HACE ShellGEM v1.36

Quick Start …

First of all note that submenus won't open until you move the mouse out to the small arrow!

You can do 3 things:

Thing #1: Right-click a drive, a folder, or 'My Computer' and go out on the new item you will find in the menu called 'ShellGEM'. Browse your machine and open the file or folder of your choice.

Thing #2: Drag any file with the *right* mouse-button to a folder or drive. You will get 3 new items in the menu that pops up. Those three are "Move to Folder", "Copy to Folder", and "Shortcut(s) in Folder".

Thing #3: Drag a zip-file, a rar-file, arj-file*, or a jar-file (read Extraction below) with the right mouse-button to a folder or drive. In addition to the 3 items you get in Thing#2 you will now also find "Extract to Folder" and "Extract Here".

Slow Start - Some Details …

ShellGEM   is a shell context-menu for Win95. It adds a neat "folder/file-browser" to the normal shell menu. And also file-management functions to the drag-drop menu.

Direct right-click: In the menu you get when you right-click a folder/drive/MyComputer directly, you can browse through your machine and locate and open the folder or file of your choice. If you see a special submenu icon (a submenu-icon on top of a Files-icon), it means that the folder doesn't have any subfolders. Opening this submenu will show the files in the folder directly without having to go via an unnecessary "Files" item. Note that this item can sometimes "lie" in the sense that the folder might not always contain any files that will be displayed in the menu and will thus show up empty.

Right-button drag and drop: If you, with the right mouse button, drag and drop an object on a folder/drive you can get these extra items available in the menu:

Copy to Folder - Lets you browse the directorytree of your computer and *copy* the selected objects to the folder of your choice.

Move to Folder - Lets you browse the directorytree of your computer and *move* the selected objects to the folder of your choice.

Shortcut(s) in Folder - Lets you browse the directorytree of your computer and *create shortcuts* to the selected objects in the folder you select.

Extract to Folder - Lets you browse the directorytree of your computer and *extract* the selected objects to the folder of your choice. This item will only be displayed if the file(s) you right-drag are zip-files, rar-files, or jar files (recognized filetypes are: .zip .arj .rar .r00 .r01 .001and .j   ).

Extract Here - Same as Extract to Subfolder only extracts to the folder/drive you dropped the file onto.

Don't be confused by the 'new' menu-concept introduced with ShellGEM. The submenus will not open until you move the mouse pointer onto the little "submenu arrow". This helps keeping the menus small and efficient to work with since no submenus will open and clutter up the screen until you specifically ask for it by moving the mouse out to the arrow. Also, if you have selected *not* to show Files too, you will not see this submenu-arrow if the folder has no subfolders - except for drives on the network or locations where it cannot easily be determined in advance if the container has any subfolders.

Note: if your target folder contains no subfolder, what is presented in the first submenu are the drives in your "My Computer".

Tip#1 To make life easier for yourself you are advised to unselect the option 'Show unassociated files'. This will reduce the size of the menu considerably.

Tip#2 Use the menu-system provided by ShellGEM to create your own (specialized) 'start-menus'. Create a folder (or a shortcut to a folder) on the desktop and fill the folder up with shortcuts to your favorite programs. Create different categories and you can have a much tidier desktop.

Tip#3 A quick way to exploit the drag & drop menu is to select the file(s) in question, lift them up with the right mouse-button and drop them where you found them - in the same folder. You can then use all functions offered by ShellGEM's drag & drop menu and won't have to wade through dozens of explorer windows. This is especially true if you have your target folder in History or Favorites!

Extraction …

The file-types that are currently recognized by ShellGEM are:
`.zip .rar .r00 .r01 .arj .001 and .j`
Files of type .001 are first tested to be unRAR'ed, if that fails they will be tried to be unARJ'ed.

ShellGEM can extract many files at once (except for unRAR which can handle only one archive, although split into multiple files). Just drag & drop all files and select the folder you wish to have them extracted into.

UnZIP and UnRAR are both built in, but for unARJ and unJAR to work you have to set the path of their respective executables under extract-options.

If you select many files for extraction and you have selected the option to extract into <filename> folder, the following happens: A directory with the same name as the *last* selected file will be created (without the extension), then all files in all archives are extracted to this folder. I.e. a new folder isn't created for each and every selected file.

