Plaintalk 1.4.1: AppleScript for Universal Quit (8/95)

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TOPIC --

Is it possible to create a universal "Quit" (like Close Window) for any
application?

DISCUSSION ---

A first attempt at an AppleScript to quit an application is as simple as the
following:

```
tell application "Finder"
    set AppName to name of every process whose frontmost is true
end tell
tell application AppName to quit
```

Call it "Quit Application", since speech recognition seems to be able to better
discern things that are more than one syllable.

This worked fine for most cases. Other cases to handle are desk accessories (not
scriptable at all), old applications that do not support the core AppleEvents
and the Finder itself. This involved more checking and trapping of errors.
Instead of putting up dialogs to display error messages, these additional lines
of code will cause the Macintosh to speak the error messages in response to a
spoken command.

Begin_Table

By adding more error checking, the script evolved into:

```
property SpeakErrs : true -- false => display dialog

try
    set AppScriptable to false
    set AppName to "the current process" -- initialize from leftover values
    tell application "Finder"
    set ProcName to every process whose frontmost is true
    if ProcName is not {} then --something other than Finder
    set AppName to the name of every process whose frontmost is true
```

```
    --kinds are "application program", "desk accessory"
    set ProcKind to kind of file of every process whose frontmost is true
    with timeout of 5 seconds -- sluggish section for unresponsive applications
    if ProcKind is "application program" then
    set AppScriptable to ¬
        the scriptable of file of every process whose frontmost is true
    else
    set Msg to "Sorry, cannot quit " & ProcKind & AppName & ¬
        ". It does not support scripting."
    end if
    end timeout
    else
    set AppName to "Finder"
    set Msg to "You should not quit the Finder."
    end if
    end tell

    -- note: this section operates in the context of the frontmost application
 -- in case dialogs are displayed
    if AppScriptable then
    with timeout of 3 seconds
    tell application AppName to quit
    end timeout
    else
    GiveError(Msg)
    end if

on error ErrMsg number ErrNmbr
    -- - 903 = no PPC port; i.e. not scriptable
    -- -2704 = application not scriptable
    if ErrNmbr = -903 or ErrNmbr = -2704 then
    set Msg to AppName & ¬
        " is not scriptable or does not support the quit AppleEvent."
    GiveError(Msg)
    else
    log ("Error " & ErrNmbr & ": " & ErrMsg)
    display dialog "Error " & ErrNmbr & ": " & ErrMsg
    end if
end try

on GiveError(TheMsg)
    if SpeakErrs then
    say TheMsg
    else
    display dialog TheMsg buttons {"OK"} default button 1
    end if
end GiveError


End_Table

Article Change History:
29 Aug 1995 - Corrected unclear language.
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