

MyHiddenMenu Quick start guide

MyHiddenMenu (mhm) is primarily a simple menu program to execute programs. You can create menus, which are hidden on the desktop. Alternatively the menus can be shown in the taskbar.

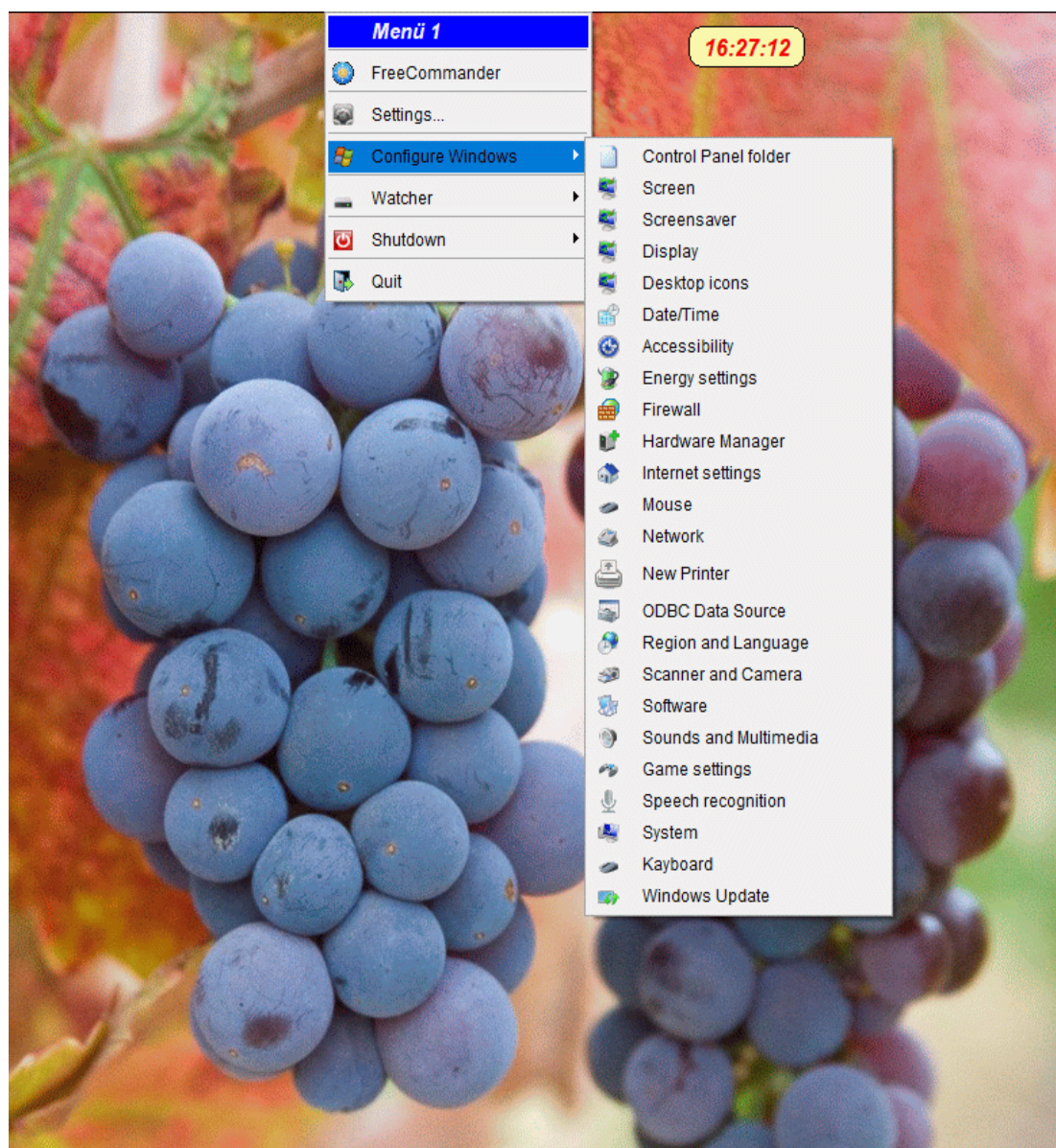
License: GPL

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Features:

- create up to 8 different menus
- create menu structure with submenus
- drag'n drop files to the menu structure
- Simply sort the menu items
- add windows system control programs to a menu
- add shutdown menu to a menu
- menus can be placed on top, left right or bottom of the screen or in the taskbar
- show a menu with a right mouseclick
- set fonts and colours for each menu
- add mhm to the windows startup
- multilanguage support (currently english and german)
- save ini file in user or in program directory (portable mode)

Additional Features:

- Autostart programs with mhm
- Alarm clock with additional message
- show a digital or analog clock on the desktop
- Quick access to windows functions
- File System Watcher
- Show a Slideshow by dragging a picture file to a menu position
- play internet radio, music files or internet TV by an external player

To do:

- Menu as toolbar
- Add Scheduler independent of the alarm clock
- Notepad
- RSS

Known problems:

