

Tru64 UNIX Best Practice

Customizing CDE Front Panel Controls

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Product Version: **Tru64 UNIX Version 4.0 or higher**
This Best Practice describes how to customize CDE Front Panel controls
on Tru64 UNIX.

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Customizing CDE Front Panel Controls

The Tru64 UNIX CDE Front Panel provides desktop controls to let you access frequently-used applications. This Best Practice describes how to customize CDE Front Panel controls..

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

Before You Begin

Before you apply this Best Practice, you should be familiar with the CDE Front Panel and the Tru64 UNIX operating system.

Online Help

For information about CDE, access CDE online 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 the appropriate topic.

For information about the CDE Front Panel, access Front Panel Help from the Help Manager subpanel on the main panel.

1. Click on the arrow in the Help Manager subpanel to display the Help Manager subpanel.
2. Select **Front Panel Help**.

CDE Definitions

This Best Practice uses the following standard CDE definitions:

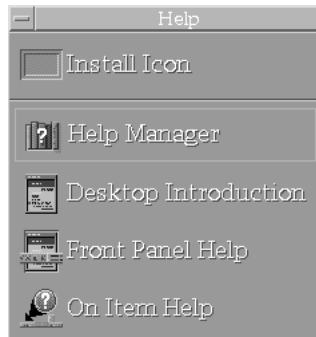
Front Panel A desktop window that resides in all workspaces. It has two major components: the main panel and subpanels.

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 and hold MB3 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 customizing CDE Front Panel controls, be sure to follow the recommendations in *Before You Begin*.

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

- Customize CDE Front Panel controls
- Undo CDE Front Panel customizations

Customizing Controls

You can use the CDE Front Panel to add subpanels to the main panel, delete subpanels, add and delete controls in subpanels, and replace main panel controls with subpanel controls.

Adding a Subpanel

Follow these instructions to add a subpanel to a main panel control that does not have one:

1. Point your cursor to the control.
2. Click and hold MB3 to display the control subpanel.
3. Select **Add Subpanel** and release MB3. You see an arrow displayed in the subpanel button above the control.

The new subpanel contains two controls: an **Install Icon** control and the original main panel control.

Deleting a Subpanel

Before you delete a subpanel, determine if it contains a default main panel control that you have replaced with another subpanel control as described in *Replacing a Control*.

Caution

If you delete a subpanel you also delete the controls in that subpanel. If you have replaced a Front Panel control with a control that you installed in a subpanel, the default may be difficult to restore.

Before you delete a subpanel where you have replaced the original Front Panel control, replace the current Front Panel control with the default control.

If you want to remove a subpanel, follow these instructions:

1. Point your cursor at the subpanel's front panel control.
2. Click and hold MB3 to display the control subpanel.
3. Select **Delete Subpanel** and release MB3. You see a confirmation window.
4. Click on the **OK** button to delete the subpanel. You see the arrow disappear from the subpanel button above the control.

Adding a Control

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.
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 Control

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

1. If the Front Panel control does not have a subpanel, refer to *Adding a Subpanel* and add a subpanel to the Front Panel control.
2. Click on the arrow in the subpanel button to display the subpanel.
 - If the control you want on the main panel already resides in the subpanel, continue to the next step.
 - If the control you want on the main panel does not reside in the subpanel, refer to *Adding a Control* and add the control to the subpanel.
3. Click and hold MB3 on the subpanel control to display the control subpanel.
4. Select **Copy to Main Panel** and release MB3. You see the front panel control replaced with your selection.

Deleting a Control

Before you delete a control, determine if it is a default Front Panel control on either the main panel or a default subpanel.

Caution

If you delete a default Front Panel control it may be difficult to restore.

Follow these instructions to delete a control:

1. If the control does not have a subpanel, you must add a subpanel to the control. Refer to *Adding a Subpanel* for instructions.
2. Display the control's subpanel.
3. Click and hold MB3 on the subpanel control to display the control subpanel.
4. Select **Delete** and release MB3. You see a confirmation window.
5. Click on the **OK** button to delete the control.

Undoing Customizations

You can undo customizations you have made with the Front Panel's pop-up menus and Install Icon control. This lets you restore the following customizations:

- Remove controls you added with the Install Icon control
- Remove subpanels you created with Front Panel pop-up menus
- Restore subpanels and controls you removed with Front Panel pop-menus

Caution

This procedure does not affect the following customizations:

- Customizations done by manually creating or editing Front Panel configuration files
 - Main panel controls that you have replaced with default Front Panel controls from a default subpanel
 - New or renamed workspaces
-

Follow these instructions to undo CDE Front Panel customizations:

1. Display the Application Manager from the CDE Front Panel.
2. Select the **Desktop_Tools** application group.
3. Double click on the **Restore Front Panel** icon.

Verifying Success

Customization	Verification
Adding a subpanel	Look for the arrow on the subpanel button above the main panel control. Click on the arrow to display the new subpanel.
Deleting a subpanel	See that the arrow is no longer on the subpanel button above the main panel control.
Adding a control	Look for the control in the subpanel. Select the control to verify correct operation.

Customization	Verification
Replacing a control	Look for the new control on the main panel and the old control in the subpanel. Select each control to verify correct operation.
Deleting a control	See that the control is no longer in the subpanel.
Undoing customizations	See that controls you added with the Install Icon control are no longer in the subpanel. See that subpanels you added with pop-up menus are no longer on the main panel. Look for subpanels and controls that you removed with pop-up menus.

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
Cannot customize Front Panel	Contact your system administrator to see if Front Panel customization is locked.
New control does not operate correctly	Verify that the control operates correctly in its original location. If the new control is for a user-created action, refer to the <i>Best Practice for Creating an Action for the CDE Front Panel</i> on the Tru64 UNIX Best Practices Web page.
Front Panel not restored	If customizations were done by manually creating or editing desktop configuration files, undo the configuration file changes. If you deleted default controls and they were not restored, contact your system administrator.

Alternative Practices

Although this Best Practice is the recommended method for customizing CDE Front Panel controls, it does not discuss creating an action for the CDE Front Panel. If you want to do this, refer to the *Best Practice for Creating an Action for the CDE Front Panel* on the Tru64 UNIX Best Practices Web page.

If you want to create or edit desktop configuration files to customize your CDE Front Panel, refer to the *Common Desktop Environment: Advanced User's and System Administrator's Guide*.

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`

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