

# Rexx Language Association 2011 Symposium

## Transforming THE to be more than JUST an editor by using Rexx macros

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### Table of Contents

[Abstract](#)

[Notes about this presentation](#)

[No profile](#)

[With profile](#)

[Macros](#)

[Example - SHOWS](#)

[Example - Favorite DIRS](#)

[Example - Virtual DIR](#)

[Example - VIEW](#)

[Example - SCANFILE](#)

[Example - RUN](#)

[Summary](#)

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# **Abstract**

I will demonstrate Rexx macros that expand the basic operations of THE from those of a typical Eastern Orthodox Editor to a powerful tool that multiplies the productivity of the user.

We will explore some of the most used macros, as well as the less used but most powerful.

If time permits we can explore the code for individual macros, as needed.

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## **Notes about this presentation**

This presentation was written after the actual online demonstration given during the Symposium, where I used the headers herein as a guide to what I wanted to demonstrate.

I've attempted to reproduce the main points of the demonstration, both in prose and screenshots. Of course I can't guarantee a one-for-one correlation. There may be either more or less here!

This is not an "Introduction to THE", however it does include some of THE's basic features so you can see the expanded capabilities that improve productivity.

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## **No profile**

When run from the command window with the "-n" flag set, THE will display the current directory. Here I've navigated to the THE directory, so it shows the directory that it was launched from, just like it would if it was launched from a shortcut:

```
THE 3.3RC2 - DIR: C:\THE\
DIR: C:\THE\ Line=0 Col=1 Size=21 Alt=0,0

000000 *** Top of File ***
000001 ... (dir) 0 12-Feb-2012 23:18 .
000002 ... (dir) 0 12-Feb-2012 23:18 ..
000003 .a.. 8554 11-Feb-2012 22:40 __tmprun.the
000004 .a.. 16250 15-Jan-2012 0:38 __tmprun.the.bak
000005 .a.. 30628 12-Feb-2012 23:18 C_test.0.SDV
000006 .a.. 2167 12-Feb-2012 22:49 C_test.1.SDV
000007 .a.. 18321 4-Jan-2001 4:42 COPYING
000008 ... (dir) 0 11-Jul-2011 12:58 doc
000009 ... (dir) 0 20-Aug-2011 22:16 extras
000010 .a.. 109234 12-Sep-2011 18:01 HISTORY
000011 .a.. 4380 8-Sep-2011 6:04 kprof.the
000012 .a.. 6261 6-Feb-2012 13:58 profile.the

====>
THE 3.3RC2 Copyright 1991-2011 Mark Hessling 4:41pm ' '=20/032 CO
```

Just like Xedit, what you get is very basic. To actually start using THE, you have to become familiar with its documentation:

## Help

- Help command - F1
- Showkey command
- THE.pdf - In the C:\THE\doc folder
- Internet (independent, THE Version 3.0) [THE Help](http://www.gut-wirtz.de/THE/rearranged/index.htm/)  
<http://www.gut-wirtz.de/THE/rearranged/index.htm/>

## Screen Navigation

Home key

Toggles between the command line and where the cursor was.

F12

Toggles between the file area and the prefix area.

Selecting a file to edit

From DIR.DIR:

Position the cursor to the entry of interest, either in the file area or prefix area, and press ALT-X. Note that a (dir) entry points to another directory and if selected will replace the current one. The '..' entry points to the next higher directory. You can also use the command line and the DIR command to switch to the directory of your choice.

From the command line enter:

the complete\_filepath

## Adding a file to the ring

Either navigate to a DIR and select a file as above, or simply use the THE command and specify a full filepath.

## Navigating the ring of files - F2

F2 will take you to the next file in the ring of files.

