

tausta.sh and tausta.ksh.sh

Korn Shell (and Bourne Shell) scripts, that change desktop
wallpaper under X Window System

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1 Copyright and licence

Copyright (C) 2003–2007 Juhapekka Tolvanen and Mika Jorma Saaristo

This script was originally created as a Bourne Shell script by:

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A function called "watcher" is based on a Perl-code-snippet as seen in a man page of xscreensaver-command (by Jamie Zawinski (<http://www.jwz.org/>))

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2 Pros and cons of this software

2.1 Pros

Main advantage of this software is extreme flexibility. Practically any command that can change your desktop wallpaper can be used by this software. This software tries to avoid loading wallpaper when XScreenSaver is running some of its screen hacks. You do not need Mad Shell-Fu Skillz for configuring this software.

2.2 Cons

If you do not want to change desktop wallpaper automatically after every few hours, this software is definitely not for you. If you want to change your desktop wallpaper after every few hours, but do not need all this flexibility, this software may be a little bit overkill for you. Some Bourne Shell -scripting skills are needed when configuring this software and for some people it is too much (but as I said before, you do not need Mad Shell-Fu Skillz)

3 Notes

In my machine a command called `ps` is from software package called `procps`. If you use some GNU/Linux-distribution, you probably have it. I have not tested, how well these scripts work with other implementations of `ps`-command.

`tausta.sh` script is not as reliable as `tausta.ksh.sh` : I have seen many times, that `tausta.sh` scripts loads wallpaper when `xscreensaver` runs some screen hack. If you experience same problem, install some implementation of Korn Shell -language (ie. `pdksh`, `mksh` or `zsh`) and use `tausta.ksh.sh` instead.

Most proprietary Unixes has at least AT&T `ksh88`. Some of them has `dtksh`; It is `ksh93` with CDE-capabilities. `pdksh` has tinier binary than `zsh`, so you'd better use it as implementation of Korn Shell-language. If you use `zsh` as Korn Shell-implamentation, you must make it emulate `ksh` with this command:

```
emulate ksh
```

The Original AT&T KSH93 is finally really free software, so feel free to use it:

<http://www.kornshell.com/>

At least Debian GNU/Linux and Slackware Linux have it packaged already.

4 Installation

First you need some cool software, that can load wallpaper or image to X Window System desktop. I prefer `xli` and `hsetroot`. If I want to download some frequently updated image from WWW and load it as wallpaper, I prefer `dog` for that purpose, but `curl` is also good.

Create directory `~/.tausta.sh.dir`. `tausta.rc.sh` has some user-serviceable parts you can edit; at least name of window manager process must be right or script won't run at all. Put `tausta.rc.sh` to `~/.tausta.sh.dir/`. Put scripts `tausta.sh` and `tausta.ksh.sh` to some directory in your `$PATH`, for example `~/bin/`. You may need to edit them a little bit, first. Use `chmod`-command to ensure that you can run them.

Now create some file called `tausta.conf` and put it to `~/tausta.sh.dir`. A file called `tausta.conf` is provided as example. Empty lines and lines starting with `#` are ignored, of course. Commands are normal commands that Bourne Shell or any of its derivative understands. You can use exported environment variables instead of plain commands and directory paths. Those environment variables are exported in file `~/tausta.sh.dir/tausta.rc.sh`.

You can unsort lines of `tausta.conf` with software like `rl`, `unsort` or `bogosort`.

Now everything should be in place. Then you must configure your X-session, window-manager or desktop environment so, that command like this is run automatically during startup:

```
nice -n 20 tausta.ksh.sh &
```

If your computer is powerfull enough, you can omit that `nice -n 20`, of course.

You can stop waiting for next loading of wallpaper with commands like these:

```
kill -USR1 $(cat ~/.tausta.sh.dir/tausta.pid)
```

```
kill -USR1 'cat ~/.tausta.sh.dir/tausta.pid'
```

Feel free to bind them to some menu entry, panel button, keybinding etc. After giving such command, you must wait about amount of `$CHECKINTERVAL` seconds before the next wallpaper is loaded.

Use signal like 1, 2, 3, 15 or 20 (SIGHUP, SIGINT, SIGQUIT, SIGTERM or SIGCHLD) to stop script, so it can safely exit. You can restart script with signal USR2.

If some image loading command makes your desktop background messed up, or any other anomalies are seen, then check out file `~/tausta.sh.dir/lastcommand` to find out which command was tried when loading the latest image.

