

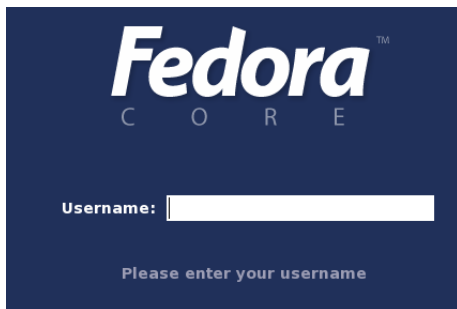
Exercise 1: Getting started with Linux – GNOME, KDE and Window Maker

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1 Starting and stopping Linux

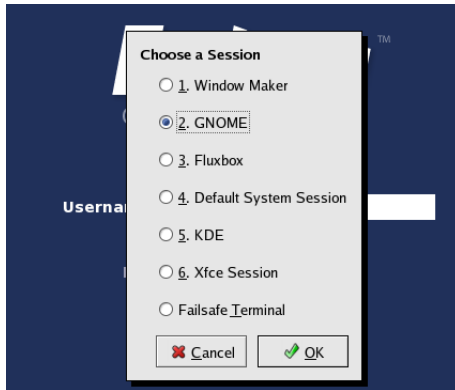
- When the computer is turned on or rebooted, after a short while, you will see a boot menu where you can choose between Linux (Fedora) and Windows. Select Linux with the arrow keys and press enter.
- Wait a few minutes, until a graphical login box is displayed.



- You can reboot (restart) or halt (shut down) the system by clicking the "Reboot" or the "Shutdown" button at the bottom of this login screen (not in the picture). Try rebooting. Select Linux when you get to the boot menu, as described above.

2 Login

- In the "Session" menu at the bottom of the login screen, you can choose between the different desktop environments: GNOME, Window Maker, KDE, XFCE and Fluxbox. The default here at ITU used to be KDE, but since that can very slow on older hardware and under a certain network conditions, we now also recommend the competing GNOME desktop, as well as the faster Window Maker environment. You can also choose to run Fluxbox or XFCE, but then you're own your own regarding support.





- For this exercise, set your session type to "GNOME".
- Type your user name in the "Username" text field in the login box and press "Enter". The text "Username" changes to "Password". Now, type your password in the text field, and press enter again. *Note:* Your password to Linux is your UNIX password (the same as your email password), not your Windows password.

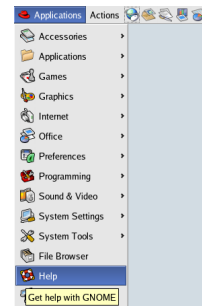
3 GNOME

In front of you is now a desktop with some icons on it, and at the top there is a panel.

3.1 The GNOME-menu

The "Red Hat" button furthest to the left  in the panel opens a menu, the GNOME-menu, where you can start applications.

Open the Nautilus file browser  File Browser item in the GNOME-menu.



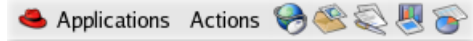
- The Nautilus file browser will start in your home directory, and you should recognize your own files in the main window.
- Create a new directory (use the "File" menu). Copy some file to the new directory you just made.
- Click at the "Computer" icon in the top panel of Nautilus, and double click the "File System" icon that appears in the main window.

Now find the ITU network drives you know from Windows as "S:\", "T:\" and "W:\". On Linux, these are called "/import/stud/share", "/import/temp" and "/import/stud/www".

- Find your way back to your home directory (/import/home/username).

3.2 The GNOME-panel


The panel at the top of the screen is the GNOME-panel.



The icons are: Firefox web browser, Thunderbird Email, OpenOffice Writer, OpenOffice Impress and OpenOffice Calc. Try starting a few applications.

3.3 Virtual desktops

On the computer, just like in real life, you would sometimes like more space on your desktop than you have. With many windows on top of each other, it can be difficult to keep order. With GNOME you can have multiple desktops you can switch between.

- In the lower right corner of the screen, find the GNOME pager:  Click on a virtual desktop in the pager to go there.
- You can move a window to a different desktop by dragging the little window representing the application, between the workspaces in the pager.

3.4 Changing your GNOME Settings

You can change your GNOME settings in the Preferences menu. Try changing your desktop background.


3.5 Logging out

You can log out by selecting "Logout" in the Actions menu.

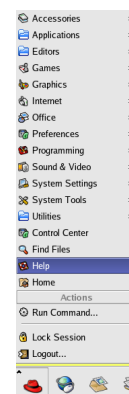
4 KDE


Now log in to KDE. It might take some time, especially the first time. In front of you is a desktop with some icons on it, and at the top there is a panel.

4.1 The KDE-menu


The "Red Hat" button furthest to the left  in the panel opens a menu, the KDE-menu, where you can start applications.

