

NAME

bsddialog - TUI dialogs

SYNOPSIS

bsddialog --help

bsddialog --version

bsddialog [**--option**] **--dialog** *text rows cols* [*dialog-argument*]

bsddialog --dialog1 ... [**--and-dialog --dialog2** ...] ...

DESCRIPTION

The **bsddialog** utility builds Text User Interface dialogs and widgets: to display messages, to get input and to inform about a computation status.

The options **--help** and **--version** print the list of options and the version, respectively, then exit.

--and-dialog builds another dialog unless the previous one returns Error, ESC or Cancel.

text is a message printed inside the dialog. *rows* and *cols* are the height and width, 0 for autosize and -1 for fullscreen.

The possible input got from the user interface is printed to standard error.

Options

The following options can change the default behavior of the utility and are common to some dialog.

--alternate-screen

If available set alternate screen mode, see terminfo(5).

--ascii-lines

Ascii characters to draw lines.

--backtitle *backtitle*

Title on the top side of the screen.

--begin-x *x*

Dialog horizontal position, 0 is the left screen side, -1 center.

--begin-y *y*

Dialog vertical position, 0 is the top screen side, -1 center.

--bikeshed

Random settings. Colors. Delimiter and margins around the title. Buttons always active or TAB to switch focus with input components, see **--switch-buttons**. Zero padding with time or date output.

--cancel-label *label*

Label for the "Cancel" button.

--clear-dialog

Hide the dialog at exit.

--clear-screen

Clear the screen, after the dialog exit if a dialog is built.

--colors

Enable highlights for text, the following sequences are considered escapes:

"\Z0" black.

"\Z1" red.

"\Z2" green.

"\Z3" yellow.

"\Z4" blue.

"\Z5" magenta.

"\Z6" cyan.

"\Z7" white.

"\Zr" reverse foreground and background.

"\ZR" disable reverse.

"\Zb" bold.

"\ZB" disable bold.

"\Zu" underline.

"\ZU" disable underline.

"\Zn" restore normal text.

--columns-per-row *columns*

Try to set the number of columns for a row of text with autosizing; default 10.

--cr-wrap

Keep new line in *text* also if it contains a "\n", see **--text-unchanged**.

--date-format *format*

String accepted by strftime(3) to customize the output of **--datebox** and **--calendar**

--default-button *label*

Focus on the button with *label* on startup.

--default-item *name*

Focus on the item with *name*, for Checklist, Menu, Radiolist and Treeview.

--default-no

Focus on "Cancel" or "No" button on startup.

--disable-esc

Disable ESC key to quit.

--esc-return-cancel

ESC key returns "Cancel" button value.

--extra-button

Add a button with "Extra" label.

--extra-label *label*

Set *label* for the "Extra" button.

--generic-button1 *label*

Add a button with *label*.

--generic-button2 *label*

Add a button with *label*.

--help-button

Add a button with "Help" label.

--help-label *label*

Set *label* for "Help" button.

--help-print-name

Print the name of the focused item if the Help button is pressed also with **--item-bottom-desc**.

--help-status

Print also the selected items if the "Help" button is pressed.

--hfile *filename*

Open *filename* in a Textbox if F1 key is pressed,

--hline *string*

Dialog subtitle.

--hmsg *string*

Open a Msgbox with *string* if the F1 key is pressed.

--ignore

Do not exit with unknown options.

--insecure

Print '*' to hide passwords while typing; whitespace otherwise.

--item-bottom-desc

Set a help string for each item of a Checklist, Form, Menu, Mixedform, Passwordform, Radiolist and Treeview to display at the bottom screen side.

--item-depth

Specify a margin for items, available for Checklist, Menu and Radiolist.

--item-prefix

Set a string to prefix each item of a Checklist, Menu, Radiolist or Treeview.

--load-theme *file*

Load theme from *file*.

--max-input *size*

Maximum length of the input for **--inputbox** and **--passwordbox**, default 2048.

--no-cancel

Do not show "Cancel" button.

--no-descriptions

Do not display items description, for Checklist, Menu, Radiolist or Treeview.

--no-lines

Do not draw borders and lines.

--no-names

Do not display items name, for Checklist, Menu and Radiolist.

--no-ok Do not draw "OK" button.

--no-shadow

No not draw the shadow of the dialog.

--ok-label *label*

Set *label* for "OK" button.

--normal-screen

If available set normal screen mode, see terminfo(5).

--output-fd *fd*

Print input from user interface to the specified file descriptor.

--output-separator *sep*

Set a separator for the items in output, default whitespace.

--print-maxsize

Screen size. This option can be used without a dialog.

--print-size

Print Dialog height and widget at exit.

--print-version

Print version. This option can be used without a dialog.

--quoted

Quote items in output, default only when necessary.

--save-theme *file*

Save the current theme. This option can be used without a dialog.

--separate-output

Separate selected items with a new line and avoid to quote.

--shadow

Show a pseudo shadow for the dialog, enabled by default.

--single-quoted

Use single quote for items in output.

--sleep *secs*

Wait *secs* seconds to close the dialog.