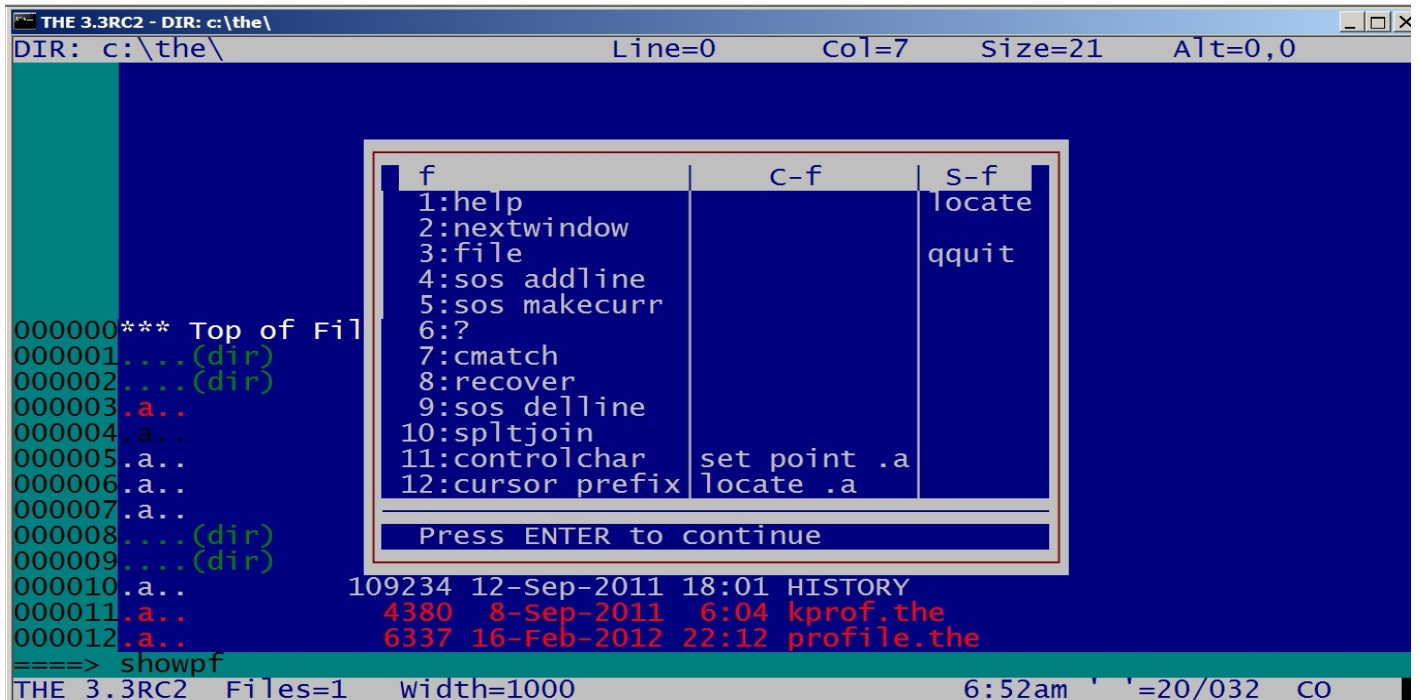
## File area

The file area is where you input or change the contents of the file you are working on. By default, the cursor must be in the filearea in order to use F12 to get to the prefix area and the Home key must be used to get to the command line.

## Arrow keys

The arrow keys position the cursor within the filearea. If the upper, lower, left or right limit of the visible screen is reached, the screen will scroll appropriately.

Here are some screenshots, created by some of my macros, that show some of these default settings:



The screenshot shows a terminal window titled "THE 3.3RC2 - DIR: c:\the\". The terminal displays a directory listing and a menu box. The menu box has three columns: "f", "C-f", and "S-f". The "f" column contains 12 items, including "1:help", "2:nextwindow", "3:file", "4:sos addline", "5:sos makecurr", "6:?", "7:cmatch", "8:recover", "9:sos delline", "10:spltjoin", "11:controlchar", and "12:cursor prefix". The "C-f" column contains "set point .a" and "locate .a". The "S-f" column contains "locate" and "qquit". Below the menu is a prompt "Press ENTER to continue". The terminal also shows a file listing with columns for file size, date, time, and filename, including "109234 12-Sep-2011 18:01 HISTORY", "4380 8-Sep-2011 6:04 kprof.the", and "6337 16-Feb-2012 22:12 profile.the". The terminal status bar at the bottom shows "THE 3.3RC2 Files=1 width=1000 6:52am ' '=20/032 CO".

```
THE 3.3RC2 - DIR: c:\the\
DIR: c:\the\ Line=0 Col=7 Size=21 Alt=0,0

000000*** Top of Fil
000001... (dir)
000002... (dir)
000003.a..
000004.a..
000005.a..
000006.a..
000007.a..
000008... (dir)
000009... (dir)
000010.a.. 109234 12-Sep-2011 18:01 HISTORY
000011.a.. 4380 8-Sep-2011 6:04 kprof.the
000012.a.. 6337 16-Feb-2012 22:12 profile.the
====> showpf

THE 3.3RC2 Files=1 width=1000 6:52am ' '=20/032 CO
```

```

THE 3.3RC2 - DIR: c:\the\
DIR: c:\the\ Line=0 Col=10 Size=21 Alt=0,0

