

The Kicker Handbook

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The Kicker Handbook

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Abstract

Kicker is the KDE application starter panel and is also capable of some useful applets and extensions. It usually resides on the bottom of the desktop.

Chapter 1

Introduction

Kicker is the application launcher panel of the K Desktop Environment. Besides the K Menu, where you can start applications, Kicker is also capable of running docked applets like the pager, the taskbar or the clock, and extensions, such as child panels.

Kicker usually resides on the bottom of the desktop, but it can also be moved to any other border. Please report any problems or feature requests to the KDE mailing lists.

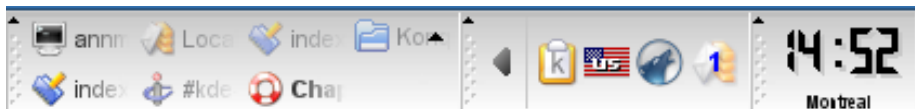
Chapter 2

Using Kicker

This is what you see on a freshly installed KDE, assuming that you skipped KPersonalizer. If you are using lower resolution, some of the icons may not appear immediately. To cater for those smaller resolutions, the screenshot below is divided in two parts.



This is a screenshot of the left side of Kicker



This is the right side of Kicker

Of course, this is only one way Kicker might appear on the screen. There are many more configurations available.

2.1 A quick tour for new KDE users

If you are experienced with this kind of application launcher, you can ignore this chapter and move on to [Kicker basics](#).

The main use of Kicker is starting applications. This is done by clicking icons, either from the panel or from the K Menu. Kicker shows some more things too, so let's see.

Having a look at the screenshots above, there are from left to right:

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The K Menu It is used for launching applications and some other useful things. Refer to [The K Menu](#) for more information.

Application start icons Here are some icons of commonly used applications. They can be moved and removed and others can be added. Some of them have a special meaning, which you can read more about in [Kicker basics](#). Resting the mouse over an icon without clicking shows the name and a short description of that application, if you have set that in the [Settings Dialog](#).

The Pager applet This displays a small view of the virtual desktops. Clicking one section of it will activate that desktop. Please refer to [Applets](#).

The Taskbar All running applications are displayed as buttons in the taskbar. Clicking an application's button will bring this application on top. If it was on top before, it will be iconified. More information is available in the [Applets](#) section.

System Tray The system tray is able to swallow some kind of applications like - in this case - Klipper and the KOrganizer Reminder Daemon. There are many other applications that dock in the system tray, for example JuK and Kopete. Clicking the icons with the left or the right mousebutton performs specific actions defined for each application.

Clock The Clock applet is - of course - a small, useful clock. It can have various styles, have a look at the [applets](#) section for more information.

The Hide panel button This button lets you fade out Kicker for having more space on the screen. When Kicker is faded out, only the Hide panel button will remain in order to fade in Kicker again.

This was only the description of Kicker on its initial launch. It can be configured in many ways and styles and more applets can be added. There are even some extensions like the external taskbar you can add. See [Kicker basics](#), [Applets](#) and [Extensions](#) for more information.

Chapter 3

Kicker basics

3.1 General usage

As mentioned before, there are a lot of things that can be added to Kicker. This section will tell you everything about application starting, folder browsing and adding some kinds of applets and extensions. Lots of things can be done from the context menu with `Configure Panel...` or via the KDE Control Center's section `Desktop → Panels`.

3.1.1 Adding applications

There are three different ways to add an application to Kicker:

Drag and Drop Simply drag any file from Konqueror into Kicker and it's there. Dragging also works from the K Menu with any entry. You can change the attributes like optional command line parameters or the icon by clicking it with the right mouse button and choosing `Configure applicationname Button...` from the context menu.

Using the context menu to add a KDE application Click the right mouse button on any free space in Kicker and choose `Add Application to Panel`. There you can choose an application which will then be added to Kicker.

Using the context menu to add a non-KDE-application Non-KDE-applications e.g. `xosview` or `xemacs`.