5 Commands for loading wallpapers

5.1 Software

Consult these, if you can't find some software:

- <http://freshmeat.net/>
- <http://www.ftpsearch.net/>
- <http://www.google.com/>

5.1.1 For loading wallpapers

- hsetroot (Best software for loading center-tiled.)
 - <http://thegraveyard.org/hsetroot.php>
- xli (Good for all but loading wallpaper center-tiled)
 - <http://pantransit.reptiles.org/prog/>
- xloadimage. (has xsetbg). YOU DO NOT NEED THIS CRAP!: Use xli, because it is improved version of xloadimage. xloadimage is likely to be present on any X11 contrib mirror site:
 - <http://www.mirrormonster.com/ftp.x.org/R5contrib/xloadimage.4.1.tar.gz>
 - <http://www.x.org/mirrors.html>
- chbg (This is buggy crap that depends on ancient and obsolete GTK+ 1.*)
 - <http://chbg.sourceforge.net/>
- Esetroot. (This is mostly for users of Enlightenment -window manager)
 - <http://www.jnrowe.ukfsn.org/projects/esetroot.html>
- habak. I haven't tried this. Homepage has been disappeared. Pristine source code is still available in FTP-site of Debian and its mirrors:
 - ftp://ftp.debian.org/debian/pool/main/h/habak/habak_0.2.5.orig.tar.gz
 - <http://www.debian.org/mirror/list>
- telak. I haven't tried this. This software can display remote or local pictures on your desktop. This is a small tool to draw local or remote pictures on your root window.
 - <http://julien.danjou.info/telak.html>

5.1.2 For loading planet or moon images

- xplanet.
 - <http://xplanet.sourceforge.net/>
- xphoon
 - <http://xphoon.sourceforge.net/>
 - <http://sourceforge.net/projects/xphoon/>
 - <http://www.acme.com/software/xphoon/>
- pngphoon.
 - <http://svolli.de/software/pngphoon/>

5.1.3 For making (random) pics (on the root window)

- xstarfish.
 - <http://www.redplanet.sw.com/starfish>
- Evolvotron. (I haven't tried this yet, but it seems promising. Maybe you should create images with this software by hand and then load them with xli or hsetroot)
 - <http://www.bottlenose.demon.co.uk/share/evolvotron/>
- Randim (I haven't tried this yet, but it seems promising. It is "interactive fractal image generation program based on the theory of iterated function systems".)
 - http://interstitiality.net/ifs_f.html
- XBanner (This is for XDM, but I may be useful for desktop, too)
 - <http://www.hijinks.com/~spade/linux/XBanner/>

5.1.4 For unsorting lines of tausta.conf

- bogosort
 - <http://www.lysator.liu.se/~qha/bogosort/>
 - <ftp://ulrik.haugen.se/pub/unix/bogosort/>
- GNU coreutils (Version 6.0 and above includes shuf)
 - <http://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/>
- msort (It has random sorting as one of its comparison types)
 - <http://billposer.org/Software/msort.html>
- rl (randomize lines)
 - <http://ch.tudelft.nl/~arthur/rl/>
- unsort
 - <http://www.vanheusden.com/unsort/>

You'd better learn this feature of your text editor: How to pipe chosen lines of text to external command and then substitute those lines with output of that command. If your text editor can't do it, it's time to learn some better text editor, like vi, Vim, GNU Emacs, XEmacs or SXEmacs. Learn to use "undo", too.

5.1.5 For fetching files from WWW

- dog. (Probably the fastest software for this purpose but has been reported to have ugly source code. This program can not handle redirection at all. Hence, it needs direct URL.)
 - <http://jl.photodex.com/dog/>
- curl. (Much smaller binary than in wget. Very recommended; oriented towards downloading just one file.)
 - <http://curl.haxx.se/>
- wget. (Not too bad, but oriented towards downloading whole directories or other bigger entities. Has bigger binary than curl.)
 - <http://www.gnu.org/software/wget/wget.html>
- lynx. (This is really a WWW-browser)
 - <http://lynx.isc.org/>
- w3m. (This is really a WWW-browser)
 - <http://w3m.sourceforge.net/>
- links/elinks/links2/links hacked/whatever. (This is really a WWW-browser. Argh... I do not bother tell homepages of all those forks. Use Google and Wikipedia.)
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Links_%28web_browser%29

5.2 Commands

Especially I tell you how to substitute xv-commands with free software.

5.2.1 Beginning of commands

```
xv -smooth +noresetroot -root -quit
```

```
xli -quiet -cdither -onroot
```

5.2.2 Tiled

```
xv -smooth +noresetroot -root -quit /usr/local/textures/3com01.jpg
```

```
xli -quiet -cdither -onroot /usr/local/textures/3com01.jpg
```

5.2.3 Center tiled

```
xv -smooth +noresetroot -root -rmode 4 -quit \  
/usr/local/textures/applix01.jpg  
  
hsetroot -tile /usr/local/textures/applix01.jpg  
chbg -mode centertile /usr/local/textures/applix01.jpg
```

5.2.4 Centered

```
xv -smooth +noresetroot -root -rmode 5 -quit \  
/usr/local/textures/stickdeath01.jpg  
  
xli -quiet -cdither -onroot -center -border black \  
/usr/local/textures/stickdeath01.jpg  
  
hsetroot -center /usr/local/textures/stickdeath01.jpg
```