```

key	C-key	S-key
BKSP:sos delback		INVALID KEY
CURD:cursor down		
CURL:cursor left	sos tabwordb	
CURR:cursor right	sos tabwordf	
CURU:cursor up		
DEL:sos delchar		
END:sos startendchar	sos delend	
ENTER:enter		INVALID KEY
ESC:sos undo	INVALID KEY	INVALID KEY
HOME:cursor home save		
INS:set insertmode toggle		
NUMENTER:sos doprefix		
PGDN:forward	forward *	
PGUP:backward	top	
PLUS:cursor prefix		
NUM5:INVALID KEY		
NUMSTOP:		INVALID KEY
TAB:sos tabf		sos tabb

```

000000 ***
000001 .....
000002 .....
000003 .a..
000004 .a..
000005 .a..
000006 .a..
000007 .a..
000008 .....
000009 .....
000010 .a..
000011 .a..
000012 .a..
====> showother
THE 3.3RC2 Files=1 width=1000 6:59am ' '=20/032 CO

```

## With profile

- Copy of **profile.the** in C:\THE folder
- Does basic setup and then invokes:
  - **userprof.the** to make debugging or enhancing easier
  - **userprof** does some tailoring and runs individual macros to complete the setup:
    - set\_thumbs
    - defkeys
    - synonyms
    - setpfkeys

Finally, it does some checking to handle the RexxOutput file, as well as the processing for an 'old' or 'new' file.

**profile** then gets control back and runs **checkfile.the** to compare the folder name against a list of "normal" folders, issuing a one time warning message if needed.

The final result looks like this:

```

THE 3.3RC2 - DIR: C:\THE\
DIR: C:\THE\
====> █

Size=21      Line=0      Col=1      Alt=0,0

==== ** Top of File **
==== ....(dir)      0 12-Feb-2012 23:18 .
==== ....(dir)      0 12-Feb-2012 23:18 ..
==== .a..          30628 12-Feb-2012 23:18 C_test.0.SDV
==== .a..          2167 12-Feb-2012 22:49 C_test.1.SDV
==== .a..          8554 11-Feb-2012 22:40 __tmprun.the
==== .a..          6261 6-Feb-2012 13:58 profile.the
==== .a..          6224 2-Feb-2012 23:38 profile.the.bak
==== .a..          16250 15-Jan-2012 0:38 __tmprun.the.bak
==== .a..          37133 3-Dec-2011 23:05 THE_help.txt
==== .a..          52274 12-Sep-2011 18:26 THEun.exe
F>1Add 2Next 3Quit 4Save 5Cur| 6? 7()[] 8Undo 9= 10ToSub 11S/J 12FF
S> Loc Prev Quit Send Att ?MN Listf PkgA RetSub Set.a /.a
THE 3.3RC2 Files=3 █Les Koehler 26x80█ '=20/032 CO Ins

```

The command line has been moved to the top, where I prefer it, there are reserved lines at the bottom to display the function and shift-function keys and the status line now shows the userid and screen dimensions.

Notice that there is no function key to navigate to the prefix area. That is because the filearea is no longer bounded and doesn't scroll automatically. This is more like how Xedit behaves, and what I'm used to. I can use the arrow keys or the number pad '+' key (from the filearea) to get to the prefix area.

## Macros

The true power and flexibility of THE is in the macros you use. The ones supplied are just a starting point, demonstrating some of the things that you can do.

Here's a list of the macros that I have indexed for the Extended Help Facility that I wrote:

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| altered | Display altered/new lines                       |
| append  | Append string to targeted lines                 |
| att     | Collect/insert Attachment filenames. See Note   |
| bkup    | SET BACKUP for my USERPROF                      |
| both    | Issue a command against both split screen files |

boxes	Draw enhanced boxes
check_for_newest	Compare thumbs to C drive for newest files
checkfile	Check for non-owned disk/folder
clearpf	Clear defines for pfkeys to revert to defaults
cmdsave	Save cmdline commands for smart_enter for recall by retrieve
cmdx	Extract setting and put cmd setting in command line
ctls	Repository for various CTL sequences
decode	Decode an encoded string
defkeys	Define hot keys
defmouse	Define mouse settings
delay	Read and execute keybd keys, optionally returning key sequence
delaymsg	Delay clearing of a msg by using DELAY to usurp CLEARERRORKEY
desktop	Set or show if desktop is to be connected to lan
diff	Improved version of Mark's original diff macro
dir_colors	Set colors for DIR file
dirs	Show popup to select from favorite DIRs
doline	Execute the current line as a command
dolist	Execute commands against a list of files
dostack	Emulate Xedit stack... needs more work
drawchars	Variable settings for drawing. Hex table included
editvx	EDITV eXtended for easier use