Click the right mouse button on any free space in Kicker and choose `Add Application to Panel` and then `Add Non-KDE Application`. In the newly appearing window, enter `Button title` and a `Description` of the application in the first two text boxes. Then fill in the command of the application you wish to add in the `Executable:` text box. You can also append command line arguments, have the application start from a terminal, and choose

the icon which will appear in Kicker by clicking the gear. If you don't choose an icon, the application will use the gear as a default.

Applications can be moved or removed by right mouse button click and choosing Move *application name* Button or Remove *application name* Button. You can also move icons using the middle mouse button if you have one. To do this click on an icon using the middle mouse button, hold for a second and then drag the icon to its new position. Another way to remove an application is by clicking the right mouse button on any free space and then choosing Remove from Panel → Application and then the application you want to be removed.

3.1.2 Adding Folders

Folders can be added by simply dragging a folder to any free space of Kicker. Quick Browsers can also be added from the context menu or the K Menu.

There are two different ways to have a folder in Kicker, you can choose between them in the menu appearing after dropping.

Add as File Manager URL Choosing this will add a link to the selected folder. Clicking this folder icon will open Konqueror displaying the contents of this folder.

Add as Quick Browser If you add a folder this way, it will be displayed as a submenu of Kicker. This submenu contains Open in File Manager, which does the same as a file manager URL, and Open in Terminal, which opens a terminal with this folder as the working path. Also, this submenu contains the contents of that folder. Sub-folders are displayed as new sub-menus like the Quick Browser itself. The maximum number of displayed elements can be set in the [Settings Dialog](#). Quick Browsers can also be added from the context menu of Kicker and then choosing Add Applet to Panel... and then Special Buttons on the right top of the Add Applet dialog.

Both kinds of folders can be moved or removed by right mouse button click and choosing Move *application name* Button or Remove *application name* Button. You can also move icons using the middle mouse button if you have one. To do this click on an icon using the middle mouse button, hold for a second and then drag the icon to its new position. Another way to remove a folder is by clicking the right mouse button on any free space and then choosing Remove from Panel → Applet and then the applet you want to be removed.

File manager URLs can also be configured from the context menu, just like any other folder anywhere in KDE.

3.1.3 Special Icons

Some icons in Kicker have a special meaning. They are added by choosing Add Applet to Panel... and then Special Buttons on the right top of the Add Applet dialog.



The K Menu Icon The K Menu icon is one of the most necessary icons in Kicker. As you might guess, it opens the K Menu, which you can learn more about in [The K Menu](#).



The Window List Menu Clicking this icon will show the Window list. Its first entry, Unclutter Windows, tries to move the windows on your active desktop in a way to see as many as possible.

Cascade Windows puts all windows on the active desktop over each others, the most recently on top and the others sorted by the time they were last used.

Below those entries is a list of all currently running applications, grouped by the desktops on which they are running. Clicking on an application will activate it.



The Bookmarks Menu The Bookmarks icon provides fast access to your bookmarks. They appear in the same way as if you click the Bookmarks menu in Konqueror. Clicking a bookmark in the menu will launch Konqueror with the URL which is behind that bookmark.



The Recent Documents Icon This menu shows the most recently used documents. Clicking the element Clear History will remove those entries, which may be useful for privacy reasons.



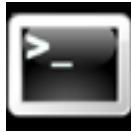
The Show Access Icon The Show desktop icon lets you have quick access to all the things you have on your desktop by minimizing all currently open applications. Clicking it once will toggle it to show

the desktop. The icon will remain pressed until you either click it again, which will restore your minimized apps, or reactivate an application from the taskbar.



The Quick File Browser Item Adding a Browse icon will open a dialog which will let you choose a path and an icon, which will appear as a Quick File Browser menu. Refer to the [Adding Folders](#) section for more information about quick browsers.

The Non-KDE Application Launcher The Non-KDE Application Launcher lets you add an application which doesn't appear in the K menu to Kicker. Refer to [Adding Applications](#) for more information about Non-KDE Applications.



The Terminal Sessions Icon This icon provides a menu of the available Terminal sessions, just as Konsole does when you click and hold its New Session button.



