HOW TO CREATE A SIMPLE MyDSL APPLICATION
Created by clivesay from the DSL forums

This howto will cover creating a simple .dsl file by using apt-get and the deb2dsl script created by cbagger01. There are different methods for creating a mydsl application, with some being more complicated than others. We will just stick to the basics here.

It's important to remember that for an application to be a MyDSL application it must be able to run on a base DSL environment with no other applications installed. If other applications are needed like the python.uci, that must be specified in the info file if the application is to be submitted to the DSL community.

Let's get started.

First we have to decide what application we want to install. For this example we're going to install a small simple program called 'xearth'.

Next we'll need to enable apt. Do that in the DSL menu as shown below. It's the next to last item.

Once that has completed we need to apt-get install xearth.

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root@box:~# apt-get install xearth
Reading Package Lists... Done
Building Dependency Tree... Done
The following NEW packages will be installed:
   xearth
0 upgraded, 1 newly installed, 0 to remove and 148 not upgraded.
Need to get 160kB of archives.
After unpacking 479kB of additional disk space will be used.
Get:1 http://ftp.us.debian.org stable/non-free xearth 1.1-10.1 [160kB]
Fetched 160kB in 1s (133kB/s)
Selecting previously deselected package xearth.
(Reading database ... 10841 files and directories currently installed.)
Unpacking xearth (from .../xearth_1.1-10.1_i386.deb) ...
Setting up xearth (1.1-10.1) ...