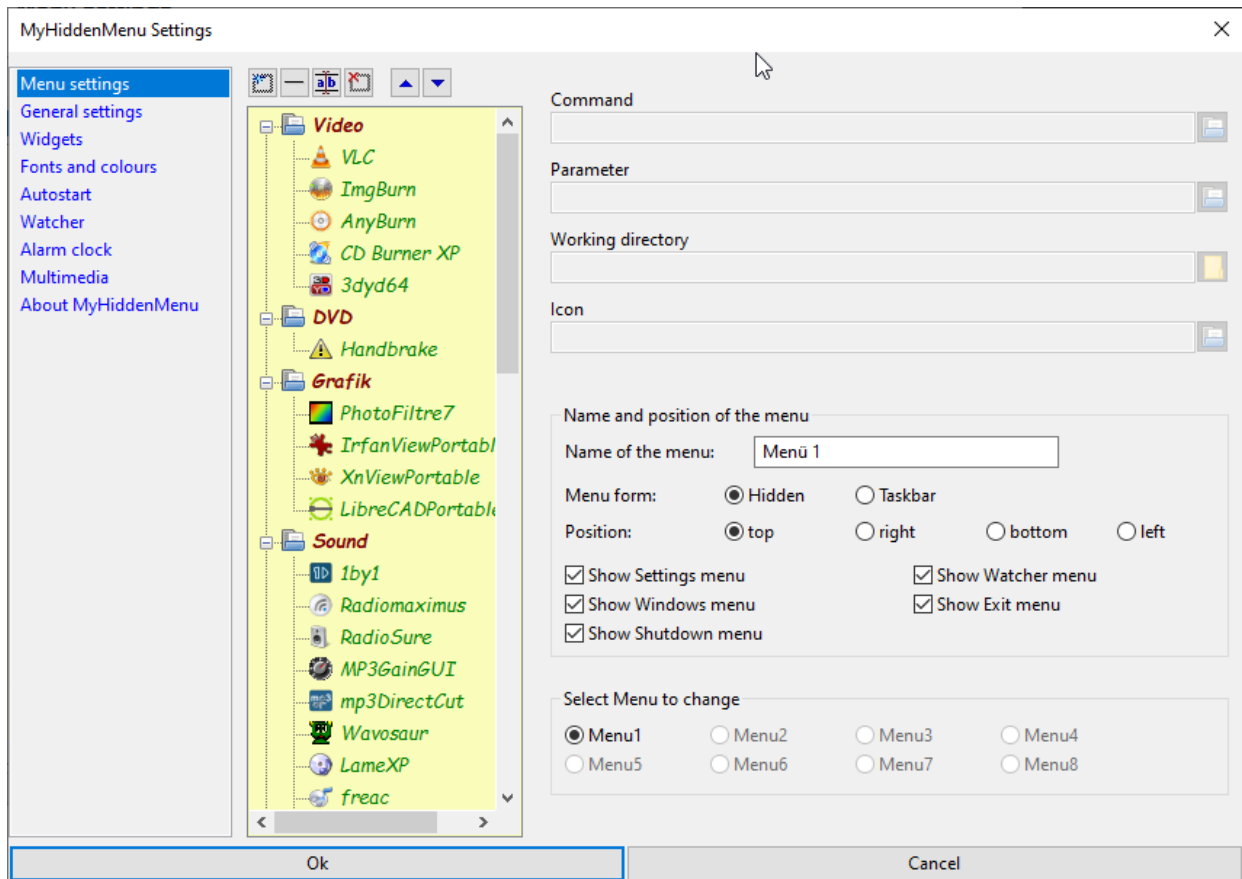
- When changing the language the repeat combobox of the alarm clock has to be reset
- Hidden menus at the bottom of the screen may conflict with the taskbar

First start

At the first start, a message window appears, from which the settings window can be called directly. Or create your menu by placing the mouse at the top of the screen and pressing the right mouse button. Now select „Settings...” to configure your menu.

The settings are usually self-explanatory.

1. Menu settings



The menu structure of the respective activated menu is shown in the middle. Add menu items by Drag'n Drop or by the upper left button. Then you can change the name, delete menu items or change their order. The parameters of the activated entry are displayed on the right side.

The display of the menu can be set to the right in the middle. Here you can select the display as a hidden menu or as a menu in the taskbar.

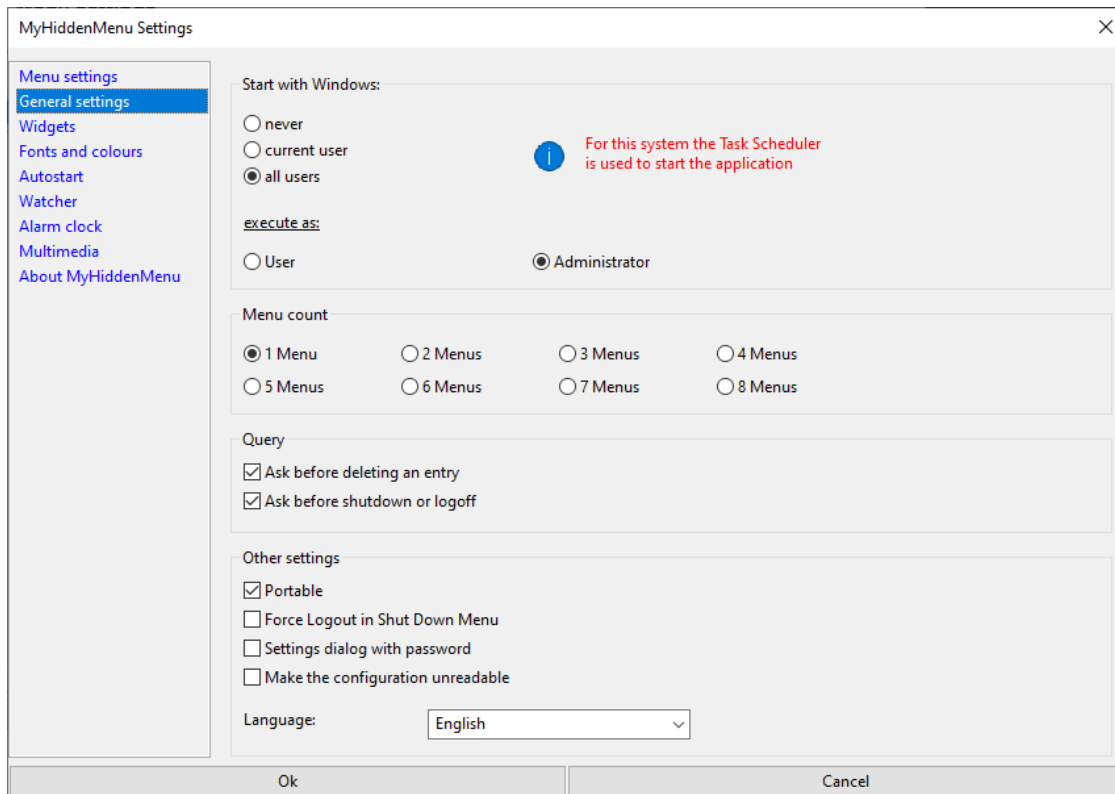
In a hidden menu the position of the menu can be defined. Here you can choose between the top, bottom, left and right. This means that the respective menu is activated with a right-click on the respective screen border. You can also place several menus in one position. The place is then divided accordingly.