JAR note! When referring to a JAR archive here it has nothing to do with java archives. Jar in this program refers to the jar compression algorithm which cannot handle java archives. Although sometimes a jar archive can have the extension .jar, the detection of this file-extension is is left out to avoid confusion. The most used extension for JAR archives is the one detected in ShellGEM, this extension is .j

Options …

Selecting the "*Options...*" item in the menu will display a window where you can set options of your choice. This is also the only place where you can set the ARJ and JAR executables, as well as setting which optional editor to open unassociated files in.

Most options are also available on the submenu presented under *"Options..."*. Note here that if you hold down the shift-key on the keyboard while right-clicking a folder-object, most options below will be treated as *Selected.* So it is perfectly safe to deselect the option *"Show Options Item"*. Also you might find it convenient to deselect the options *"Show Removable Drives"*, *"Show Special Items"* and *"Show Unassociated Files"*.

General/Misc

Show Folder Icons
Deselect this option to make the menus smaller. It will also result in the menus popping up somewhat quicker.

Show Hidden Objects
Deselect this option if you do not wish to see objects that normally are hidden within the Win95 shell.

Show Removable Drives
Deselect this option if you do not wish to see the removable drives under "My Computer"

Show Special Objects
Deselect this option if you do not wish to see items like "Control Panel" and "Dial-up Networking" under "My Computer"

Show Separators in Root-menu
Leave this selected if you wish to make the ShellGEM items stand out more in the menu. It will put a separator before and after the item(s) in the root menu.

Explore folders instead of Open
Select this if you prefer to open explorer in a 'two-pane' view instead of the normal view.

Don't prefix Favorite items with foldername, and prefix History items with abbreviated foldername
Check this and your Favorite items will be shown using only the end target folder. They will be separated under their corresponding drives to locate them quickly.   History items will be prefixed with an abbreviated foldername. Having this option selected will make these menus much smaller. The downside is that you might in some cases not be able to see which folder the item points to exactly. This option is shown in the menu as 'Short History and Favorites'

Visible Items

Show These Items
Deselect the items you do not wish to have readily access to. They will all be displayed if you hold down the shift-key when opening the menu.

Files appearance

Sort Files by Extension
Deselect this to sort files by name.

Show Unassociated Files
Deselect this to hide files that are not associated with any program. This will in most cases make the file-menus much smaller. It also makes sense to leave this deselected since clicking a file that is not associated with a program will lead to nothing.

Indicate Files-Only Submenus

Leave this selected if you wish to be able to see which submenus contains only files. This option might 'lie' sometimes and will not show a submenu if there are no files to display - and this is affected by the option "Show Unassociated Files".

Place Files on Un-split Menu

Deselect this to always show files (not folders) tucked away neatly under a 'files item'. Check it if you wish to show the files in the same menu as the folders (skipping one item to traverse). Files will always be put under a submenu item if it is determined that the menu would "break up" due to too many objects to display.

Show ALL files in the menu, except these:

Here you can decide which files NOT to display in the menu. Just add the extension of a certain filetype (without the dot) to the list and it will not show up in the menu. This will very effectively prune the file-menu and make it a lot more manageable. Note that the option 'Show Unassociated Files' is still in effect and unknown filetypes will not be shown if this option is selected.

Show ONLY these types in the menu:

Here you can set each individual filetype you wish to display in the menu. The state of the option 'Show Unassociated Files' is ignored and only the filetypes listed here are shown in the menu.

Drag & Drop

Copy + Open Target Folder

Leave this selected if you also wish to open the folder you Copy to using ShellGEM' drag & drop menu.

Move + Open Target Folder

Leave this selected if you also wish to open the folder you Move to using ShellGEM' drag & drop menu.

Shortcut + Open Target Folder

Leave this selected if you also wish to open the folder you create shortcuts in using ShellGEM' drag & drop menu.

Extract + Open Target Folder

Leave this selected if you also wish to open the folder you Extract to using ShellGEM' drag & drop menu.

Show These Items

Deselect the items you do not wish to see/use in the drag & drop menu

Extract

Overwrite Existing Files

Leave this selected if you wish to overwrite already existing files when extracting a zip-file

Put All Files in Same Dir

Leave this selected if you wish to extract all files to the same directory even if they were compressed with directory-info.

Quiet

Select this if you don't want to see how many files was successfully extracted.

Extract To <filename> Folder

If this is selected, a new directory with the same name as the compressed file will first be created, then all files are extracted into this directory. Be a little careful if you use this feature in conjunction with the option 'Quiet' also selected. This might overwrite what already is in an existing directory.

In addition there are a few options only accessible from the ShellGEM Option window
Like, you can set where the external extraction executables are located.

