KDE

As An Interface for Linux End-Users

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What is KDE?

KDE is a powerful graphical desktop environment for Unix workstations. It combines ease of use, contemporary functionality and outstanding graphical design with the technological superiority of the Unix operating

system.

--www.kde.org

KDE Offerings

- KDE 1.1.2 is stable

- KDE 2.0 is beta

- KOffice

  ○ KWord

  ○ KSpread

  ○ KPresenter

  ○ KIllustrator

  ○ etc...

What the User Gets From KDE

- Contemporary Desktop Metaphor GUI

- Desktop with Network Transarency

- Integrated Help System

- Consistent Look and Feel

- Standardized Menu

and Toolbars, Keybindings, Color-Schemes, etc

- Support for More Than 25 Languages

- Extensive Configuration Options

- Numerous Applications

Most of this information from www.kde.org/whatiskde/proj.html

The User's Parts of KDE

- Panel and Taskbar

- Menus

- File Manager and Disk Navigator

[A snapshot of a simple KDE configuration (on Linux-Mandrake 6.2)](#)

KPanel

- ## Desktop selection

- ## Application shortcuts

- ## Date and Time

- ## Customizable - add or remove apps from the panel

- ## Retractable

- ## Taskbar is a sub-application of the

panel

The KPanel Configuration File

The default kpanelrc file is held in /usr/share/config. This file can be edited to give a system wide panel configuration for all users to start with.

Other characteristics are found in /usr/share/apps/kpanel/

KDE as an Interface for Linux End-Users

KDE Menu System

- System wide menu space on first level of menu

- Other apps (including X and gnome apps) run in user-configurable level

- [Graphical menu editor](#)

- [User-configurable menu is in directory structure under $HOME/.kde/share/applnk](#)

- System-wide configuration is in /usr/share/applnk

- .directory files specify the directory name in various languages, list the order for the links in the menu level

KDE File Manager

- Similar to Windows 98 version of Explorer

- System wide configuration is /usr/share/config/kfmrc

  o Configures default directories for Desktop, Autostart, Trash, Templates

○ Specifies icons for known file types in the system

- User file holds information about KDE installation

- Companion program is KDisknav, which naviagates the entire filesystem, and <u>can be added to the panel</u>

KDisknav

- System configuration in /usr/share/apps/kdisknav

- Holds control files for CD-ROM, Root, and KDE install directories

- Changing permissions to 700 on the files causes a space, label, and icon to appear on the user's kdisknav, but no second-layer menu

- Removing the files takes them out of the user's menu

- User configuration is in $HOME/.kde/share/apps/kdisknav

- Contains control files for the user's $HOME and Desktop directories

Deploying KDE

- Configuration files can be tarred up for transfer to network-wide systems to baseline user interfaces

- Menus can be customized on a per-system basis to give users easy access to apps they use most

- User gets a new $HOME/.kde/ directory when logging into a new system

- Corrupt configurations can simply be deleted from users' $HOME

Advantages to the End-User

- Has Microsoft Windows-like look and feel, stability of Linux

- Eliminates the scary command line for most end-users

- Extensive group of applications packaged in

- # More than just Freecell and Minesweeper in the GAMES directory

KDE Annoyances

- High memory usage (compared to command line)

- Styles lean toward big and bulky

- May do strange things to palette with low color depth machines

KDE v. Gnome

Flame war.

For More Information

www.kde.org has an extensive collection of the work being done on KDE, the people involved, and sites to visit for themes, applications, help, ideas, etc.