell NULL Command

The colon is a no-op for the Bourne family of shells.

Put this in your `.bashrc` or `.profile` file:

```
export PS1=": $(whoaim)@$(hostname -s) ; "  
export PS2=":; "
```

Under bash, I prefer the following variant for PS1, because it is dynamic when changing user id's via `su(1)` or `sudo(1)`:

```
export PS1=": \u@\h; "
```

Bourne Shell Example

```
: adrian@devel; echo X
X
: adrian@devel; : adrian@devel; echo X
X
: adrian@devel; for i in 1 2 3; do
:; echo $i
:; done
1
2
3
: adrian@devel; : adrian@devel; for i in 1 2
3; do
:; :; echo $i
:; :; done
1
2
3
: adrian@devel;
```

Other Languages?

What if your particular language, doesn't have a NULL command?

This trick is extensible to other languages. The only requirement is that the target language supports a non-whitespace command separator or terminator. If only new-line is accepted as a command separator, you could need to put your prompt on a line by itself.

TCL/TK -- making a NULL Command

The analog for TCL involves defining your own NULL command. The comment command (#), could be used, but it is a little tricky. Put the following in your .tclshrc or .wishrc file.

```
if {$tcl_interactive} {  
    # Define a Bourne shell like no-op function  
    # called ':' for use in the interactive  
    # prompts.  
    proc : {args} {}  
    set tcl_prompt1 {  
        puts -nonewline \  
            ": TCL [exec id -un]@[exec hostname -s]; "  
    }  
    set tcl_prompt2 ": TCL ; "  
}
```

TCL/TK example

```
: adrian@cluebie; tclsh8.2
: TCL adrian@cluebie; puts foo
foo
: TCL adrian@cluebie; : TCL adrian@cluebie;
puts foo
foo
: TCL adrian@cluebie;
```