The Print System Icon This icon gives direct access to KDE's printing system. KDE is able to utilize various printing systems according to users' wishes. The options shown below will vary depending on the printing system in use. Clicking the left mouse button on the icon opens a menu which gives the following options:

- Add Printer... This will start KDE's Add Printer Wizard which allows you to simply add a new printer to your system.
- KDE Print Settings This item will open the KDE Print Configuration dialog.
- Configure Server This item allows configuration of a CUPS Server. An authorization dialog, requiring validation, will be presented to you before allowing any changes.
- Print Manager This item starts the Printing Manager, KDE's main printing control center.
- Print Browser (Konqueror) This item will start Konqueror with the `print:/io-slave` to browse all kinds of printers.
- Print File... This item opens a dialog which lets you easily print one or more files.
- The next items with the names of all your printers open the KJobviewer window for each printer.

3.1.4 Removing all kinds of icons

Clicking the right mouse button on any icon, whether it's an application, folder or special icon and then choosing `Remove name` from the appearing context menu will remove the icon from Kicker.

Another way of removing icons is clicking the right mouse button on any free space in Kicker and choosing `Remove From Panel` and then `Applet`, `Application` or `All`. You can then choose the button you want to remove in the submenu.

NOTE

Please note that removing an icon from Kicker won't remove the application on the disk!

3.1.5 Adding Applets

Kicker comes with a set of applets like the taskbar or the mini-pager. They can be added by choosing `Add Applet to Panel...` from the context menu, which can be opened by clicking the right mouse button on any free space in Kicker. In the upcoming dialog, choose an applet to add and click the `Add to Panel` button.

Applets can be moved by dragging them on their handle with holding the left mouse button, or the middle mouse button, or by choosing `Move` from the context menu.

You can learn more about the applets in the section [Applets](#).

3.1.6 Removing Applets

Applets can be removed by choosing the `Remove applet name` option from the context menu, which appears when the right mouse button is clicked on the applet's handle (left or top side of the applet) or on the icon itself.

3.1.7 Adding Extensions

There is also the possibility to add external extensions to Kicker, like the External Taskbar, the Dock Application Bar for WindowMaker dock-applications, Kasbar, an iconic kind of taskbar, an Universal Sidebar and even child Panels which behave like new instances of Kicker.

Extensions can be added by selecting them from the submenu `Add New Panel` in the context menu of Kicker. Most of the extensions can be moved to any border of the screen by dragging them with the left mouse button on a free space. If that does not work, open the context menu on any free space in Kicker, choose `Configure Panel...` and set up the panel positions in the appearing dialog.

More about extensions can be read in the [extensions](#) section.

3.1.8 Removing Extensions

You can remove extensions by clicking Remove in their context menu, usually located in the fade-out handles or by selecting them from the Remove Panel submenu of the Kicker context menu.

3.2 Configuring Application Buttons

Every application starter has some preferences you can set from their context menu with Configure *application name*Button.... Usually applications and folders have the same preferences as in Konqueror. Only the applications which are located in the K Menu (for experienced users: those which have a .desktop extension in the applnk folder) have a special kind of config dialog.

3.2.1 The General Tab

Here you can see some information about the application link. You can also choose an icon by clicking on the icon button . This may be useful if you want the icon on the panel behave different to the analog one in the K Menu.

3.2.2 The Permissions Tab

Here you can see the permissions of the link file. Please refer to the manuals or handbooks of your operating system for more about permissions.

3.2.3 The Application Tab

You can set the behavior of the application when it's executed on this page.

Name Here you can set the name of the application which will be shown in the tooltip.

Description Here you can set an informative title which will be shown in the tooltip.

NOTE

Once the Description is set however, it alone will be shown in the tooltip.

Comment See Description.

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NOTE

If you set a Name and a Comment, they will be shown as tooltips of the start icons in the style 'Name - Comment'.

Command Usually, there is only the name of the binary that has to be started when clicking on the icon. You can search for another application to be started by clicking the Browse... button and/or add special command line parameters to the application.

Work path Not yet written

Supported file types: In this section you can choose what kinds of filetypes are handled by this application. Please refer to Konqueror handbook for more about this.

Advanced Options This button allows for further configuration of the application to be run.

