Bash and zenity

- zenity: gui program that accepts command line arguments specifying what kind of gui element to pop up
- typical gui elements supported: file browser, text boxes, radio buttons, clock, calendar, etc
- zenity pop-up interacts with user, then prints results of the interaction to stdout
- useful in bash script: we call zenity with right arguments and capture output with $( ), process results in the script

File-chooser example

- Generate pop-up to let user browse-for and select a file, store result in variable fileChoice (defaults to /bin/bash):

```
fileChoice=$(zenity --file-selection \
                --title="Please pick a file" \
                --filename="/bin/bash" \
                --text="This will be your test file");
```

Calendar example

- Generate pop-up to let user select a date, then store result in variable dateChoice:

```
dateChoice=$(zenity --calendar \
            --title="Example 7: Select a date" \
            --text="click on the date you choose" \
            --day=31 --month=12 --year=1999
        );
```

Mix with bash commands

- Useful for error prevention (i.e. better than text boxes for things like times, dates, file selection etc)

- Can still do regular stdin/stdout interaction

- Sequential by nature: pop-ups appear/disappear as the script runs, lacks a consistent graphical interface where user chooses different menus/options to interact with over time