root@box:~# []
```
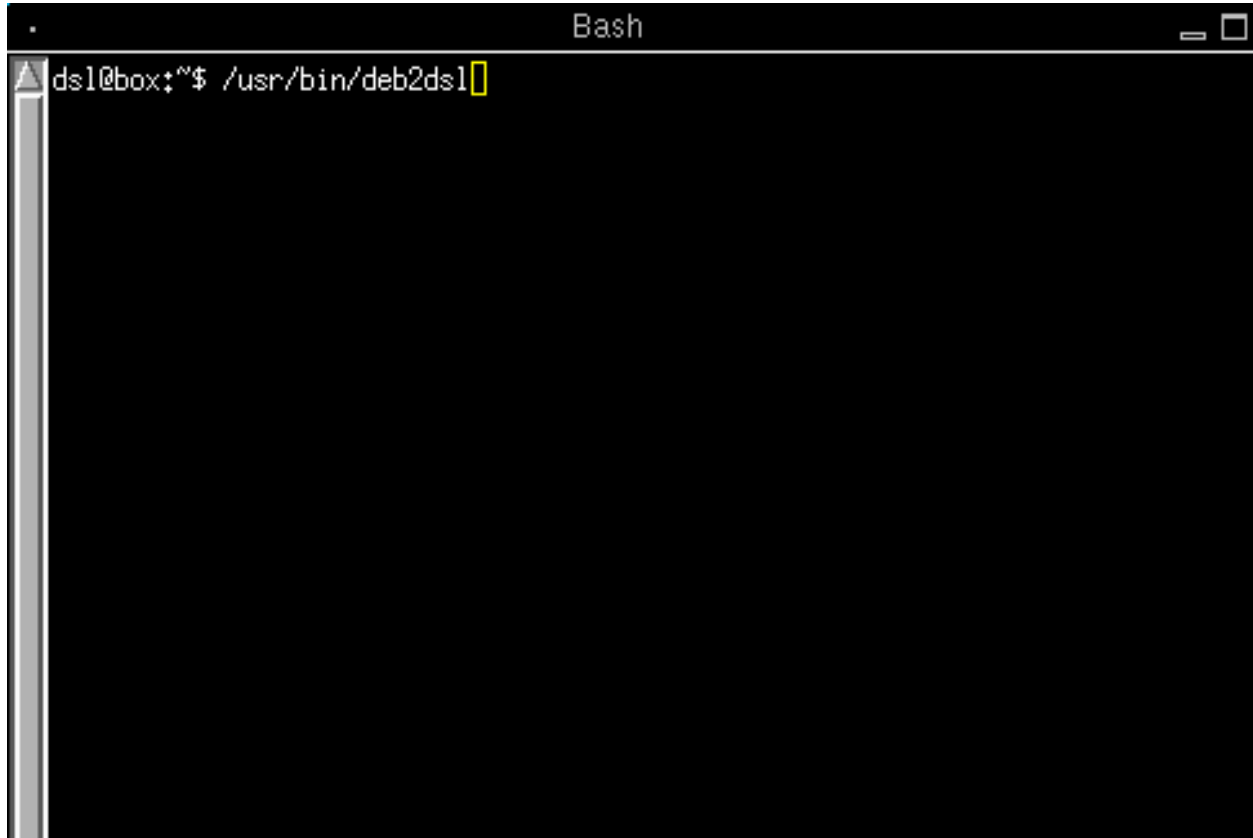
We now have xearth installed on your system. You can type in 'xearth' to
run it and see if it's working. If it's working, we're ready for the next step.
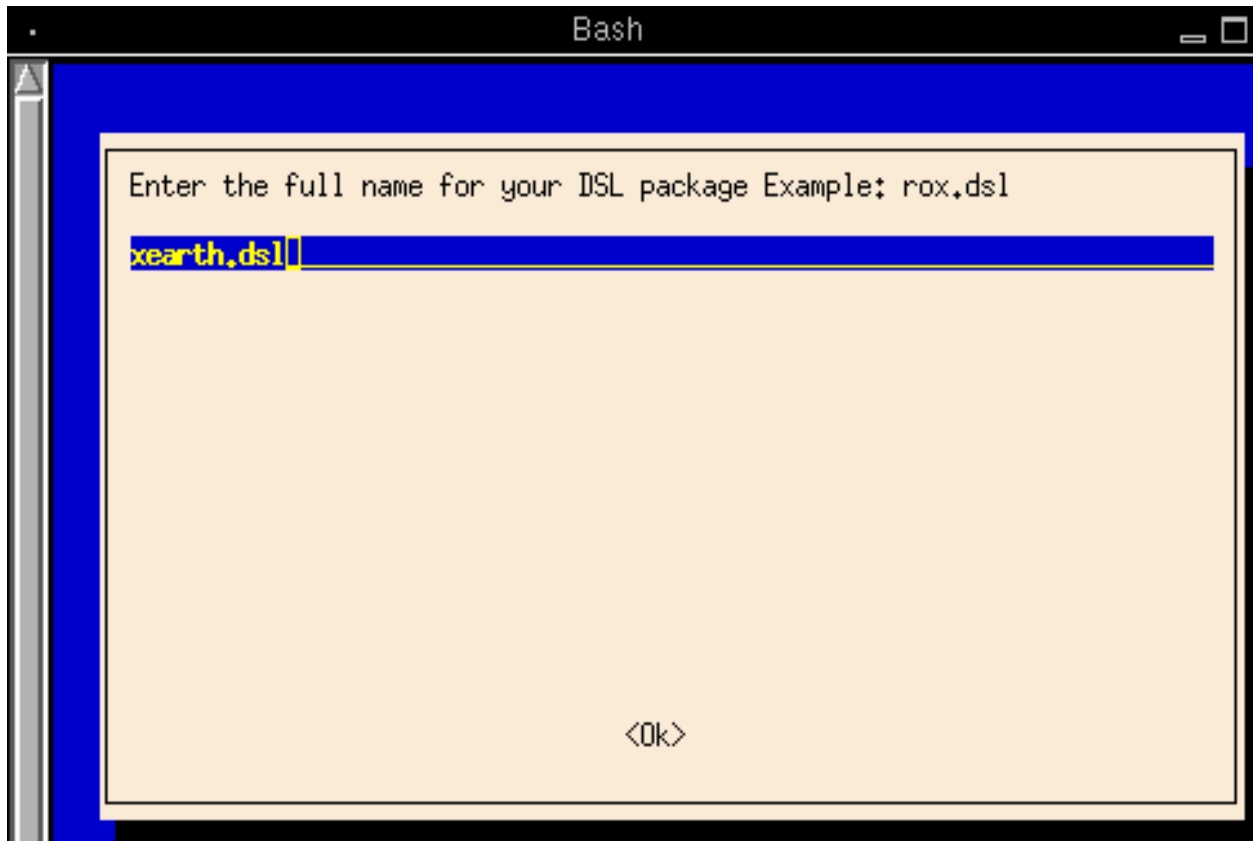
NOTE: The deb2dsl script is installed on your system as part of dsl-dpkg.dsl.