Run in terminal If this box is checked, the application will be executed in a terminal window. You can also add special Terminal options.

Run as different user Checking this option will let the application start with the permission of the user you typed in the field Username. You will be prompted for the user's password on application start. This option may be very useful if you want to start some applications as superuser.

Enable launch feedback If this box is checked, this will display feedback when an application icon is clicked with the left mouse button.

Place in system tray When checked, the application's icon will show up in the panel system tray. You will then be able to hide or show the application by clicking on the system tray icon. Clicking on it using the right mouse button will allow also you to undock, or quit the application.

DCOP registration Not yet written

Chapter 4

Configuring Kicker

This section describes the ways Kicker can be configured. It's only about the basic Kicker settings, configuration of the applets are described in their [sections](#)

You can change the settings by either clicking Configure Panel... in the context menu of Kicker, or in KDE Control Center by going to Desktop and then selecting the Panels or the Taskbar module.

4.1 The Panel Section

4.1.1 Extensions

Panels and panel [extensions](#) are configured on the same page. Simply choose one of your extensions (e.g. Child Panel) from the Settings for: listbox. You will then be adjust its settings rather than that of the Main Panel.

4.1.2 Arrangement

In the Arrangement tab you can configure some basic functionality of the KDE panel (i.e. functionality you'd find in other panel applications as well; later we'll come to the more interesting features).

In the Position frame you can choose which screen border the panel should be attached to. Please note that usually the available space is used more efficiently if the panel is aligned horizontally, i.e. attached to the top or bottom screen border. If you want to play around with different settings you can change the panel's position even easier by dragging the panel from one border to the other.

The Length frame lets you define how much space a panel will occupy on the side of the screen which it resides. By default this is on the bottom so changing this value will affect a panel's width. The value can be anywhere from 1% to

100%. Checking the check box Expand as required to fit contents makes sure that a panel is at least as big as needed to show every icon and applet.

The Size frame lets you define how large a panel will be. The panel's size can be tiny, small, medium, large or custom. Depending on which applets you use you may find that some applets work better at different panel sizes.

4.1.3 Hiding

Depending on your screen resolution you may find that the panel takes away too much of your precious screen real estate. To save screen space, the panel offers an auto hide feature. When this feature is enabled, the panel will hide when the mouse cursor has not been moved over it for a configurable amount of time. If you move the mouse to the panel's screen border it will show up again. Select the Hide automatically option in the Hide Mode frame to enable this feature. You can also configure the amount of time the panel will wait before it hides here. The check box Show panel when switching desktops makes sure that the panel will be shown on the new chosen desktop. Otherwise, if there are too many applets and icons on Kicker, two small scroll buttons will be displayed to scroll the whole panel.

When the panel's hide buttons are enabled you'll see buttons on both sides of the panel, with arrows showing to the screen border. If you click on one of these buttons, the panel will slide away in that direction. After that, you'll see a remaining show button in that corner, which will make the panel show again. Check the appropriate checkbox if you want the hide buttons to show up on any side of Kicker. Using the slider you can change the width of the buttons.

You can toggle which hide buttons the chosen panel should have with the check boxes in the group Panel-Hiding Buttons.

The Panel Animation frame allows you to choose whether the panel will softly slide away or just disappear. Checking the Animate panel hiding will allow you to configure the speed of the animation using the sliders. Unchecking, naturally, disables the panel animations.

4.1.4 Menus

In the Menus tab you can configure the panel menu's behavior. This affects the K menu you will often use to launch applications, the browser menus you can use to access folders and other menus like the recent documents menu.

The K Menu frame offers you some options to configure the K menu's functionality. The Bookmarks and Recent Documents options will enable submenus showing your konqueror bookmarks and the last documents you've opened using KDE applications respectively. The Quick Browser option will enable a browser menu. Enabling the Show side image check box will display a neat image on the left side of the K menu. The Menu item format entry allows you to set how detailed the K menu entries will be. The Name only option simply shows the application's name in the menu. The Name (Description) option will

show a small description besides the name of the application. The Description (Name) and Name (Description) options will show both name and description in the KMenu.