The name of the menu can also be set here.

Activate Comboboxes to add the settings menu, Windows system menu, shutdown menu, watcher menu or exit menu for each menu.

Select a menu to change in the lower right corner.

2. General settings



On this page you can define the number of menus as well as the type of Autostart of MyHiddenMenu. If present in the system, the task scheduler is used to start the program. Otherwise the registry will be used. In my tests, the task scheduler was more reliable than an entry in the registry.

You can start the program as a user or as an administrator.

Note: If you start mhm as a user and run a program with administrator privileges from your menu, the program will not start because of missing permissions.

Set the queries that should be done for a given action.

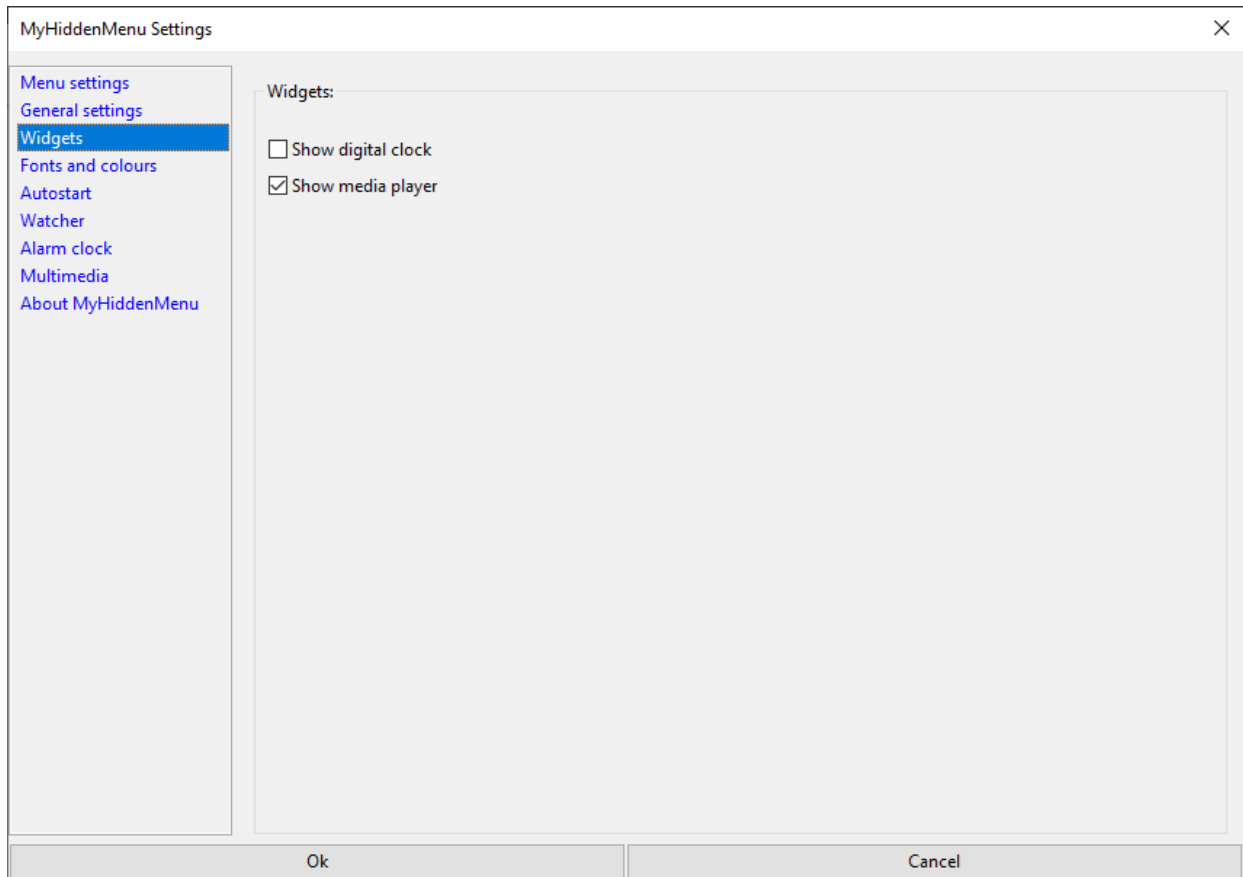
Activate Portable mode to save the ini file in the program directory.

Select „Force Logout“ to close all programs at logoff without waiting for completion. This can be helpful for hanging programs.

You can provide the settings dialog with a password. The password is stored encrypted in the configuration file. The encryption is not very secure, but at least you can not read it at first glance. Alternatively, you can also encrypt the entire configuration file. As for the password, it is much harder to get access to the settings.

Finally, you can set the supported languages. At the moment, only English and German are available.