Excel_Constants	Get Excel Constants and add to bottom of file
explode	Explode a .PKG file
ff	Flip flop between files in the ring
fileencode	Encode N lines of a file
filelist	Build a list of a subset of DIR.DIR
fix_income_expense	Tidy up HOA report
fix_path	Fix the PATH setting to include MyRexxStuff
fix_pkg	Fix .PKG files to point to recipients folders
fixdo	Fix standalone DO statements by joining to previous line
fixfind	Convert FIND() to WORDPOS()
fixoocmt	Change ooRexx comments (double-dash) to Classic Rexx
fixpdf	Change 4 dots to 3 dots to make a Table of Contents narrower
fixprops	A model for multiple changes to a file
flow	Flow text.
flscreen	Emulate Xedit FLSCREEN command
format_dumpvars	In process
get_unused_keys	Find all unused keys
getvar	Get tailoring variable
goodargs	Generic routine for passing args for validating
helpx	THE Help eXtended



helpx_user	Help Extended user exit
helpxmenu	THE Help Extended menu manager
helpxusermenu	Helpx User Exit menu manager
how	Tell/return how program was invoked
index_help_cmds	Helpx indexing command
index_help_query	Helpx indexing cmd
index_help_set	Helpx index SET
index_help_sos	Helpx index SOS
index_helps	Index all helps
lesk_how	Tell/return how program was invoked
leskl	Rewrite of L. In progress
leskll	Rewrite of LL. In progress
less	Remove lines from the ALL display
listf	Help maintain EDITV LISTF settings
locatecursor	Emphasize cursor in filearea
me	Insert Rexx code to self identify
more	Add lines to the ALL display
msglog	Sample code for writing to a message log
namefind	Look up a name in the Tbird exported LDAP file
newfile	Initialize a new file and update chicken tracks
nico	Game

nico1	Game
noprof	Edit a file w/o running the profile but w/additional cmds
note	Create a note
ok	Set flag to filter selected error msgs
oldfile	Update chicken tracks and invoke CHECKFILE
oo2rexx	Convert ooRexx comments to Classic Rexx
oofix	Convert mainframe disallowed var chars to ooRexx standard
oofix	Convert mainframe disallowed var chars to ooRexx standard
package	Build zip files for an EXPLODEd .PKG file
packages	Build a list of all the .PKG files in the current DIR
pause	Collect THE information for RESUME. Defunct; use Hibernate
pickfile	Resolve command/prefix/filearea for selecting a file
pkg	Set/Add to a .PKG file
pkgprefix	Set the pkg prefix string
pop	Pop a setting that has been PUSHed - Incomplete
popcurs	Pop the cursor setting
popdef	Pop a DEFINE setting
poppf	Pop a pfkey setting
prefixcmd	Allow a THE command from the prefix area
prefixg	Prefix Get - Incomplete

prefixhelpxmenu	Drive the special Helpxmenu 'selection' from a list
prefixhelpxusermenu	Drive the special Helpxusermenu 'selection' from a list
prefixll	Prefix LL - Incomplete
prefixmark	Prefix HH
prefixpt	Prefix PUT
prefixxc	Prefix copy to clipboard
prefixxfp	Prefix copy from clipboard to file
present	Change colors for presenting
profile	Copy of my profile
push	Generalized PUSH. Doesn't work all that well
pushcurs	Push the cursor values
pushdef	Push the DEFINE values
pushpf	Push the pfkey settings so they can be changed and then popped
register_notes	Notes from Rony on manipulating the Windows Registry
reload	Quit and Redit the current file
reserveable_lines	Display/return list of reservable lines
retrieve	Retrieve a CMDSAVE line
rextry	Experimental REXTRY for THE
rexx_colors	Captured Rexx colors
rexxedit	Execute Rexx commands from the THE/Xedit session
rexxfmt	Format a Rexx/THE program. Doesn't handle ooRexx

