#17   **Default File Menu**

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This note describes how to modify the default File Menu.

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In 4th Dimension, the File menu appears by default in the Menu Editor, along with one item with Quit in it. The File menu, according to the standard Macintosh interface, appears between the ☐ and the Edit menus.

You can modify the word File in the Menu Editor to any other string. However, if you change "File", then the menu will no longer appear in between ☐ and the Edit menus, but will appear on the right of the Edit menu.

Thus if you change the string "File" to "Customers" then the order of the menus will be:

☐   Edit   Customers

Normally the order is:

☐   File   Edit

This change takes place because 4D has the default string "File" stored in a STR# resource. Before displaying the Menu Bar, 4D checks if the string in the menu is same as the default stored string. If the strings are equal, then it the string in the menu is displayed in the correct "File" place. If the string is not equal to the stored string, 4D assumes that you do not want to have a File menu, and hence places the menu after the Edit menu.

The Human Interface guidelines[1] by Apple Computer, Inc. describe the Apple menu, the File menu, and the Edit menu as **standard menus**, that appear as the first menus in **almost every** application.

The File menu is described as the menu that lets the user perform tasks relative to whole documents– opening, closing, saving, and printing.– from within an application. A key item in the File menu is the Quit operation, which lets a user quit an application at any time.

If for some reason, you need to change the "File" menu in 4D, yet have the changed menu in between the ☐ and the Edit menus, then you will have to do a modification on 4D.

As discussed earlier, changing the standard File menu should only be done when it is neccesary.

A good example of when this change is needed is when you have a database in a language other than English, and the version of 4D you are using is not localized. For example in the German menu for "File" is "Ablage". If you simply change the string "File" to "Ablage" in the Menu Editor, the order of the menus will be:

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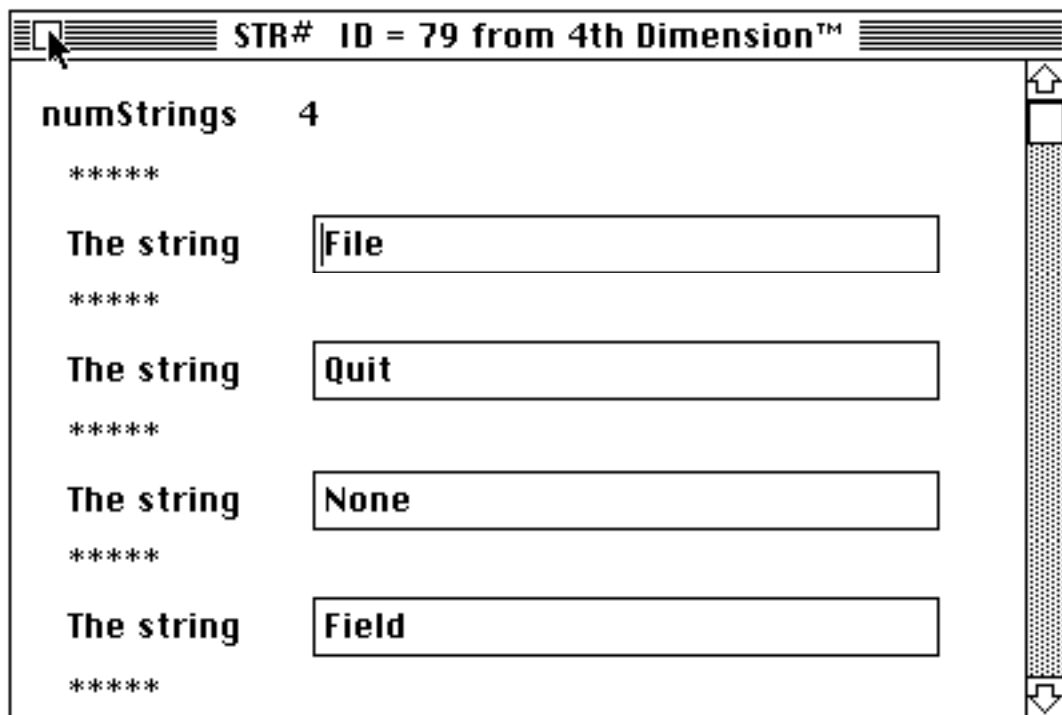
☐   Edit   Ablage

However, the order you need is:

☐   Ablage   Edit

To get this, do the following:

1.   Launch ResEdit.
2.   Open 4th Dimension program or 4D Runtime.
3.   Open the "STR#" resource.
4.   Open the STR# number 79.
5.   The first string in this string list is "File". Change it to the one you want. In the example above, you would type "Ablage" here.
6.   Quit ResEdit, saving the changes.

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╔═▣▭▭▭▭▭▭ STR#  ID = 79 from 4th Dimension™ ▭▭▭╗
║                                                    ⇧ ║
║  numStrings    4                                     ║
║    *****                                             ║
║                ┌──────────────────────────────┐     ║
║  The string    │File                          │     ║
║                └──────────────────────────────┘     ║
║    *****                                             ║
║                ┌──────────────────────────────┐     ║
║  The string    │Quit                          │     ║
║                └──────────────────────────────┘     ║
║    *****                                             ║
║                ┌──────────────────────────────┐     ║
║  The string    │None                          │     ║
║                └──────────────────────────────┘     ║
║    *****                                             ║
║                ┌──────────────────────────────┐     ║
║  The string    │Field                         │     ║
║                └──────────────────────────────┘     ║
║    *****                                           ⇩ ║
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Now, when you open a Menu Bar, the new string will appear in place of "File".

Bibliography

1.   Apple Computer, Inc. 1987.

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Apple® Human Interface Guidelines:
The Apple® Desktop Interface

2.   Apple Computer, Inc. *Inside Macintosh*.
          Reading, Massachusetts: Addison-Wesley, 1985 and 1986, four volumes.

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