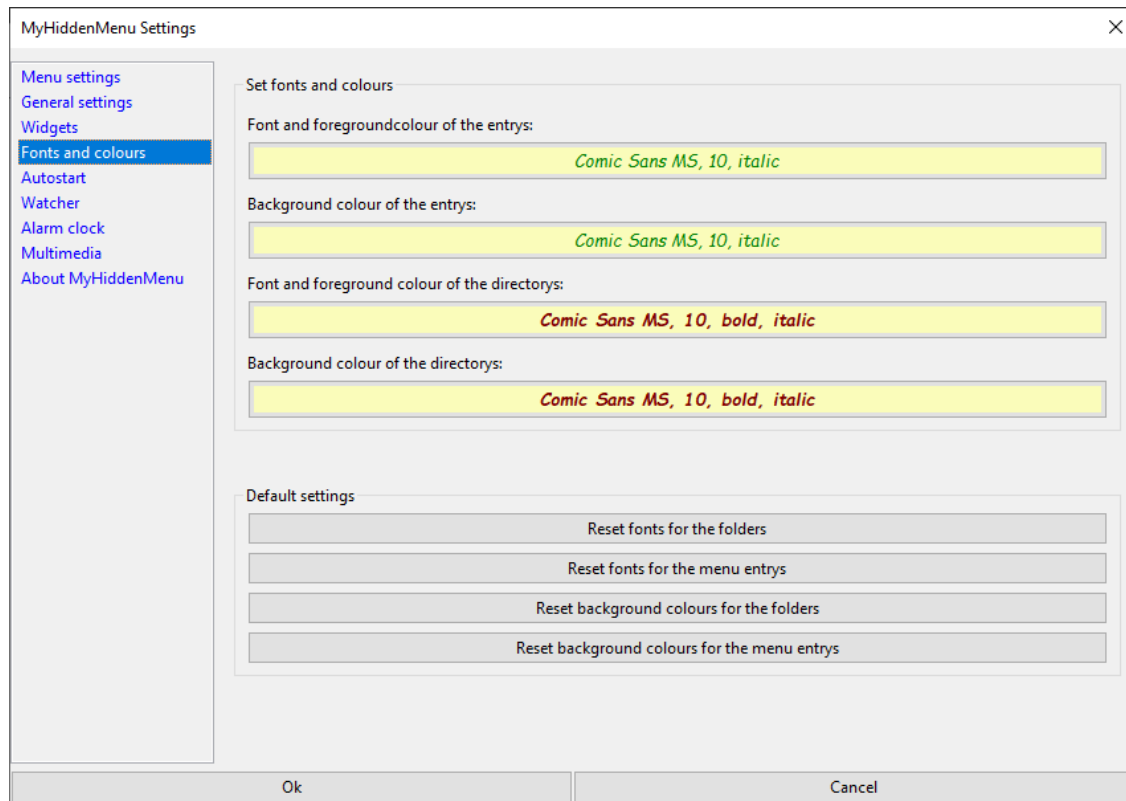
3. Widgets



Select „digital clock“ to display a digital clock on the desktop.
Activate "Show Media Player" to display an internal media player.

See Chapter 10 and 11 for more informations.

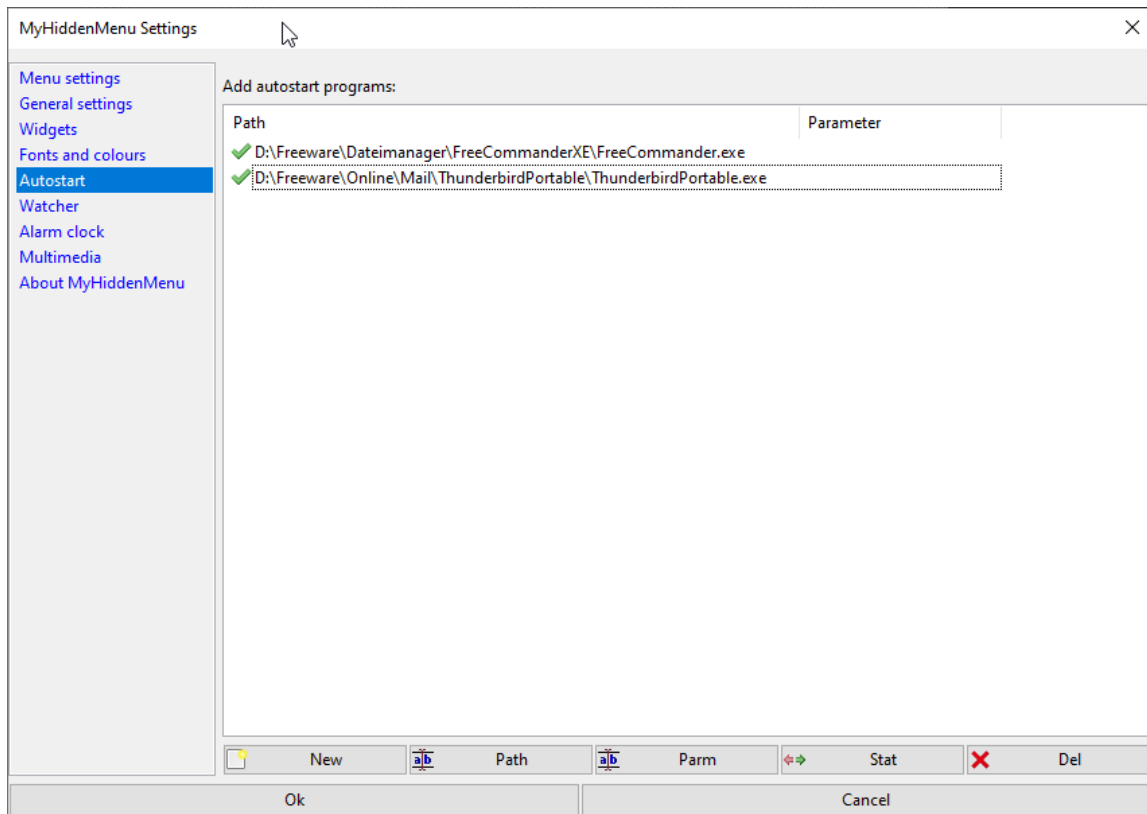
4. Fonts and Colours



Select fonts and colours or reset it for the selected menu here. Menu entries and directories are distinguished.

Unfortunately I cannot change the background color of separators at the moment.

