Here is the problem that I am trying to solve.

I have a speedometer program, speedometer.py, written in python on a raspberry pi, using pygame for the graphic display. If I run the program in full screen mode there Is no way to exit it to make changes. I have another version that is in non-full screen mode named speedometerx.py.

When the system is powered up, I would like the startup:

1- Ask the operator to press the x key to launch the non-full screen version.
2- If the operator enters x, launch the ***speedometerx.py*** program
3- Time out after 5 seconds if there is no response from the operator and launch the ***speedometer.py*** program

I tried the Linux read command, because it has a time out function.
But it is launched in a non-interactive terminal.

When the system is powered up, I use the following procedure to automatically launch the python program.

There is file name ***.desktop*** in the folder **/home/pi/.config/autostart**
The file contains the following three lines:

```
[Desktop Entry]
Type = Application
Exec = lxterminal -e ./autoexec.sh
```

The ***autoexec.sh*** is a Linux shell script in the ***/home/pi folder***.
The ***autoexec.sh*** shell script contains the following two lines:

```
cd  speedometer
python speedometer.py
```

Here is the script I tried:

```
a=x

 read -n 1 -t 5 -p "Enter x to run non-full screen version :"

if [ “$a ==  $REPLY”]    # spacing is important

then

  echo

  echo " Launch alternate version."

else

  echo " Launch full screen version "

echo $REPLY

echo "END OF FILE"

fi
```

This script works if I manually launch it in a terminal It does not work on power up!