This package was
         installed when you enabled apt-get.

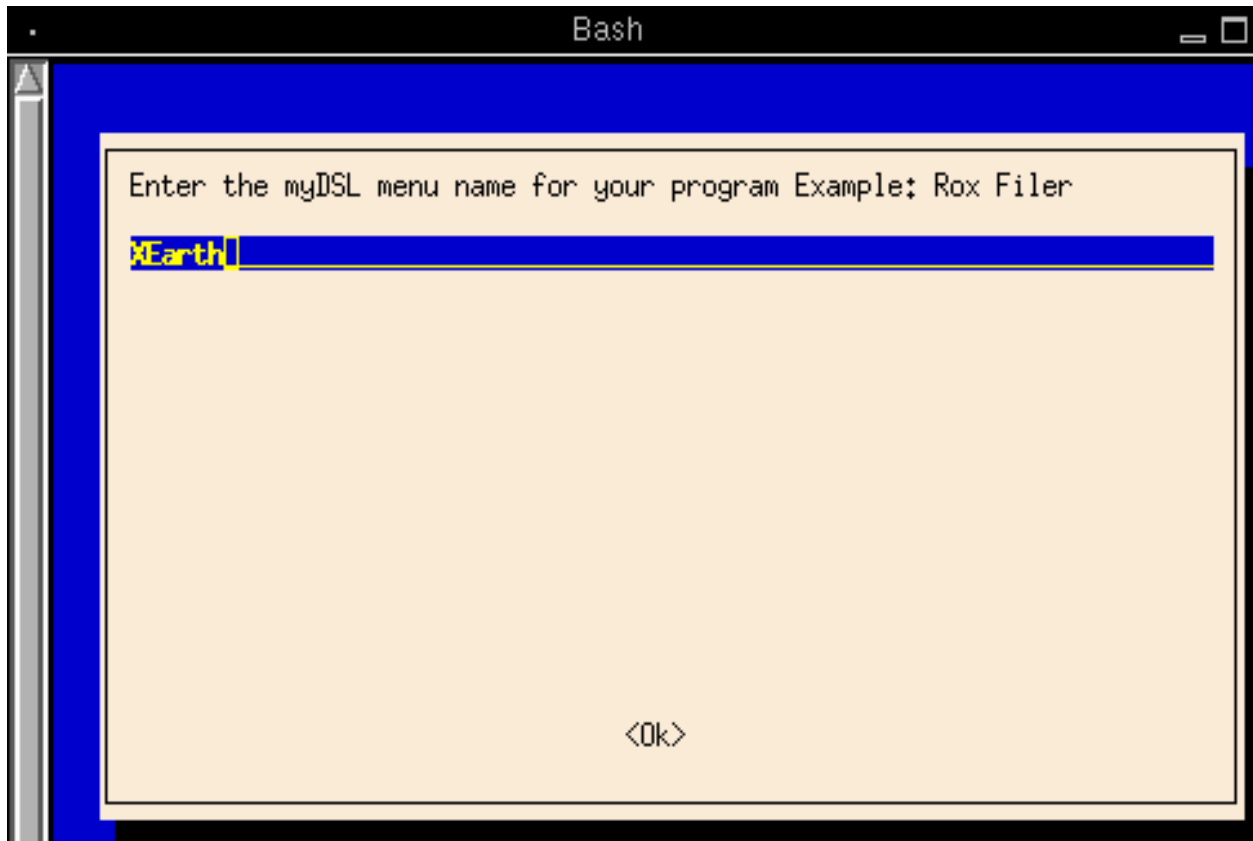We're ready to run the script. We will need to open a xterm session as user

dsl. DO NOT run this script as root. It will not work. You must be user dsl.