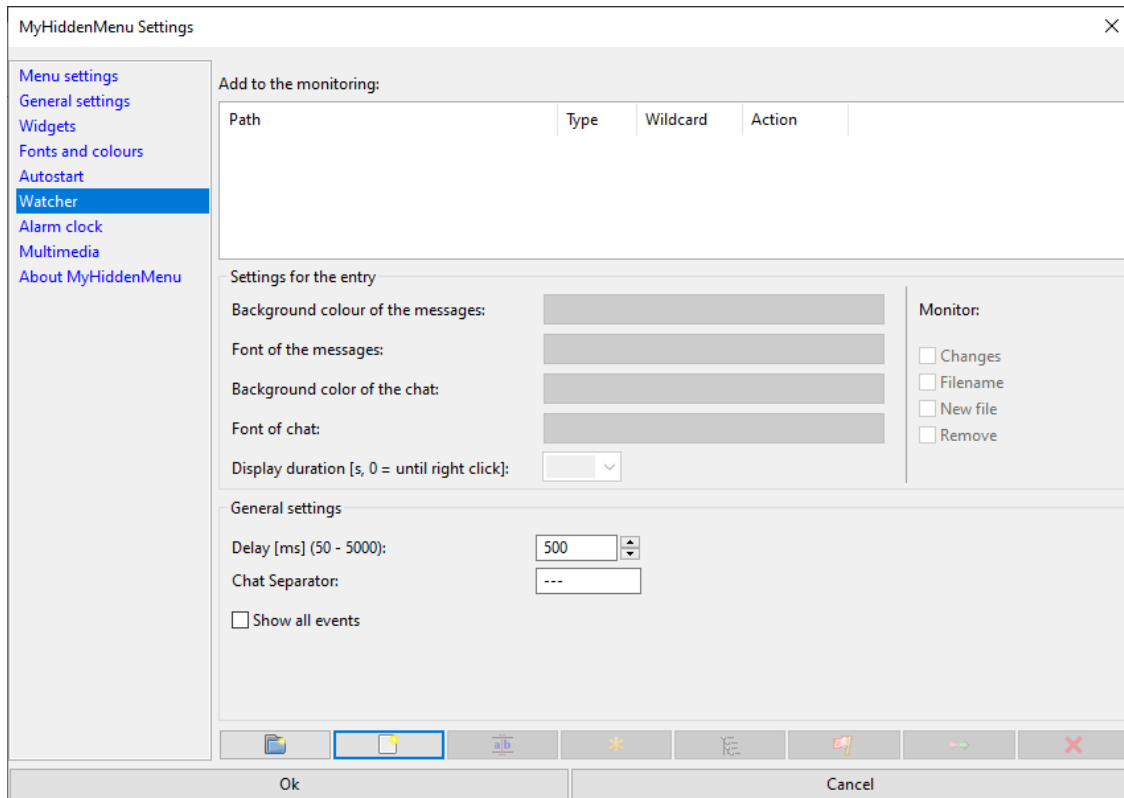
5. Autostart



Add or remove programs, which are started with mhm.

Change the path of an already added program. Add parameters to a program or change the status of the program to active/inactive. Then it will not start automatically. Remove a startup program from list.

6. Watcher



The FileSystemWatcher is a powerful tool that allows monitoring of folders and files.

When monitoring individual files, it can:

- automatically delete the watched file if changed
- automatically open the watched file if changed
- use the file as a chat file with automatic notification of a new message
- a message of the file change take place
- disable the network adapter, if changed

When monitoring directories, a wildcard can be defined. Also, you can set whether only the directory or all subdirectories should be monitored.

Please make sure that no double monitoring takes place. This means that you not monitor a single file and then a parent directory that contains this file.

Change the status of an entry to active or inactive.

Choose the color and font for the notifications.

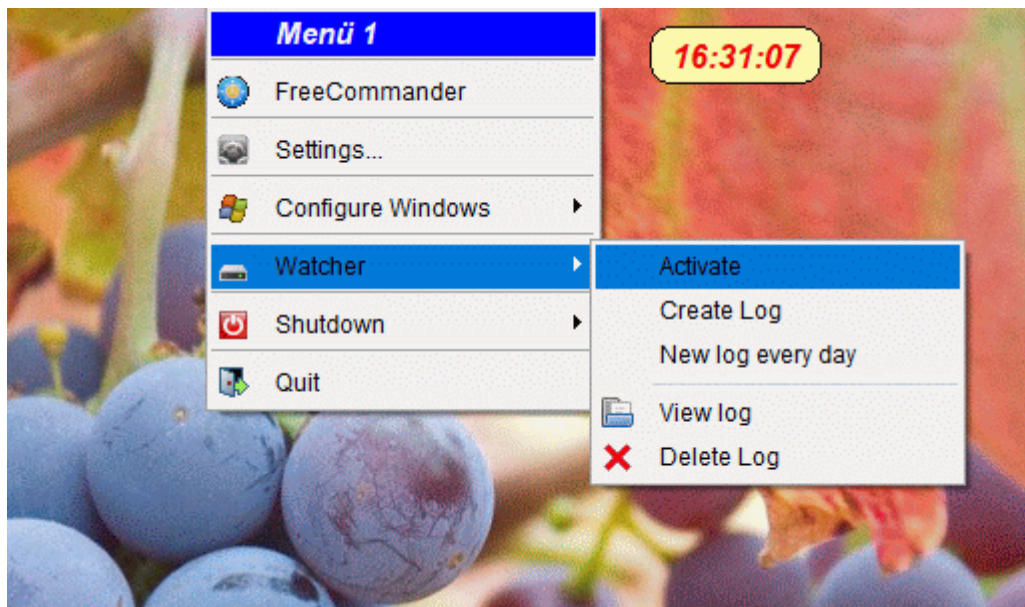
Choose which events should be intercepted.

Set the delay when intercepting the events. 500 ms is a good time.

Set the separator for the different messages in a file, which is used for messages in a chat.

If you want to see all events then you can do this by selecting the checkbox. Usually this is not necessary. The program shows the most important events.