In the QuickBrowser Menus frame you can configure whether the panel's browser menus will show hidden files or not (hidden files on UNIX® systems are those whose filenames begin with a dot) as well as how many files at most will be shown in a browser menu; the latter option may be especially useful if you have a rather small screen resolution, as the browser menus would otherwise quickly fill up your screen when you browse folders containing many files.

The quick start section in the K menu offers quick access to programs you have used often or recently. In the QuickStart Menu Items frame you can choose whether this section will show the most recently or the most frequently used programs. Using the option Maximum number of entries you can configure how many programs the quick start section will remember.

4.1.5 Appearance

Using the Appearance tab you can configure the panel's overall appearance.

The check box Enable icon mouseover effects toggles the large animated tooltips of Kicker. They show name and description of the icons and applets the mousepointer is positioned on.

If Show tooltips is checked, the classical small tooltips with descriptions of the icons and applets will be shown if the mousepointer rests over an icon for some seconds. Note that this has no effect as long as the option to Enable icon mouseover effects is enabled.

The KDE panel supports so-called 'tiled buttons'. This means that the buttons shown on the panel will be drawn using configurable images/colors.

For every kind of panel button there is a combo box offering a custom color option and tiled images. When the value is changed from "Default", tiles are enabled for this kind of button. You can also see a preview of a tile before use via the combo box.

The different kinds of buttons are:

K Menu tiles The icon for the K Menu will be displayed as a tile

Applications tiles The icons which start applications will be displayed as tiles

Desktop access tiles The Desktop Access icon will be displayed as a tile

QuickBrowser menus Tiles The icons for Quickbrowsers will be displayed as tiles

Window list Tiles The Window List icon will be displayed as a tile

The Enable transparency option, when checked, allows the panel to appear transparent.

The background image is a picture that will be used to draw the panel's background, just like you can use a picture for the desktop background. Check the Enable background image option to enable this feature. You can specify an image file in the edit box below or choose one by clicking on the Open file dialog button. You may also check the Colorize to match the desktop color scheme box to modify the background image's colors. You'll see a preview of the selected picture on the right.

4.2 The Taskbar Section

This section changes the settings of the taskbar. Changes affect the external taskbar and also taskbar applets on Kicker or child-panels.

Show windows from all desktops If this box is checked, the taskbar will show all running apps of every desktop. Otherwise, only the applications of the current desktop are shown.

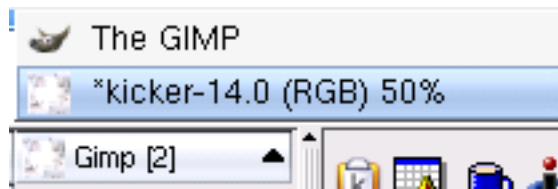
Sort windows by desktop Checking this box will sort all taskbar buttons in a group for each desktop, otherwise they are sorted by the order they are started. This will not affect grouped tasks if they are spread over more than one desktop.

Sort alphabetically by window name To be written

Show only minimized windows If this box is checked, only windows which have been minimized will be shown in the taskbar. If Show windows from all desktops has been checked then all minimized windows will be shown. Otherwise, only the minimized windows of the current virtual desktop will be shown.

Show application icons If this box is checked, every taskbar button will have the icon of the running application beside its title.

Show window list button Checking this box will show the small window list button.



Group similar tasks

This is an option which helps you if you often lack space in your taskbar. If it is set to Always, several instances of the same application are grouped together in one taskbar button. Select When Taskbar Full to make Kicker only group similar tasks if there is not much space left in the taskbar.

You can define the mouse actions of the taskbar buttons with the settings in the Actions frame. Each action can be one of the following:

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Show Task List Clicking with the mouse button will open a menu displaying all tasks in that group. If you click an entry of that menu with any mouse button, the corresponding application will become active.

Show Operations Menu Clicking with the mousebutton will open a menu with all applications of that group, where every application has its window menu as a submenu and there are some group specific entries like Close All which closes all applications of that group, All to Desktop which lets you define on which desktop the whole group appears and Maximize All, Minimize All and Restore All which appends those actions to all applications of that group.

