Advanced Programming Lesson: Menu System

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A Fancier Menu System

> The Intermediate Menu System was limited to 4 choices and a single screen display for the entire menu

➢ In this version, we build a menu system that updates the menu view each time you change your selection and lets you have a larger number of menu choices

>To make this menu, you will need to learn how to use variables



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New Tool: Variables



Variable Types

Different types of variables can store different types of information.

- 1. Text any text, e.g.: "FLL is great" or "Run 2"
- 2. Numeric any number, e.g.: 5, 5.2 or -4.22
- 3. Logic True or False
- 4. Numeric Array a collection of numbers, e.g.: (5,2,2) or (3,4,5,6)
- 5. Logic Array a collection of true/false values, e.g.: (T, F) or (F, F, T, F)

In this lesson, we only use numeric variables. Logic variables and arrays will be covered in another lesson.

Outline/Pseudocode

- 1. Use a variable to store the current menu choice.
- 2. Display the menu description for the current menu choice
- 3. Wait for the user to press a button
- 4. Based on the button press: run the code for the menu choice (for middle button), or increase/decrease the menu choice variable (for up/down buttons)
- 5. Go back to 2...

- •Now...Based on the above outline, try to make a menu system that lets you perform 4 actions based on the button pressed
- •The remainder of this presentation shows you how to do this. We recommend that you try to create the code yourself first.

Step 1: Convert Menu Item Code to My Blocks



You need to convert long set of actions into its own My Block

If you don't know how to make a My Block, see the Intermediate lesson on My Blocks

There is no Step 1 and 2 in the EV3 Code file. Learn Step 1 and 2 from the Powerpoint/PDF and then continue with Step 3 in the EV3 Code file.

Step 2: Add a Current Menu Choice Variable

Variables can be used to store information such as a sensor reading. In this program, we are going to use a variable to store the current menu choice.

To create a variable:

- 1. Add a variable block
- Select the type of variable by changing the mode to "Write X" where X is one of Text, Numeric, Logic, Numeric Array or Logic Array. Since we are storing the menu choice number – chose Numeric.
- 3. Click on the box at the top right and select Add Variable. For this program, create a variable called "Menu Choice"





Step 3: Display Current Menu Choice

You can combine a switch block set to numeric mode and a variable block set to read to display the current menu choice

You should select just the switch block and create a My Block called Display_Menu.



Step 4: Increasing/Decreasing Menu Choice

You can use a wait for menu button block and a switch to decrease the menu choice if you hit the up button. The down button (Tab 5) is similar but increases the menu choice.



Step 5: Using a Variable to Run Menu Item Chosen

You can combine a switch block set to numeric mode and a variable block set to read to run the chosen menu item.



Code: Menu System

You can combine the previous steps to create a menu system that lets you select from a menu using the up and down arrows



Mission Sequencers

The ideas in this lesson can be adapted to help you build a mission sequencer for FLL. Sequencers are useful because they:

- Allow you to skip missions if you are short of time
- Allow you to repeat failed missions
- Allow you access missions quickly (find them easily)

Credits

- This lesson was written by Sanjay and Arvind Seshan from Droids Robotics.
- •Feel free to use and modify, but credit the original authors.
- More lessons are available at www.ev3lessons.com