5.2.5 Maximized

Stretch image to fill whole screen:

```
xv -smooth +noresetroot -root -max -quit \  
/usr/local/textures/soundbla.jpg  
  
hsetroot -fill /usr/local/textures/soundbla.jpg  
  
xli -quiet -cdither -onroot -fullscreen -border black \  
-smooth /usr/local/textures/soundbla.jpg
```

Stretch image, but keep aspect ratio:

```
hsetroot -full /usr/local/textures/soundbla.jpg  
  
xli -quiet -cdither -onroot -fullscreen -border black \  
-smooth /usr/local/textures/soundbla.jpg
```

5.2.6 Often updated WWW-image

(Don't blame me, if such image is one day replaced with goatse or tubgirl or if some goatse-like guy starts doing his thing in front of some webcam...) dog can not handle redirection. hsetroot can not read from stdin.

```
dog --no-header http://vision.ucsd.edu/~atai/softwarewar.png \  
| xsetbg -quiet -onroot -center stdin
```



```
dog --no-header http://www.ssec.wisc.edu/data/comp/latest_moll.gif \  
| xsetbg -quiet -onroot -fullscreen stdin
```

```
dog --no-header http://www.ssec.wisc.edu/data/comp/latest_moll.gif \  
| xli -quiet -cdither -onroot -fullscreen -border black -smooth \  
stdin
```

```
wget -q -O - http://vision.ucsd.edu/~atai/softwarewar.png \  
| xsetbg -quiet -onroot -center stdin
```

```
curl -s http://vision.ucsd.edu/~atai/softwarewar.png \  
| xsetbg -quiet -onroot stdin
```

```
lynx --source --dump http://vision.ucsd.edu/~atai/softwarewar.png \  
| xsetbg -quiet -onroot -center stdin
```

```
elinks -dump -source http://iki.fi/juhtolv/pix/ryppy_black.jpg \  
| xsetbg -quiet -onroot stdin
```

```
w3m -dump_source http://iki.fi/juhtolv/pix/ryppy.jpg \  
| xsetbg -quiet -onroot stdin
```

5.2.7 Phase of the moon etc.

xphoon

```
xplanet -config ~/.xplanet/config -longitude 25.5 -latitude \  
62.1 -label -num_times 1 -label_string "Origin: %o. Target:  %t." \  
-labelpos "+15+15" -pango -font 'Sans' -fontsize 12
```

```
xplanet -config ~/.xplanet/config -longitude 25.5 -label \  
-num_times 1 -label_string "Origin: %o. Target:  %t." \  
-labelpos "+15+15" -pango -font 'Sans' -fontsize 12 -projection \  
mercator
```

```
xplanet -config ~/.xplanet/config -longitude 25.5 -label \  
-num_times 1 -label_string "Origin: %o. Target:  %t." -labelpos \  
"+15+15" -pango -font 'Sans' -fontsize 12 -projection lambert
```

```
xplanet -config ~/.xplanet/config -latitude 90 -label \  
-num_times 1 -label_string "Origin: %o. Target:  %t." -labelpos \  
"+15+15" -pango -font 'Sans' -fontsize 12 -projection azimuthal
```

```
xplanet -config ~/.xplanet/config -latitude -90 -label -num_times \
1 -label_string "Origin: %o. Target: %t." -labelpos "+15+15" \
-pango -font 'Sans' -fontsize 12 -projection azimuthal
```

```
xplanet -config ~/.xplanet/config -longitude 25.5 -label \
-num_times 1 -label_string "Origin: %o. Target: %t." -labelpos \
"+15+15" -pango -font 'Sans' -fontsize 12 -projection ancient
```

```
xplanet -config ~/.xplanet/config -longitude 25.5 -label \
-num_times 1 -label_string "Origin: %o. Target: %t." -labelpos \
"+15+15" -pango -font 'Sans' -fontsize 12 -projection hemisphere
```

```
xplanet -config ~/.xplanet/config -longitude 25.5 -latitude \
62.1 -label -num_times 1 -label_string "Origin: %o. Target: %t." \
-labelpos "+15+15" -pango -font 'Sans' -fontsize 12 -projection \
orthographic
```

5.2.8 Randomly generated pic

```
xstarfish --size random
```

```
xstarfish --size small
```

```
xstarfish --size medium
```

```
xstarfish --size large
```

```
xstarfish --size full
```

5.2.9 Doing it in Gnome way

Set background image:

```
gconftool --type string --set \
/desktop/gnome/background/picture_filename \
/path/to/filename
```

Image options (yes, separated command):

```
# Fill screen. Keep aspect ratio (in Gnome 2.16):
gconftool --type string --set \
/desktop/gnome/background/picture_options scaled
```

As I am writing this, that part picture_options can have one of these values:

- none
- wallpaper
- centered
- scaled
- stretched

You can check out which image options are available by doing this: Start up gconf-editor. See gconf-option /desktop/gnome/background/ .

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