--stderr Print input from user interface to standard error, default.

--stdout

Print input from user interface to standard output.

--switch-buttons

enables focus switching between buttons and input components pressing TAB, otherwise buttons are always active and ENTER key closes the dialog. Suitable for: **--form**, **--inputbox**, **--mixedform**, **--passwordbox**, **--passwordform**, **--timebox**, **--calendar** and **--datebox**.

--tab-escape

Replace "\t" with a tab in *text*.

--tab-len *spaces*

Number of spaces to print a TAB in *text*.

--text-unchanged

By default the *text* is changed before to be printed. If it contains at least a "\n" each new line and TAB is converted to a space, subsequent spaces are merged. Otherwise new line characters are preserved and a TAB becomes a space. This option disable the *text* modification.

--theme *theme*

Set a graphical style: blackwhite, bsddialog, flat or dialog.

--time-format *format*

String accepted by strftime(3) to customize the output of **--timebox**.

--title *title*

Dialog title.

Dialogs

The following dialogs are available:

--calendar *text rows cols [day month year]*

Dialog to select a date.

--checklist *text rows cols menurows [name desc status] ...*

Checklist to select some item from a list via the SPACE key. An item has a *name*, *desc* and a default *status* specified by "on" or "off". The names of the selected items are printed to standard error. *menurows* is the graphical height of the list, 0 for autosize.

--datebox *text rows cols [day month year]*

Dialog to select a date.

--form *text rows cols formrows [label ylabel xlabel init yfield xfield fieldlen maxletters] ...*

Dialog to get a list of strings via forms. A form has a *label* at the position *ylabel* and *xlabel*, a field to get the input at the position *yfield* and *xfield* with graphical length *fieldlen*, *maxletters* is the maximum input length. The field can be customized, if *fieldlen* is negative the field is read only and its absolute value is the field length. If *maxletters* is 0 it is the absolute value of *fieldlen*. *init* is a default value. *formrows* is the graphical height of the list, 0 for autosize.

--gauge *text rows cols [percentage]*

Dialog with a bar to shows *percentage*, then it waits to read "XXX" from the standard input, then the first string replaces percentage and the following strings replace *text* until the next "XXX", the loop ends reading EOF.

--infobox *text rows cols*

Dialog without buttons to display a message and to exit immediately.

--inputbox *text rows cols [init]*

Dialog to get a string in input, *init* is the default value.

--menu *text rows cols menurows [name desc] ...*

Builds a menu to select an item from a list, Space key is equivalent to Enter. An item has a *name* and a *desc*. The name of the selected item is printed to standard error. *menurows* is the graphical height of the list, 0 for autosize.

--mixedform *text rows cols formrows [label ylabel xlabel init yfield xfield fieldlen maxletters flag] ...*

Dialog to get a list of strings via forms. A form has a *label* at the position *ylabel* and *xlabel*, a field to get the input with graphical length *fieldlen* at the position *yfield* and *xfield*, *maxletters* is the maximum input length, *init* is a default value, *flag* can be 0 for normal field, 1 to hide the typed characters and 2 to set the field read only. *formrows* is the graphical height of the list, 0 for autosize.

--mixedgauge *text rows cols mainperc [minilabel miniperc] ...*

Dialog to show a main bar to represent *mainperc* from 0 to 100 and some mini bar with a *minilabel* string and a *miniperc* with value from 0 and 100 or negative to print a descriptive string: -1 "Succeeded", -2 "Failed", -3 "Passed", -4 "Completed", -5 "Checked", -6 "Done", -7 "Skipped", -8 "In Progress", -9 a blank line, -10 "N/A", -11 "Pending".

--msgbox *text rows cols*

Dialog to display a message without the "Cancel" button. UP, DOWN, HOME, END, PAGEUP and PAGEDOWN keys are available to navigate the text.

--passwordbox *text rows cols [init]*

Dialog to get a password, *init* is the default value.

--passwordform *text rows cols formrows [label ylabel xlabel init yfield xfield fieldlen maxletters] ...*

Dialog to get a list of passwords, equivalent to **--form** except typed characters are hidden.

--pause *text rows cols seconds*

Dialog runs until the timeout in *seconds* expires or a button is pressed.

--radiolist *text rows cols menurows [name desc status] ...*

Radiolist to select at most an item from a list via the SPACE key. An item has a *name*, *desc* and a default *status* specified by "on" or "off". The name of the selected item is printed to standard error. *menurows* is the graphical height of the list, 0 for autosize.

--rangebox *text rows cols min max [init]*

Dialog to select a value between *min* and *max*, *init* is the default value, the keys UP, DOWN, HOME, END, PAGEUP and PAGEDOWN can change it.

--textbox *file rows cols*

Opens and prints *file* the UP, DOWN, HOME, END, PAGEUP and PAGEDOWN keys are available to navigate; "OK" button is renamed "EXIT".

--timebox *text rows cols [hour min sec]*

Dialog to select a time.

--treeview *text rows cols menurows [depth name desc status] ...*

Equivalent to Radiolist with **--item-depth** and **--no-name**.