```
dsl@box:~$ /usr/bin/deb2dsl
```

Type in the command '/usr/bin/deb2dsl' and press the <enter> key.

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  Enter the full name for your DSL package Example: rox.dsl

  xearth.dsl

                              <Ok>
```

The first thing we need to do it enter the name of our package. We'll call it
xearth.dsl. Press the <enter> key.

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    Enter the myDSL menu name for your program Example: Rox Filer

    XEarth

                          <Ok>
```
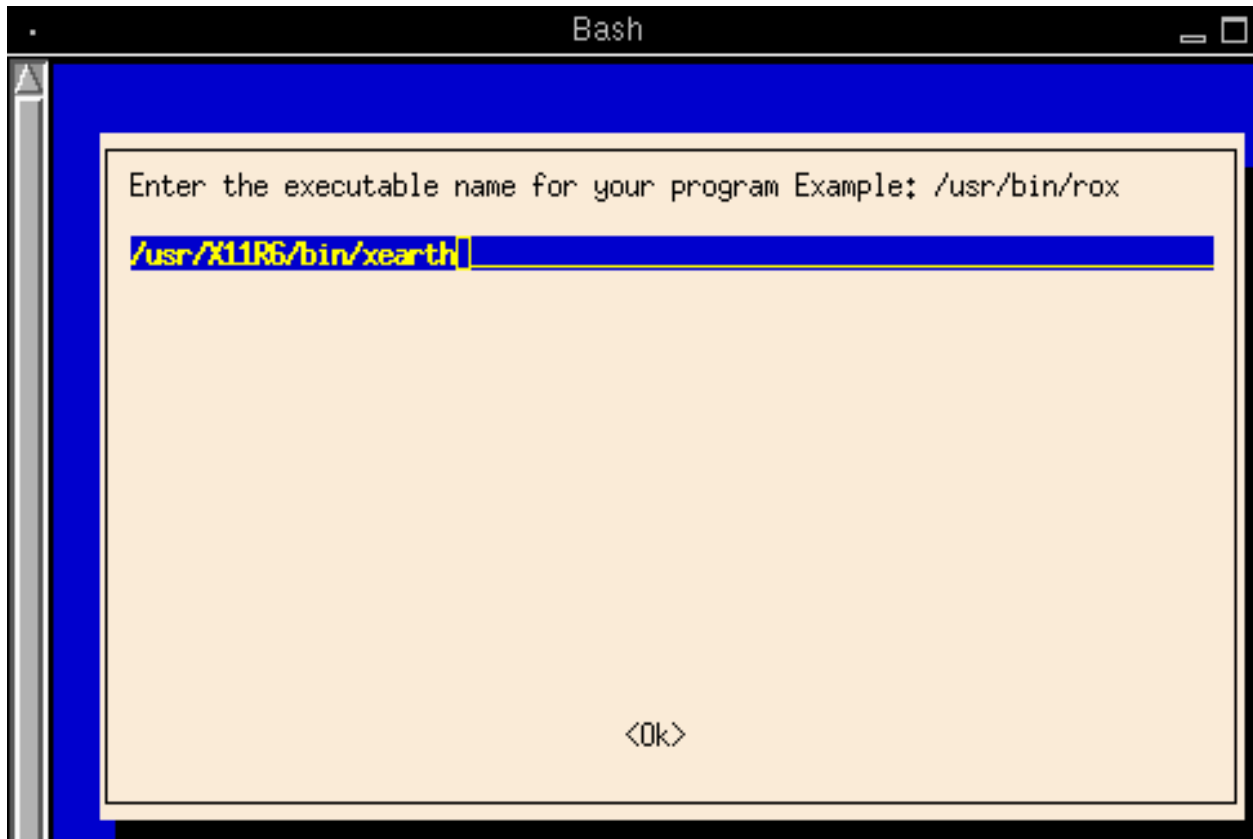
Enter how you want the application to appear in the MyDSL menu. Press the <enter> key.

Now we need to enter the path to execute the program. The easiest way to do this is to open a shell and type 'whereis xearth'.

```
dsl@box:~$ whereis xearth
xearth: /etc/xearth /usr/X11R6/bin/xearth
dsl@box:~$ ▯
```

You can see here that it looks like it's executed from */usr/X11R6/bin/xearth*. We'll enter this path into the deb2dsl script.

After you've entered the path press the <enter> key. The script will now run and create your .dsl file. The script uses the files from the /apt/archives directory to create the application.

After this has completed you should have an xearth.dsl file in your /home/dsl directory. Place this file in a safe place, reboot to a base DSL system and install the file to see if it works!

If you want to submit the file to the DSL community, there are three additional steps.

1. create an .info file with the author info and any special instructions. You can look at the info
   file for other applications for style.

2. Create a md5sum file of the application. This can be done in a terminal by typing 'md5sum
   xearth.dsl > xearth.md5sum.txt'

3. Email the three files to **extensions@damnsmalllinux.org** .

I hope this was helpful!