	comments
ringlist	Display a popup of all the files in the ring
rm	Remove a file from the DIR
run	Run the code being edited. Improved version of MH's RUNIT
scanfile	Scan all the files of the filetype passed for a string
sendmail	Send the mail item being edited
set_thumbs	Set EDITV vars for thumb drives. Requires tailoring!
setpfkeys	Set pfkeys and prose to display
showalph	Show the alphabetic key settings
showdirs	Show the preferred directories. Invokes DIRS
showecolor	Show extended colors in a popup
showhex	Show hex in a popup
showmouse	Show mouse settings in a popup
showother	Show 'other' key settings in a popup
showpath	Show the system path setting
showpf	Show the pfkey settings in a popup
shows	Show a popup of all the SHOW... macros
smart_enter	Enhance the ENTER key for Rexx code completion, etc.
splitone	Split the lines of a one-lined Rexx program
statusarea	Maintain the STATUSOPT area of the STATUSLINE
synonyms	Set SYNONYM values

timeit	Show the execution time of a macro
tosub	Position to the subroutine called on the focus line
total	Total the numbers in a marked block and insert the answer
uniqueid	Emulate Xedit UNIQUEID command
usable_screen_size	Calculate usable screen size
userprof	My extension to PROFILE
version	Display the version of Windows, THE and Rexx. Needs expanding
view	View the Windows file
words	Count the number of words to the target
xtohtml	Convert an X2 edit session to HTML. Wesley Miller
xtract	Show an EXTRACT result
y	A replacement for SOS EDIT, with added functionality

---

## **Example - SHOWS**

Below are some screenshots of some of the first macros I wrote to help me with some of the various shortcuts that enhance productivity.

All of them use the POPUP command to display a selection menu that is navigated with the arrow keys.

```
THE 3.3RC2 - C:\MyTHEstuff\Symposia\Symposium_2011\RexxSymp2011_LesK_Transforming_THE.html
====> shows

Cancel (9 items)
SHOWALPH
SHOWDIRS
SHOWECOLOR
SHOWHEX
SHOWMOUSE
SHOWOTHER
SHOWPATH
SHOWPF
SHOWPREFIX
```

```
THE 3.3RC2 - C:\MyTHEstuff\Symposia\Symposium_2011\RexxSymp2011_LesK_Transforming_THE.html
====> showalph
```

ltr	A-ltr	C-ltr
A:		sos cursoradj
B:	mark box	
C:	copy block reset	cmmsg clipboard copy
D:	duplicate 1 BLOCK	macro ndirs
E:		
F:	fillbox	macro y x
G:	delete block	
H:		nop
I:		sos tabfieldf
J:	join aligned cursor	
K:	cmdline top	
L:	mark line	
M:	move block reset	macro smart_enter
N:		
O:	overlaybox	
P:		sos pastecmdline
Q:		
R:	macro ringlist	macro ringlist
S:	split aligned cursor	
T:		hit ~
U:	reset block	

```

THE 3.3RC2 - C:\MyTHEstuff\Symposia\Symposium_2011\RexxSymp2011_LesK_Transforming_THE.html
====> showalph

```

G:	delete block	
H:		nop
I:		sos tabfieldf
J:	join aligned cursor	
K:	cmdline top	
L:	mark line	
M:	move block reset	macro smart_enter
N:		
O:	overlaybox	
P:		sos pastecmdline
Q:		
R:	macro ringlist	macro ringlist
S:	split aligned cursor	
T:		hit ~
U:	reset block	
V:		cmmsg get clip:
W:	sos delword	
X:	sos edit	macro y
Y:		
Z:		nop

```

Press ENTER to continue

```

```

THE 3.3RC2 - C:\MyTHEstuff\Symposia\Symposium_2011\RexxSymp2011_LesK_Transforming_THE.html
====>

```

key	C-key	S-key
BKSP:	nop	INVALID KEY
CURL:	cursor screen down	
CURL:	cursor screen left	left 20
CURR:	cursor screen right	right 20
CURU:	cursor screen up	
DEL:	sos delchar	
END:	sos startendchar	
ENTER:	macro smart_enter	INVALID KEY
ESC:	sos undo	INVALID KEY
HOME:	cursor home save	
INS:	set insertmode toggle	
NUMENTER:	sos doprefix	macro LOCATECURSOR
PGDN:	forward	
PGUP:	backward	
PLUS:	cursor prefix	
NUM5:	INVALID KEY	
NUMSTOP:		INVALID KEY
TAB:	sos tabfieldf	sos tabfieldb

```

Press ENTER to continue (Undefined keys not shown)