--yesno *text rows cols*

"Yes-No Question", "OK" and "Cancel" buttons are renamed "Yes" and "No". UP, DOWN,

HOME, END, PAGEUP and PAGEDOWN keys are available to navigate the text.

EXIT STATUS

The **bsddialog** utility exits 255 on unsuccessful, otherwise depending on the button or key pressed the following values can be returned:

0 "OK", "Yes" or "Exit" button.

1 "Cancel" or "No" button.

2 "Help" button.

3 "Extra" button.

4 Timeout.

5 ESC key.

6 Generic 1 button.

7 Generic 2 button.

EXAMPLES

Backtitle, title and message:

```
bsddialog --backtitle MESSAGE --title Msgbox --msgbox Message 0 0
```

Yes-No Question and theme:

```
bsddialog --theme blackwhite --yesno Question 10 30
```

Save a custom theme:

```
bsddialog --save-theme mytheme.txt --infobox "Saving theme..." 0 0
```

Load a custom theme:

```
bsddialog --load-theme mytheme.txt --infobox "Custom theme" 0 0
```

Checklist:

```
bsddialog --checklist Checklist 0 0 3 N1 D1 off N2 D2 on N3 D3 off
```

Form:

```
bsddialog --form Form 0 0 0 L1: 0 0 X 0 4 20 25 L2: 1 0 Y 1 4 20 25
```

Multi-dialog:

```
bsddialog --normal-screen --begin-y 1 --yesno Continue? 0 0 \ --and-dialog --begin-y 10 --infobox  
Yes 0 0
```

Bikeshed:

```
bsddialog --bikeshed --inputbox Example 0 0
```

Mixedgauge:

```
bsddialog --sleep 3 --mixedgauge Example 10 30 60 L1 " -1" L2 30
```

Mixedgauge script:

```
perc=0
while [ $perc -le 100 ]
do
    bsddialog --sleep 1 --title Mixedgauge \
        --mixedgauge "\nExample...\n" 0 0 $perc \
        "Hidden" " -9" \
        "Label 1" " -4" \
        "Label 2" " -4" \
        "Label 3" $perc

    perc=`expr $perc + 20`
done
```

Gauge script:

```
i=1
for c in A B C D E F G H
do
    sleep 1
    echo XXX
    echo "$((expr $(expr $i "*" 100) "/" 8))"
    echo "[$i/8] Char: $c"
    echo XXX
    if [ $i -eq 8 ]
    then
        sleep 1
        echo EOF
    fi
    i=`expr $i + 1`
done | bsddialog --title Gauge --gauge "Starting..." 10 70
```

COMPATIBILITY

Outdated options are retained for compatibility, properly equivalent options are used:

Obsolete	Equivalent
--and-widget	--and-dialog
--calendar <text> 2 <cols>	--calendar <text> 0 <cols>
--clear	--clear-screen

--defaultno	--default-no
--exit-label	--ok-label
--help-tags	--help-print-name
--item-help	--item-bottom-desc
--keep-tite	--alternate-screen
--no-items	--no-descriptions
--no-label	--cancel-label
--no-tags	--no-names
--nocancel	--no-cancel
--nook	--no-ok
--separator	--output-separator
--yes-label	--ok-label

SEE ALSO

bsddialog(3)

HISTORY

The **bsddialog** utility first appeared in FreeBSD 14.0.

AUTHORS

bsddialog was written by Alfonso Sabato Siciliano <asiciliano@FreeBSD.org>.

bsddialog provides a subset of the functionality described in the **dialog** manual. The following features were reimplemented:

Options: **--and-widget**, **--ascii-lines**, **--backtitle**, **--cancel-label**, **--clear**, **--colors**, **--cr-wrap**, **--date-format**, **--defaultno**, **--default-button**, **--default-no**, **--default-item**, **--exit-label**, **--extra-button**, **--extra-label**, **--help**, **--help-button**, **--help-label**, **--help-status**, **--help-tags**, **--hfile**, **--hline**, **--ignore**, **--insecure**, **--item-help**, **--keep-tite**, **--max-input**, **--no-cancel**, **--nocancel**, **--no-items**, **--no-label**, **--no-lines**, **--no-ok**, **--nook**, **--no-shadow**, **--no-tags**, **--ok-label**, **--output-fd**, **--output-separator**, **--print-maxsize**, **--print-size**, **--print-version**, **--quoted**, **--separate-output**, **--separator**, **--shadow**, **--single-quoted**, **--sleep**, **--stderr**, **--stdout**, **--tab-len**, **--time-format**, **--title**, **--version**, **--yes-label**.

Dialogs: **--calendar**, **--checklist**, **--form**, **--gauge**, **--infobox**, **--inputbox**, **--menu**, **--mixedform**, **--mixedgauge**, **--msgbox**, **--passwordbox**, **--passwordform**, **--pause**, **--radiolist**, **--rangebox**, **--textbox**, **--timebox**, **--treeview**, **--yesno**.

Some feature differs in input, output, or behavior. Compatibility is not a priority for future development.

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