Cycle Through Windows If this action is chosen, each click with the mousebutton on the taskbar button will activate one of that group's applications, one after each others.

Activate Task Activate Task: Clicking with the mousebutton will activate the first application in that group without opening the group menu.

Raise Task The first application of that group will be put in the foreground without giving focus to it.

Lower Task The first application of that group will be put in the background. It won't lose the focus.

Minimize Task The first application of that group will be minimized. If it is already minimized, it will be restored again.

Please note that some of these settings only have effect if a taskbar button contains more than one application.

Chapter 5

The K Menu

The K Menu is one of the central elements of Kicker.

There are five main groups in the K Menu which will be described now from bottom to top.

5.1 The KDE Group

This group is for the common KDE things in the K Menu.

Log Out... This entry is used to finish the KDE session. It also shuts down the X Window System® session.

Lock Session With this entry you can lock your session if you don't want anybody else to access your desktop. If you have set a screensaver, it will appear when locked, otherwise the screen will turn black. If you hit any key, you will be prompted for your user password. This is independent from the screensaver's password settings.

Special Configuration Clicking with the right mouse button on the K Menu, will produce a special submenu. In this submenu is the Panel Menu. Here you can change the settings of Kicker, described in the [Configuring Kicker](#) section, add things to Kicker (see in [Kicker Basics](#) for more), or reach the Help Menu, but as you are reading this, you probably found it yourself. You can also start the Menu Editor via this submenu.

5.2 Run Command...

This will bring up a small but powerful application start dialog.

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In the standard case, you just type in a command and press **Enter** or click Run. But there is also an Options » button which will bring up some starting options to the command window.

Run in terminal window Checking this box will let the application start in a terminal which means that you will be able to see any command-line messages the application may give.

Run as a different user If this box is checked, you can specify a user with whose permission the application should run in the Username textfield. If you specify another user, you will have to give a password at the box below.

Run with different priority Check this option to run with a different priority. A higher priority will tell the operating system to give more processing time to the applications. You can use the slider to change the priority. If you want to give your app a higher priority than the default one (middle position), you will need to enter the root password below.

Run with realtime scheduling The Scheduler is the part of the operating system which processes will run and which have to wait. Usually, an application will run with normal schedule, which means it can use the processing time it gets from the operating system, but you can also set it to realtime. This means that the application has all the process time until it gives it away. You will need to enter the root password to use Run with realtime scheduling.

WARNING

This can be dangerous. If the application hangs and cannot give up the processor, the complete system might hang.

5.3 The Actions Group

This group contains some very useful dynamic menus as described in the [Menus](#) section of Kicker's settings.

Quick Browser This submenu contains quick browsers for three very useful folders: home, root, and system configuration.

Recent Documents This menu shows the most recently used documents (works only with KDE applications for the moment). Clicking the element Clear History will remove those entries, what may be useful for privacy reasons.

Bookmarks This submenu shows your personal bookmarks just like Konqueror does. Refer to the Konqueror Handbook for more help on this.

5.4 The All Applications Group

The submenus for application starting are located in this group. You can use KMenuEdit to add, remove or move the entries. Applications will have a short description if either the Name (Description) or Description (Name) option is enabled in the settings.

5.5 The Most Used Applications Group

This group holds either the most recently or the most frequently used applications. See the [Menus Configuration](#) section for more about that.

Chapter 6

Applets

Applets are small applications running inside of Kicker. Almost everything besides the application starter buttons are applets. They can be added from the context menu by choosing **Add Applet to Panel**. Every applet contains a small arrow in its handle. Clicking it will bring up a menu which lets you move or remove it, set the Preferences, if there are any and set the preferences of Kicker.

6.1 The Taskbar Applet

The taskbar applet shows buttons for the running applications. The application, which has the focus, is shown as a pressed button. If an application is minimized, the title displayed in the taskbar will fade to gray.

TIP

If you click on the button of the active application, it will be minimized. This means also that if you click twice on an inactive application, it will also be minimized.