```

```

THE 3.3RC2 - C:\MyTHEstuff\Symposia\Symposium_2011\RexxSymp2011_LesK_Transforming_THE.html
====>

```

f	C-f	S-f
1:sos Addline	macro syntax C-F1	locate
2:nextwindow	command cmsg THE#macro smart_enter	prevwindow
3:quit		qquit
4:save		macro SendMail
5:sos MakeCurr		macro att
6:macro retrieve ?		macro retrieve ?MN
7:cmatch		editv listf
8:recover		macro pkg a
9:=		
10:macro ToSub		macro ToSub Return
11:spltjoin	set Point .b	set Point .a
12:macro ff	locate .b	locate .a

```

Press ENTER to continue

```

```

THE 3.3RC2 - C:\MyTHEstuff\Symposia\Symposium_2011\RexxSymp2011_LesK_Transforming_THE.html
====>

```

Prefix	Synonym	Macro Name
		REXXEDIT
		rexxedit
		l
g		prefixg
pt		prefixpt
ptt		prefixpt
pd		PREFIXPT
pp		PREFIXPT
pdd		PREFIXPT
THE	Y	
h		prefixmark
hh		prefixmark
;		prefixcmd
nopr		noprof

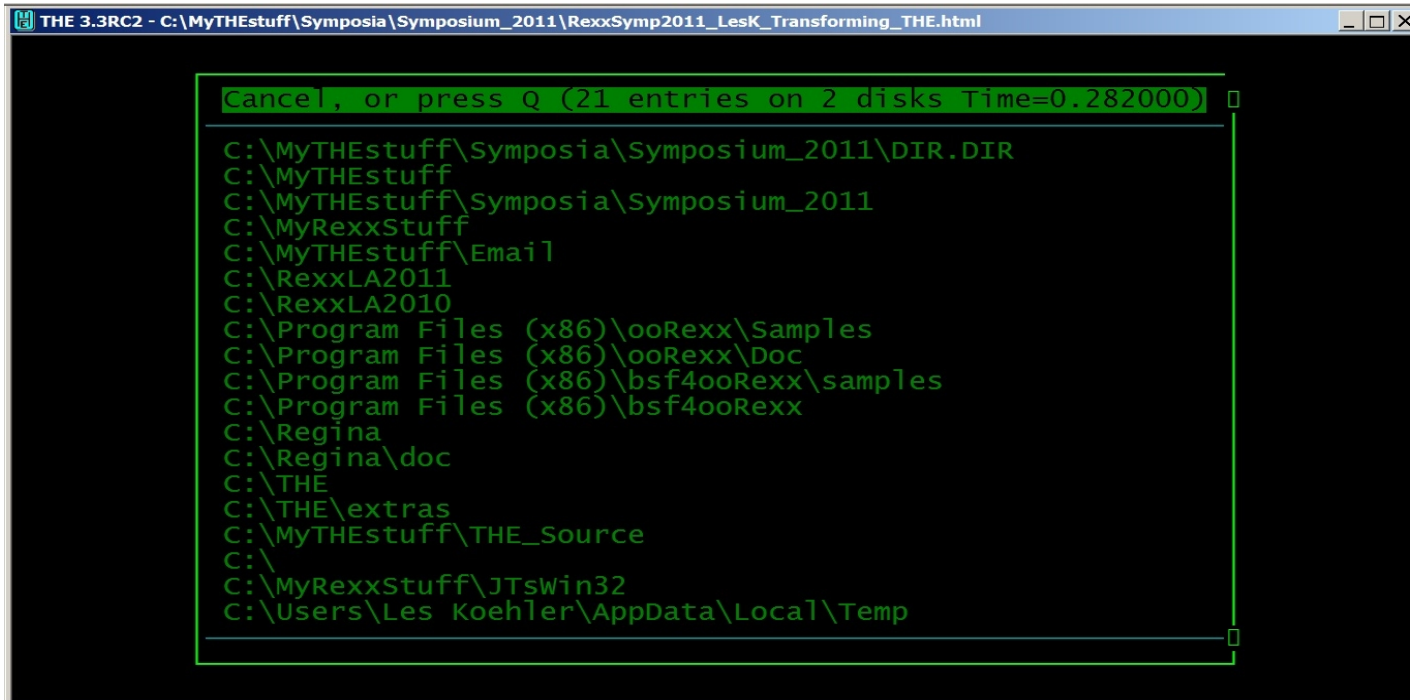
## Example - Favorite DIRS

It is usually the case that files of interest are scattered across multiple directories. Generally, this means that you do a lot of typing to either change directories or use the full filepath to edit the file.