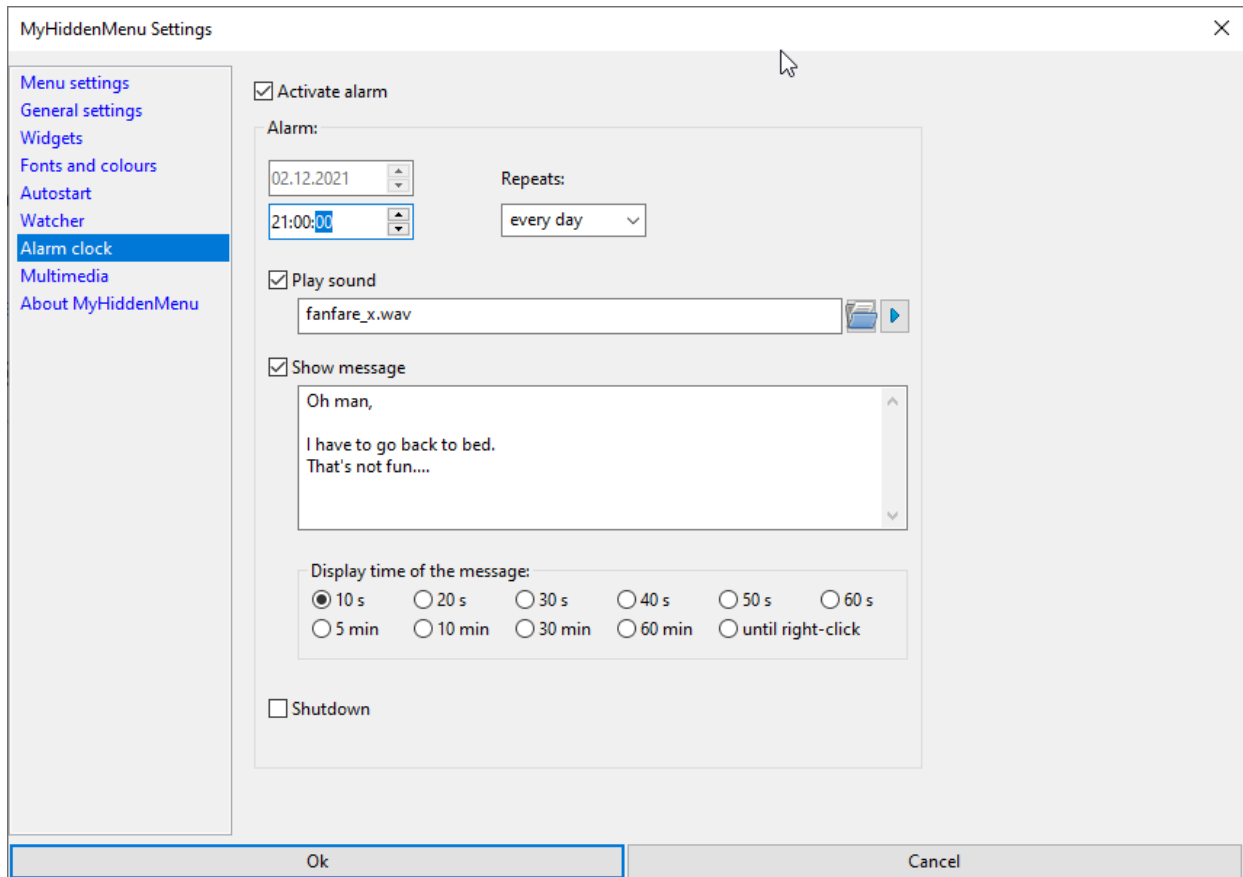
The Watcher has its own main menu:



Here you can activate or deactivate the watcher and specify whether a log file should be created. Specify whether the log should be updated or a new one created each day.

Show or delete the Log file here.

7. Alarm Clock



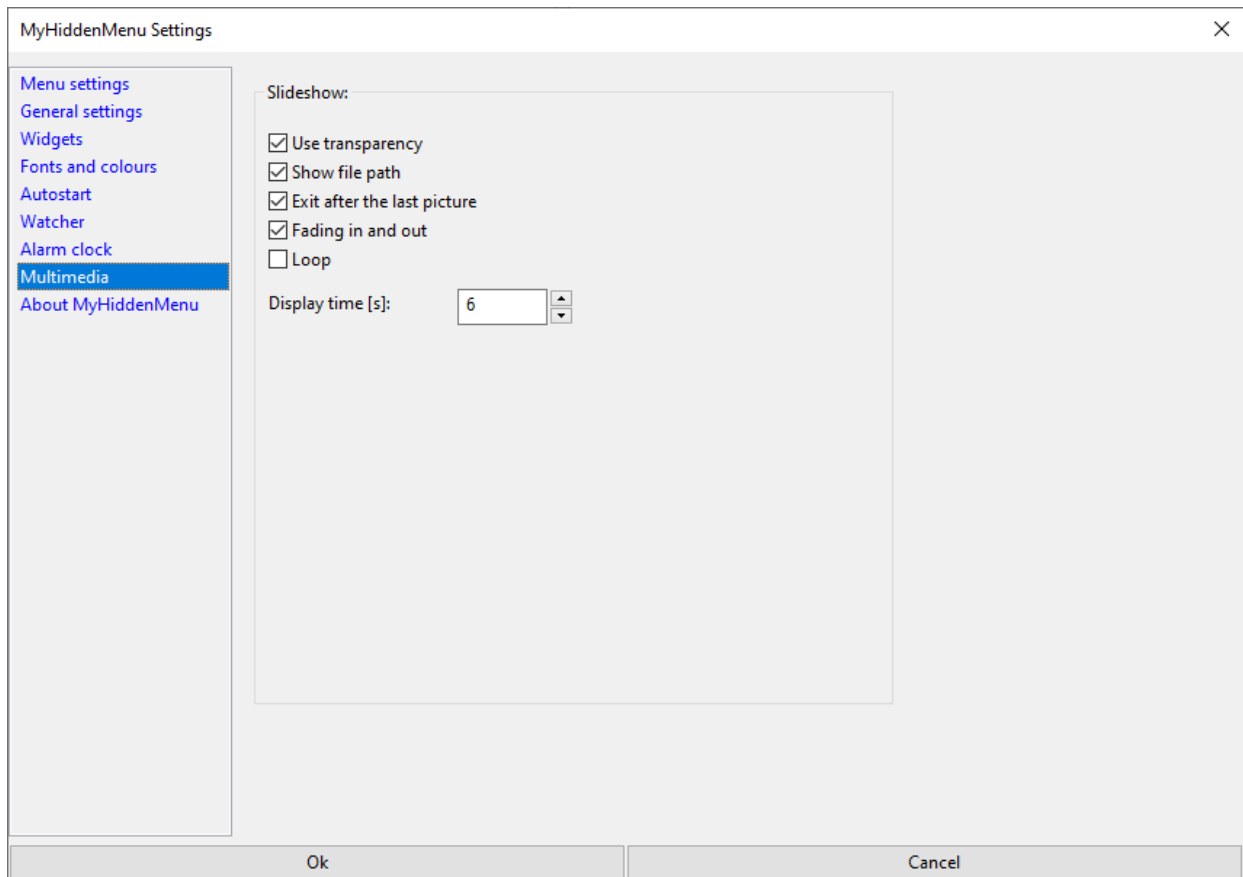
In this menu you can set an alarm. This allows a wav file to be played at a certain time, a note can be displayed on the desktop, or the PC can be shut down.