A lot of caring little details are built in...
Like, the option window is opened in the 'context of your selection'. So, if you select the 'Favorites' item in the 'Extract to Folder' menu, this menu will be conveniently selected for you to edit immediately.   Also, by using threads, the first menu is generated in the background so that it pops up faster.

Registration …

Yes, your current version of ShellGEM is absolutely **FREE!**

But if you find the program useful, or you find the "Advertisement" item in the menu annoying, or you wish to pat me on the back and tell me that I have done a good job and you honor my efforts, feel free to register ShellGEM for the modest fee of $14.95. (Registered users of ShrewdEX can upgrade at no additional charge)

After registering, the "Advertisement" item conveniently disappears and makes the menu smaller and more efficient to work with.

Registrations are handled by RegSoft.COM. They offer a number of ways to register. The quickest being
Secure online registration at https://www.regsoft.com/cgi-bin/reg_it_offsite.pl?3569

US customers can also call **TOLL FREE** to place Voice Orders at **1-888-REG-IT-80**, or FAX your order to 770-497-9234. International users please make your Voice orders by calling 770-497-9126, and your FAX orders at 770-497-9234.

NOTE: When placing a Fax or Voice Order you MUST have ready the HACE ShellGEM ID number **3569**.

To see what RegSoft is all about go to:

   http://www.RegSoft.COM

More information can be found at the HACE homepage:

   http://home.c2i.net/hace

For registrations, comments, questions or suggestions, send and email to

   hace@c2i.net

Install / Uninstall …

To Install:

Run `Install.exe` to install. Afterwards you can safely delete the files you extracted.

To Uninstall:

Look for "HACE ShellGEM" in 'Add/Remove Programs' in the Control Panel.

Disclaimer …

Software always contains bugs, and this program is probably no exception. Your use of this utility is at your own risk.

Distribution …

You are free to distribute the ShellGEM zip-file, and the zip-file only, as long as it is not modified in *any* way. No files can be modified. No files can be removed. No files can be added.

Legal Stuff …

All files (but the exception mentioned below) are the sole copyright © of HACE / Eirik Hansen!

A free copy of the unzip package utilized in this program can be found at

> *carbohyd.siobc.ras.ru/torry/*
> *www.objectlessons.com/~ol/*

Info-zip offers free zip/unzip utilities. Their homepage is at

> *http://www.cdrom.com/pub/infozip/*

Permission to use the unrar dll was kindly given by Ales Berka.

Limitations …

- When you have chosen to display "Files", because there is no quick way to determine if sub-folders contains files (and especially associated files only) you might sometimes experience that a subfolder will show nothing.
- If you have not upgraded to Internet Explorer 4.0, hidden objects (files/folders) will be painted as normal. You will not get a "ghosted" (or "weak") icon.

History …

v1.36: _____

- A problem with ShellGEM reporting that it contained a virus with some virus scanners should be fixed.
- A minor resource problem taken care of.
- ShellGEM will not show up when you right click (or right-drag to) a folder displayed using UNC.

v1.35: _____

- Unfortunately, the internal rewrite to make ShellGEM compatible with different explorer replacements lead to more severe compatibility problems in other areas, so this feature has now for the time being been disabled again. And, in addition, win95 users will also loose ShellGEM on their Start menu.

v1.34: _____

- Compatibilityproblem with explorer replacements fixed (such as powerdesk by mijenix).
- Win95 users will now get ShellGEM on their start menu!
- Changed the way the program installs. It is now possible to install from within WinZip. Also, now if you install over an old version of ShellGEM you are asked to reboot the system.
- Some people reported that explorer could crash when cutting and pasting files. This should now be fixed! Big Thanks to Sue for helping with this one!
- Updated documentation

v1.3: _____

- Added more options for how to present files. You can now individually decide which filetypes to display. This is all configured in the File Appearance->Advanced tab.
- The two options added are: 'Show ALL files in the menu, except these' and 'Show ONLY these types in the menu'
- A few cosmetic improvements.
- History and Favorite items can now be shown without the preceeding pathname, making those menus much smaller.
- Option added: 'Don't prefix Favorite items....' on the General tab.
- A small 'anomaly' with how new history items were added is changed.
- More sensible default options.
- Found some 'legacy text' that has been removed.
- Help now accessible from the options window.
- Cute icons added to the config-panel. Will hopefully help in faster locating the correct tab.
- Other visual improvements to the config-panel.
- Changed the way the config-panel locates the ShellGEM dll. Fixes a few installation anomalies.
- Made even more visual enhancements to the config-panel.
- Added option 'Explore folders instead of Open'.
- Due to some compatibility problems with some explorer replacements, ShellGEM will now only work using windows explorer.