This slows your productivity, not only from the typing itself, but also from the typing errors that you might make.



My solution to this problem is the DIRS macro, which produces this popup menu of my favorite folders for me to select from:

A screenshot of a terminal window titled "THE 3.3RC2 - C:\MyTHEstuff\Symposia\Symposium\_2011\RexxSymp2011\_LesK\_Transforming\_THE.html". The terminal displays a green-bordered popup menu with a title bar that reads "Cancel, or press Q (21 entries on 2 disks Time=0.282000)". The menu lists 21 directory paths in green text:

```
C:\MyTHEstuff\Symposia\Symposium_2011\DIR.DIR
C:\MyTHEstuff
C:\MyTHEstuff\Symposia\Symposium_2011
C:\MyRexxStuff
C:\MyTHEstuff\Email
C:\RexxLA2011
C:\RexxLA2010
C:\Program Files (x86)\ooRexx\Samples
C:\Program Files (x86)\ooRexx\Doc
C:\Program Files (x86)\bsf4ooRexx\samples
C:\Program Files (x86)\bsf4ooRexx
C:\Regina
C:\Regina\doc
C:\THE
C:\THE\extras
C:\MyTHEstuff\THE_Source
C:\
C:\MyRexxStuff\JTswin32
C:\Users\Les Koehler\AppData\Local\Temp
```

I have it defined as the CTL-D hotkey combination so it is always readily available.

The popup is built from Favorite and Ignore entries in **getvar.the**. See my other presentation:

OS and Rexx interpreter neutral application tailoring

Here I've captured only the first screen, as indicated by the blue horizontal separator line. It is optionally added when the drive letter changes.

---

## **Example - Virtual DIRS**

THE can only have one DIR.DIR file in the ring, but this is often not sufficient for the way I like to work. To overcome this restriction, I've written a macro (**y.the**) that handles an arbitrary list of files just as if it were a DIR.DIR. For example:

```
THE 3.3RC2 - C:\MyTHEstuff\LesK_Macro_Packages.PKG
C:\MyTHEstuff\L<>cro_Packages.PKG Size=33 Line=10 Col=1 Alt=0,0
====>
==== *** Top of File ***
==== C:\MyTHEstuff\LesK_Macro_Packages.PKG
==== C:\MyTHEstuff\Tips_for_THE_macro_authors.txt
==== C:\MyTHEstuff\LesK_checkfile.the.PKG
==== C:\MyTHEstuff\LesK_defkeys.the.PKG
==== C:\MyTHEstuff\LesK_defmouse.the.PKG
==== C:\MyTHEstuff\LesK_dirs.the.PKG
==== C:\MyTHEstuff\LesK_dumpvars.txt.PKG
==== C:\MyTHEstuff\LesK_editvx.the.PKG
==== C:\MyTHEstuff\LesK_explode.the.PKG
==== C:\MyTHEstuff\LesK_helpx.PKG
==== C:\MyTHEstuff\LesK_helpx_Process_Source.PKG
==== C:\MyTHEstuff\LesK_helpx_Process_Source_Output.PKG
==== C:\MyTHEstuff\LesK_helpx_Source.PKG
==== C:\MyTHEstuff\LesK_helpx_user.the.PKG
==== C:\MyTHEstuff\LesK_moreless.PKG
==== C:\MyTHEstuff\LesK_newfile.the.PKG
==== C:\MyTHEstuff\LesK_other_macros.PKG
==== C:\MyTHEstuff\LesK_Package_Notes_PLEASE_READ.txt.PKG
==== C:\MyTHEstuff\LesK_pickfile.the.PKG
==== C:\MyTHEstuff\LesK_pkg.the.PKG
F>1Add 2Next 3Quit 4Save 5Cur| 6? 7()[] 8Undo 9= 10ToSub 11S/J 12FF
S> Loc Prev Quit Send Att ?MN Listf PkgA V RetSub Set.a /.a
THE 3.3RC2 Files=6 ■Les Koehler 26x80■ 'C'=43/067 CO Ins
```