We will look at two applications: Konqueror (the KDE file browser) and the KDE control center.



1. Open the Konqueror File Manager it by clicking on the  Home item in the KDE-menu.

- The Konqueror file manager will start in your home directory, and you should recognize your own files in the main window.
- Create a new directory (use the "Edit" menu). Copy some file to the new directory you just made.
- Click at the red "Root Folder" icon in the left side of the file manager.
Now find the ITU network drives you know from Windows as "S:\", "T:\", and "W:\". On Linux, these are called "/import/stud/share", "/import/temp" and "/import/stud/www".
- Find your way back to your home directory (/import/home/username).

2. The second application we want to look at is the KDE Control Center. Click the  Control Center menu item to start it.

- Change your desktop background to a color or a wallpaper you like. Hint: You have to set "no picture" before you setting a background color takes effect.
- Browse the KDE Control Center and try out a few more settings you can change.

4.2 The KDE-panel


The panel at the bottom of the screen is the KDE-panel.



The icons are: Firefox web browser, Thunderbird Email, OpenOffice Writer, OpenOffice Impress and OpenOffice Calc. Try starting a few applications.

4.3 Virtual desktops

On the computer, just like in real life, you would sometimes like more space on your desktop than you have. With many windows on top of each other, it can be difficult to keep order. With KDE you can have up to 20 desktops you can switch between. The default is 4.

- In your KDE-panel, find this field: 
Click number 2 to go to your second desktop, number 3 to go to the third, and number 4 to go to the forth. You can also use ctrl+F1 to go to virtual desktop number one, ctrl+F2 for number two, etc. Or switch between them with ctrl+tab.
- You can move a window to a different desktop by right clicking on it's title bar and selecting "To desktop" in the menu that appears.

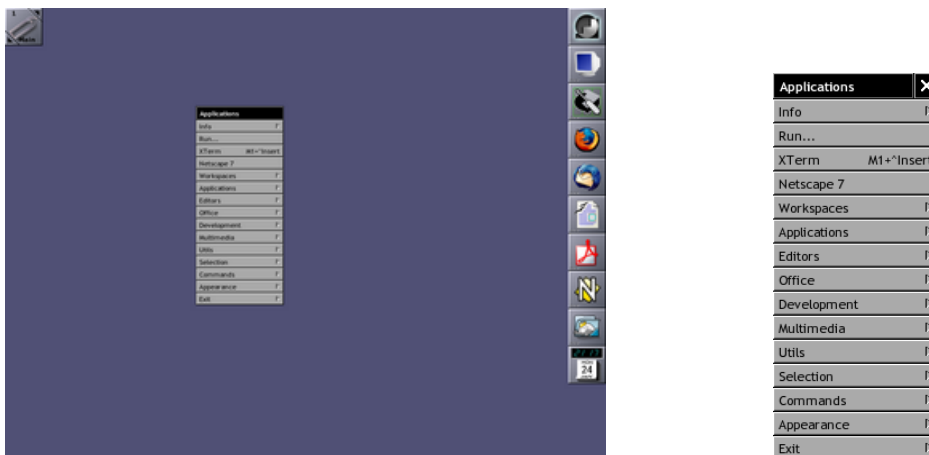
4.4 Logging out

You can log out by selecting "Logout" in the KDE-menu, or by right-clicking on the desktop and selecting "Logout" in the menu that appears.

5 Window Maker

This time, set your login session to Window Maker.

Now you will reach a desktop with some icons to the right. If you right click (click with the right mouse button) on the canvas, you will see a menu, from which you can start applications.



You can log out via the Applications menu → Exit → Exit. *Note:* Selecting "Restart" in the "Exit menu" does not restart the computer, only the window manager.

5.1 The Applications Menu

- Right click on the desktop, or press "F12", and browse through the Applications menu.
- Can you find Rox File Manager? Can you find BlueJ?
- In "Appearance", you can change the desktop background, theme, style etc. Set the desktop background to a color or wallpaper you like.


5.2 Starting applications from the Dock

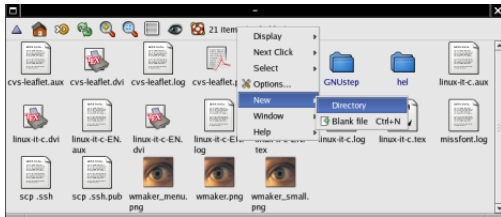
The vertical panel at the right side of the screen is the dock.

The icons are: The Dock button, Xterm, WPrefs, Firefox, Tunderbird, OpenOffice Writer, Acrobat Reader, Nedit, Rox File Manager, Wmclock.