v1.23: _____

- The weird compatibility problem with win95 has finally been located as a bug in the compiler (setting the size of a structure 4 bytes to long) Geez!

v1.22: _____

- Cosmetic improvements.
- By a mistake the extract functionality was not enabled in the freeware version. It is now! Sorry about that!
- There is an experimental right-click menu available IN the menu itself. It will show the context menu for the menuitem you right click.

v1.21: _____

- When unassociated files where being displayed, only those files would be opened and not those associated with a program. Which was a major bug in the functionality.

v1.2: _____

- Can now also extract rar.archives
- Buckets and buckets of small internal and visual enhancements!
- New option added - "Place Files on Un-split Menu"   This is a new feature which lets you see files in the same menu as you see directories.
- Can now also create shortcuts in any folder.
- New option added - 'Shortcut + Open Target Folder'
- Option 'Open Target Folder on Copy' renamed to 'Copy + Open Target Folder'
- Option 'Open Target Folder on Move' renamed to 'Move + Open Target Folder'
- Option 'Open Target Folder on Extract' renamed to 'Extract + Open Target Folder'
- Can now also extract jar.archives (if JAR32.exe is correctly set in options)
- Can now also extractarjr.archives (if ARJ.exe is correctly set in options)
- Will test files with an extension of .001and try 1st to unRAR, if that fails, will try unARJ.
- Can now open unassociated files in an optional editor.
- Can now select the "Options..." item and get a window displaying all options.
- Can now select the Favorites and History items. They will show a relevant option-page where you can modify what is currently listed under each item.
- Can now also select the Help-item. ...will show this file!

- Documentation updated.
- 4 new options added that are not available in the menu, those let you specify which items you wish to appear in the drag&drop menu.
- Will now show a browse-menu if you right-click 'My Computer'...should come in handy!
- Item-names in drag&drop menu changed "Subfolder" now reads "Folder"
- New option added - 'Extract To <filename> Folder'
- The Options submenu has been redesigned to be more accessible.
- 4 new menu option-items added that allow you to decide which items to display in the drag & drop menu
- Name of the program changed from ShrewdEX to ShellGEM...never really liked the ring of 'ShrewdEX'

v1.1: _____

- New option added - "Put All Files in Same Dir"
- New option added - "Indicate Files-Only Submenus"
- A small problem with "Extract Here" fixed. Wouldn't let you extract if the target folder had no subfolders.
- Changed the name of some options.
- Will now tell you if a folder contains no objects instead of showing you nothing.
- If you had the option on in explorer "Hide extention of registered filetypes" on, ShellGEM would only display shortcuts under the "Files" item. Fixed!
- To much emphasis was put on making the program working with IE4 which led to the explorer crashing when right clicking the start-button for people that hadn't installed the Desktop Update of IE4. (Now repeat that :)

v1.0 final: _____

- A resource was not correctly done away with. Would slowly eat up resources and could lead to system-crashes after a whiles use.
- Introduced the File-item - lists all the files (not folders) in a directory.
- More options available.
- All options now work.
- Faster!   Menus will be generated and pop up more quickly.
- Unzip feature implemented!
- A few anomalies taken care of.
- Some minor visual enhancements.
- Could occasionally crash after heavy use due to a resource incorrectly removed.
- 2 New options added related to extracting files.
- Wasted time Implementing a registration system (whew!)
- New item - Extract Here
- Documentation updated.

The betas: _____

- A few options are implemented.
- Favorites completed.
- A few 'anomalies' removed.
- Documentation updated.
- A few subtle graphix enhancements.
- More tips.
- Found an unexpected memory-leak. Plugged!
- Removed something coded in an earlier beta that got the initial menu to display a little slowly.
- Fixed a serious installation problem. Would on some machines not install.
- You can also see the contours of a "Favorites" menu...
- Fixed: Would not install from rootdirectory
- More robust.
- A few "anomalies" removed. (eg. cannot copy or move drives now)
- Will look prettier under a normal windows setup.
- A few more items found under "My Computer"
- Bug. Could crash when the directory clicked at (for shortcuts) didn't exist...
- Bug: Could still crash if a drive (most often a:) had no subfolders.
- A few bugs removed.
- You are now presented with a menu even if the folder you click has no subfolders.
- Documentation updated.
- A few bugs removed.
- Documentation updated.
- Initial release.