Each .PKG file is a list of files that belong to that package of code. Essentially an inventory of the dependencies for the package. Selecting one with CTL-X, as shown earlier, adds that file to the ring, as you can see:

```
THE 3.3RC2 - C:\MyTHEstuff\LesK_helpx.PKG
C:\MyTHEstuff\LesK_helpx.PKG Size=9 Line=6 Col=1 Alt=0,0
====>
==== *** Top of File ***
==== C:\MyTHEstuff\LesK_helpx.PKG
==== C:\MyTHEstuff\helpx_readme.txt
==== C:\MyTHEstuff\helpx.the
==== C:\MyTHEstuff\helpxmenu.the
==== C:\MyTHEstuff\noprof.the
==== C:\MyTHEstuff\prefixhelpxmenu.the
==== C:\MyTHEstuff\LesK_helpx_Process_Source.PKG
==== C:\MyTHEstuff\LesK_helpx_Source.PKG
==== C:\MyTHEstuff\LesK_helpx_user.the.PKG
==== *** Bottom of File ***
F>1Add 2Next 3Quit 4Save 5Cur| 6? 7()[] 8Undo 9= 10ToSub 11S/J 12FF
S> Loc Prev Quit Send Att ?MN Listf PkgA RetSub Set.a /.a
THE 3.3RC2 Files=5 ■Les Koehler 26x80■ 'C'=43/067 CO Ins
```

Although the above doesn't show it, such a list is not restricted to only one file path. It can point to files anywhere on the pc. The .PKG extension used here has special meaning to other macros that I've written to help me automate the process of creating 7zip files for my packages.

**y.the** also recognizes other special files that have extra data after the fileid:

- The output of **scanfile.the** (see below)
- My Extended Help Facility files
- **lzip.the** files

Thus one hotkey (CTL-X) handles pretty much everything that might be a list of files. You might, for instance, create lists by project, programmer, department, programming language or any other criteria that makes sense to YOU!

---

## Example - VIEW

The **view** macro is a front-end to the Windows 'Start' command. It uses THE commands to pass the fileid to Windows and then restores the THE window.

Its obvious use is for displaying Windows files from a (virtual) DIR. Not so obvious is the idea of putting file or internet references as stand alone entries within a comment block that you can use later when you're working on the code.

---

## Example - SCANFILE

This macro, named after a VM/CMS program, scans files to locate a character string of interest. Options allow you to:

- Specify the file extension of files in the current DIR to search
- Specify that the current file is a list of files to search
- Specify that the current file is a list of lists of files to search recursively

The resulting file might look like this:

```
C:\MyTHEstuff\kok.the (HIT macro list - :14 1 ) - 'macro list ADD OK.0 0'
C:\MyTHEstuff\kok.the (HIT macro list - :26 1 ) - -- 'macro list OK.0 ~' z
C:\MyTHEstuff\kok.the (HIT macro list - :41 1 ) - -- 'macro list OK.0 ~' f
C:\MyTHEstuff\kok.the (HIT macro list - :42 1 ) - 'macro list ADD OK.'f ok.f
C:\MyTHEstuff\list.the (HIT macro list - :8 1 ) - Syntax: MACRO LIST
C:\MyTHEstuff\list.the (HIT macro list - :9 1 ) - MACRO LIST ADD MASTERKEY
~data
C:\MyTHEstuff\listf.the (HIT macro list - :8 1 ) - Syntax: MACRO LISTF
C:\MyTHEstuff\listf.the (HIT macro list - :9 1 ) - MACRO LISTF ADD MASTERKEY
~data
C:\MyTHEstuff\userprof.the (HIT macro list - :66 1 ) - "MACRO LIST ADD RINGLISTORDER
NAME_FIRST"
```

showing you the following information:

- the full fileid
- the special delimiting string '(HIT',

- the string you were looking for
- the line number where it occurred
- the number of lines
- the closing delimiter string ')' -'
- the contents of the line found

The file is a Virtual DIR, so positioning the cursor and pressing CTL-X will take you directly to that line number in the file. Another hotkey definition, CTL-F, will take you directly to the file, without positioning to the line.

---

## Example - RUN

RUN executes the code that you're editing, without you having to save it. You can use it to experiment with changes to code or to simply execute some example you may have found. Output is captured by the command:

```
rexxoutput file
```

having been issued by the **profile**.

It will try to ensure that the PATH is correctly set, but some BSF4OORexx code can confuse it.

---

## Summary

The macros you've seen demonstrate elevating THE from the realm of "Just an editor" to that of a "Productivity tool", just as has happened with Xedit on z/VM with FILELIST, RDRLIST and others.