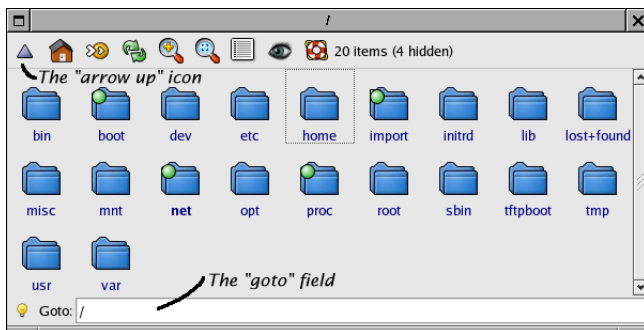
We will look at two applications: The Window Maker Preferences Utility, and the Rox File Manager.





- To open the Rox File Manager, double-click on the Rox icon  in the Window maker dock.
- Rox File Manager will start in your home directory, and you should recognize your own files in the main window.
- By right-clicking in the file manager, you get a menu:



- Create a new directory from the menu (New → Directory). Copy some file to the new directory you just made. You can copy files either by selecting the file, selecting "Copy" in the right click menu, and typing the destination path, or (perhaps easier) by opening a second Rox windows and using "drag and drop".
- Click at the "Arrow up" icon in the left side of the file Rox panel, to go up one directory. Do this until you get to the "/" directory. Or, select "Window → Enter Path", and press "backspace" a number of times in the "goto" field which appear at the bottom of the Rox Window.





Now find the ITU network drives you know from Windows as "S:\", "T:\" and "W:\". On Linux, these are called "/import/stud/share", "/import/temp" and "/import/stud/www".

- Find your way back to your home directory (/import/home/username). Tip: the "house" icon  brings you right home.
- The second application we want to look at is the Window Maker Preferences Utility (WPrefs). Double Click on the  icon to start it.

- You can select the different settings tabs by clicking the icons at the top of the window.



- Change a setting, click "Save", and see it take effect. Ex: Change the input focus mode.
- You can also add keyboard shortcuts in the WPrefs tool. Click the  icon to see and change the default shortcuts, e.g. "F12" to open the applications menu. To change a shortcut, click "capture" and then press the key (or key combination) you want.
- To set up shortcuts to start applications, the application must be in the menu. Click the  icon to edit the menu and the applications shortcuts. A "copy" of the menu shows up outside the WPrefs windows. Click on the application you want to make a shortcut to, e.g. "Applications → Rox File Manager". Now you can add a shortcut the same way as described above.
- You can add a new application to the menu by dragging "Run Program" to the menu. This will create a new entry in the menu. Now select the new entry, and edit it to start the correct program.

5.3 Workspaces

On the computer, just like in real life, you would sometimes like more space on your desktop than you have. With many windows on top of each other, it can be difficult to keep order. Window Maker at ITU is configured to have 4 workspaces (also know as virtual desktops). You can add more workspaces yourself from the Applications menu: "Workspaces → New".

- To go to the next workspace, click the arrow in the upper right corner of the clip.

The clip is the icon in the upper left corner of the screen:



The upper right arrow moves one workspace forward, the lower left arrow moves one workspace back.

- You can also move between the workspaces with the keyboard shortcuts: ALT + 1 for workspace 1, ALT + 2 for workspace 2, etc.
- You can move a window to a different desktop by right clicking on it's title bar and selecting "Move to" in the menu that appears.

5.4 Adding applications to the dock


- Start an application which is not already in the dock, e.g. "Info → System Load". An icon will appear in the lower left corner. Drag it with the mouse to the bottom of the dock, and exit the "Xload" program. Now you can start the program by dubble clicking the docked icon.
- You can edit the properties of the docked application, e.g. which icon should be displayed, and which command is used to start the program, by right clicking the

icon and selecting "settings". You can also edit some properties by right clicking the title bar of the window while the application is running, and selecting "Attributes" in the menu.

- To remove a docked application just drag it to the middle of the desktop and release it, and it will disappear. To avoid doing this by accident, check the "Lock (prevent accidental removal)" in the docked icon's settings.
- You can dock applications to the clip, in the left side of the screen. Applications docked to the clip are only showed in the workspace where you dock it. The "global" dock on the right is visible in all workspaces.

6 Setting your default desktop

Open a terminal window. KDE/GNOME: Red Hat Menu → System Tools → Terminal.

Window Maker: Double click the  icon. Type the command

```
switchdesk <desktopname>
```

and press "Enter". Now you get your chosen desktop by default every time you log in.

To set your default desktop to

GNOME `switchdesk GNOME`

KDE `switchdesk KDE`

Window Maker `switchdesk WindowMaker`

References

[1] Peter Toft *Linux - Friheden til at vælge*. <http://www.linuxbog.dk>

[2] *The LinuxLab web page*. <http://linuxlab.dk>

[3] *The GNOME home page* <http://gnome.org>

[4] *The KDE home page*. <http://www.kde.org>

[5] *The Window Maker home page*. <http://www.windowmaker.org>