A click with the right mouse button on a button will show the standard application menu. Only the entry **To Current Desktop** differs: if you have set the taskbar to show the applications of all desktops, you can move this app to the current desktop.

There is also a small icon on the left or top side of the taskbar, which opens a menu. This is called the windows list icon. The menu's first entry, **Unclutter Windows**, tries to move the windows on your active desktop in a way to see as many as possible. **Cascade Windows** puts all windows on the active desktop over each others, the most recently on top and the others sorted by the time they where last used.

Below those entries is a list of all currently running applications, grouped by the desktops on which they are running. Clicking on the name of a desktop will switch to that one, clicking an application will also activate it. You can specify the mouse behavior. Please refer to [Taskbar](#) settings for more about that.

6.1.1 Configuring the Taskbar Applet

You can configure the taskbar by clicking the right mouse button on the small move handle.

Please refer to Section [4.2](#) for details about the preferences of the taskbar.

6.2 The Mini-Pager Applet

This little applet shows a preview of the virtual desktops, lets you switch between virtual desktops and gives you the ability to move windows from one desktop to another by dragging them.

There is also a very useful context menu used to configure this applet:

Configure Desktops... This opens the configuration dialog for virtual desktops. There you can specify how many desktops you want to have and give them names.

Pager Options In this submenu you can configure the appearance of the Mini-Pager. It provides the following functionality:

Pager Layout In this section you can choose in how many Rows or Columns the desktop previews are arranged, if you want to see which windows are currently visible on the desktops and if icons should indicate the applications running on the different virtual desktops.

Text Label Here you can choose if the desktop previews should be labeled by their numbers, their names or if you don't want them to be labeled at all.

Background You can set the background of the pager to Elegant, Transparent or equivalent to the Desktop Wallpaper.

Launch Pager This launches the application KPager, which provides functions similar to those offered by the Mini-Pager applet.

6.3 The Clock Applet

As you might already guess, the clock applet is a small clock which resides in Kicker.

A click with the left mouse button on the clock will show a small calendar. You can use the single arrows to switch the months or the double arrows for switching years. This won't have any effect of your date settings, it's just for your information.

There are some things you can do with the clock applet. This can be done from the context menu.

6.3.1 Type

There are four ways the clock can appear:

Plain This lets the clock appear as a simple text that shows the time in plain text.

Digital This lets the clock appear as a digital clock showing the time in the well known seven segment style.

Analog If this is set, the clock will be displayed as an old styled analog clock.

NOTE

This may only be useful if you set Kicker to normal or large size.

Fuzzy This is a very unorthodox style of time display. Try it out, it is really funny!

6.3.2 Show Timezone

Select available timezones or open the Timezones tab of Configure dialog of the clock applet with Configure Timezones....

6.3.3 Adjust Date & Time

This option starts the Date & Time configuration module in the section System Administration of the KDE Control Center.

NOTE

You will need the super user password for adjusting date and time.

6.3.4 Date & Time Format

This will open the Country/Region & Language module in the section Regional & Accessibility of the KDE Control Center where you can set your formats on the page Times & Dates. There aren't any special permissions needed for that.

6.3.5 Copy to Clipboard

If you need to paste the actual date and/or time in another application (e.g. in a text editor), you can copy it to the clipboard with this function. After selecting one of the available formats, the actual date and/or time is placed in the clipboard using the appropriate format.

6.3.6 Configure Clock...

Here you can set some general preferences of the clock applet.

Appearance In the Clock Type settings you can choose between the clock styles like in the context menu.

The Plain Clock options In the Display section you can check if you want to have the date and/or the seconds shown. In Time you can choose if you want the common KDE look or your own custom colors and font.

The Digital Clock options In the Display section you can check if you want to have the date, the seconds and/or blinking dots shown. In Time you can choose if you want the common LCD-Look or your own custom colors.

The Analog Clock options In the Display section you can check if you want to have the date and/or seconds shown. In Time you can choose if you want the common LCD-Look or your own custom colors. You can also set the level of antialiasing, which means that lines will get blurred a little bit to prevent steps in the drawing. High quality antialiasing may catch some system load on low-end systems.