The repetitions can be defined.

If a message is displayed, the position can be changed with the left mouse button. This position is used for the next message.

Close a displayed message with the right mouse button or the message will be closed automatically after the set time.

8. **Multimedia**



Here you can set the parameters for a slideshow.

Use transparency shows a transparent background when an image has this setting.

Show file path shows the path of the file on the screen.

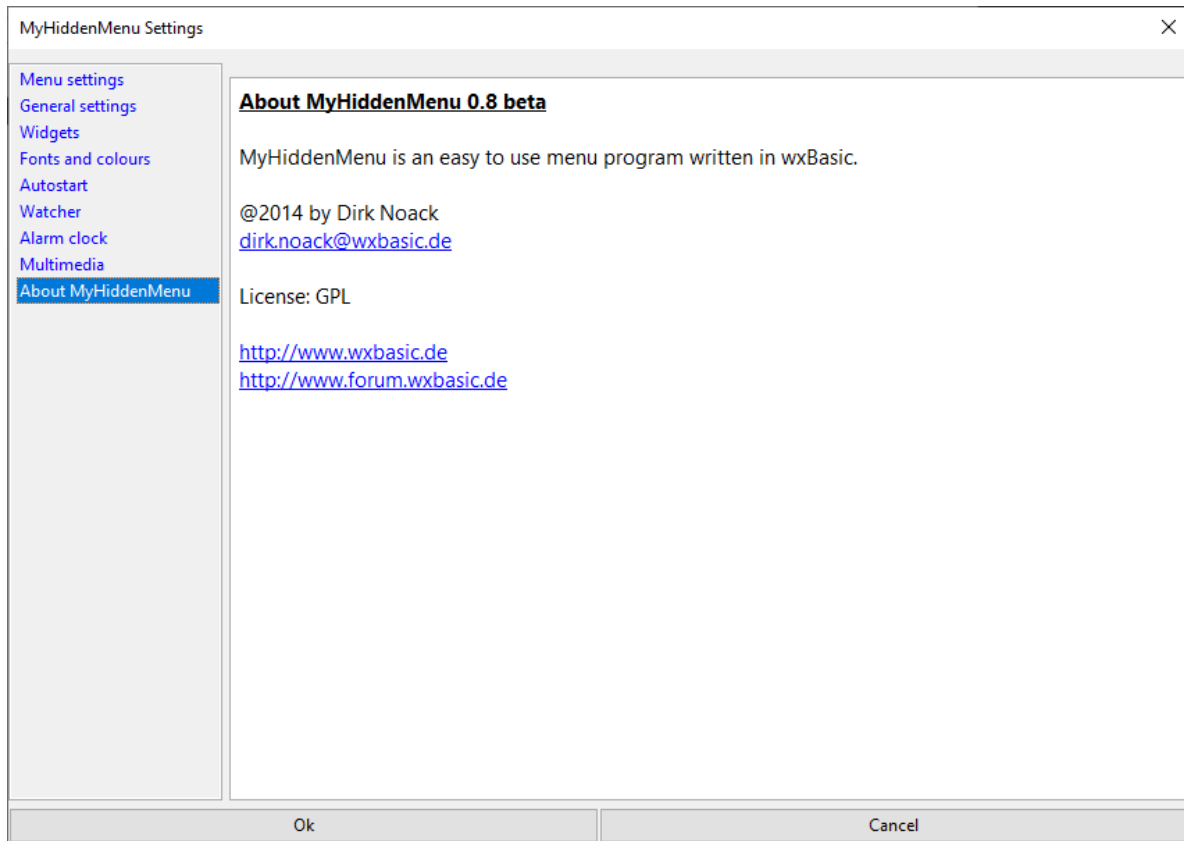
Exit after the last picture ends the slideshow. Otherwise, a query comes if the slideshow should be restarted.

Fading in and out will fading the pictures in and out.

Loop shows the pictures in an endless loop.

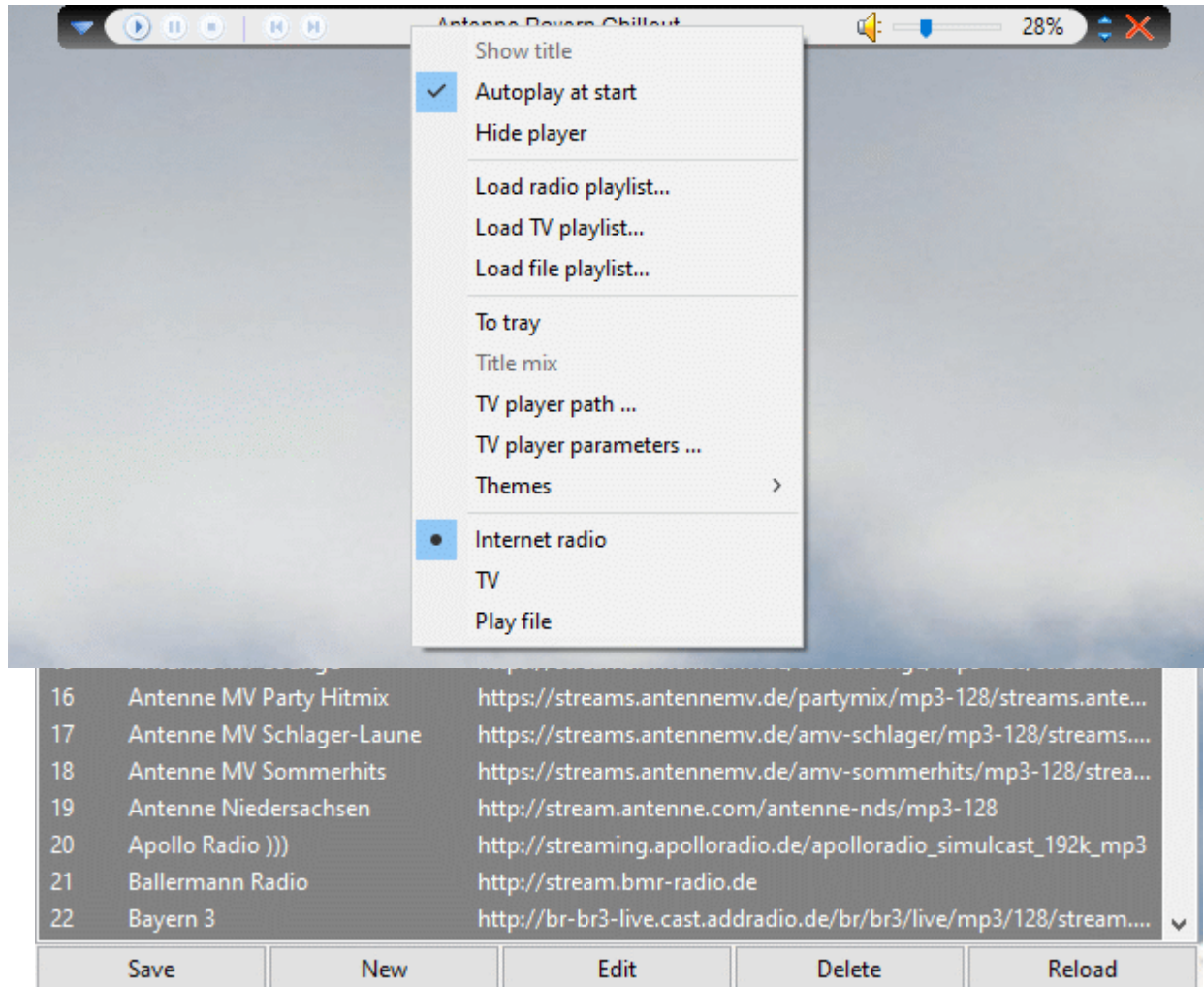
„Display time“ sets the time the image is displayed.

9. **About**



Show the About dialog.

10. *Widget Media Player*



Mhm now has an integrated media player named dsm (duckes simple media player ☺). As the name suggests, it is a simple media player with no frills. With it it is possible to play internet radio, view internet TV or play music files from the hard drive. The player primarily uses the Windows Media Library. If this is not available, DirectX is used. DirectX has a bug, however, so that no event is sent when a file is loaded. However, this was largely bypassed.

An external player is required for Internet television, as both Wmp and DirectX do not support this sufficiently. I recommend MPC-HC. This player is currently the best supported in my opinion. This mainly affects the loading time and it only starts in one instance. Unfortunately, VLC has many weaknesses here. Exiting does not always work properly.

It can be downloaded here: <https://github.com/clsid2/mpc-hc/releases>.

Dsm has ready-made playlists for TV and internet radio that can be expanded or changed.

The most important things can be set by right-clicking in the middle of the player:

The title can be displayed in file mode. Unfortunately, this does not work in Internet Player mode.

If Autoplay is selected, the playback will start automatically.

„Hide player“ reduces the player to 2 pixels at the top of the player position. If you move the mouse to the position, the player opens again.

Restoring is a bit tricky because the mouse has to be over one pixel when the player is placed at the top. One pixel is already reserved for a top menu. Therefore you shouldn't run over it too quickly. This also applies to fading out.

Playlists can be loaded for each mode. Playlists are only supported as m3u. RTP addresses are not supported by the player.

There are ready-made lists for Germany for internet radio and internet TV.

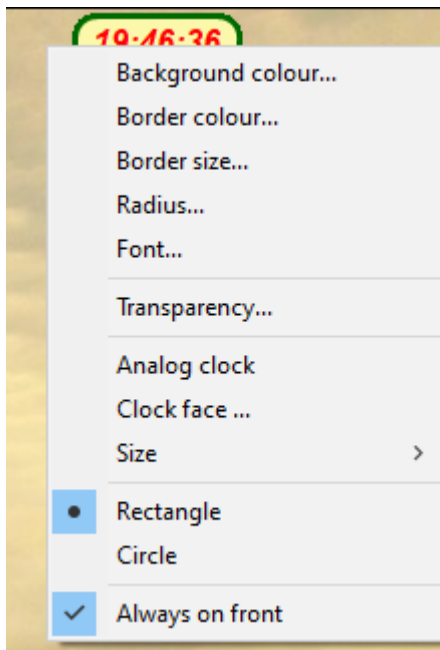
„To Tray“ sends the player to the taskbar.

"Title Mix" shuffle the titles. This only works in file mode.

Choose a player for Internet TV, e.g. MPC-HC. Pass additional parameters to the player.

Choose different themes respectively colors for the player and set the play mode. In file mode, dsm acts as a directory player.

11. Widget Clock



In the clock menu, you can customize the clock. Select the background colour, the border colour, the size or the radius of the border. Also you can set the transparency of the clock.

Now you can select an self drawing analog clock also. You can load a clock face. as background.

12. Notes:

It can happen that a virus scanner delays the start and also the call of the settings as well as the change of the menus. After deactivation of the virus scanner this phenomenon was gone. So if you see this behavior, it is not the program itself.

At the moment the program is available in 32 bit. If required, a 64 bit version can also be provided.

13. Disclaimer

I have tested the program on Windows 7, Windows 8 and Windows 10. Nevertheless, errors may occur. If errors are found, please let me know.

This software is offered as it is. Use it at your own risk.