The Fuzzy Clock options In the Display section you can check if you want to have the date shown. In Time you can choose the colors and the font of the fuzzy clock. There is also a slider to set the Fuzziness. This cannot be described in the documents, just do your own experiments.

6.4 The Quick Launcher Applet

This is a compressed application launcher. It is very useful especially if the panel is set to normal or large size. You can add applications by drag and drop or from the context menu. The context menu is also used to remove an application.

6.5 The System Tray Applet

The System Tray is used to dock some special applications e.g. Klipper or JuK. The applications shown in the system tray all provide individual functionality. If you need help concerning these options, please refer to the application handbooks.

The System Tray's context menu provides the option Configure System Tray... . If you click on it, a dialog pops up which lets you choose applications that should not be permanently visible in the System Tray. Hidden icons can be made visible by clicking on the small arrow appearing on the left or top side of the applet.

6.6 Lock/Logout Applet

This little applet contains two buttons. The Lock the session is used to lock the session if you ever want to leave your KDE unattended and don't want anybody to access it. The Log out is used to close your KDE session.

6.7 The Application Launcher Applet

This applet provides a simple command line embedded in Kicker. Nothing more, nothing less.

6.8 The Runaway Process Catcher Applet

This applet shows a smiley which will get angry when any process catches up too much system resources. If an application uses too much, a messagebox will appear and ask you how to handle that application.

Clicking it with the left mouse button will show a configuration dialog. Here you can set the Update interval, which is set in seconds, and the CPU load threshold. At the moment, there is no real advice for setting this up, you will have to do some experimenting. These settings will probably change in a future release. There is also a section Programs to ignore where you can add applications that use many resources naturally, e.g. compilers or 3D renderers.

6.9 Klipper Applet

This applet does exactly the same like the Klipper residing in the system tray. It has the advantage, that it consumes a little bit less system resources, which only matters on really slow systems, but has the disadvantage, that it uses more space than Klipper in the system tray. You can read more about that in the manual for [Klipper](#).

Chapter 7

Panel Extensions

There are also some features that run outside of Kicker, the extensions. They are added from the context menu by choosing Add New Panel. You can move them to any screenborder by dragging them at the small applet handle on their side and remove it by right clicking on an empty space and choose Remove Panel.

The style of the extensions can be configured in the Section [4.1.1](#) section of Kicker's preferences.

7.1 The External Taskbar Panel Extension

The external taskbar is just the same as the taskbar applet with the only difference that it provides its own panel. Refer to the [taskbar applet section](#) for help about it.

7.2 The Child Panel Extension

This is just a panel like Kicker itself, where you can add all the stuff Kicker is also capable. So you can have as many Kickers as you want. Just add a child panel and add applications and applets to it.

7.3 The KasBar Extension

The KasBar is an iconic replacement of the taskbar. It always shows the icons of all currently running applications on any desktop, they can be chosen by clicking with the left mouse button. The active window is highlighted, minimized windows will show a little triangle pointing downwards instead of the square in the lower right of the icons. A triangle pointing to the right indicates that the application is shaded.

7.4 The Dock Application Bar Extension

The Dock Application Bar is an external bar which lets WindowMaker applications be docked. Just run your dockable WindowMaker programs, if the Dock Application Bar is running, they will be automatically docked.

Chapter 8

Command Reference

8.1 The Panel

There is only one standard shortcut available in Kicker:

Alt+F1 Opens the K Menu

Chapter 9

Questions and Answers

1. *How can I add applications, applets or anything else to the panel?*
Click the right mouse button on any free space in Kicker and choose what you want to add. See in [Kicker Basics](#) for more about that.
2. *Can I have an external Taskbar just like in KDE 1?*
Yes, you can just click the right mouse button on any empty space in Kicker and then choose Add, Panel and the External Taskbar.
3. *How can I move Kicker to another screen border?*
Simply drag it by holding the left mouse button on any empty space in Kicker to any screen border.
4. *How can I move extensions to another screen border?*
Just drag them by holding the left mouse button on the small handles on the left or the top of the extension.
5. *I want the taskbar to show all applications I am running, independent on which desktop they are. Is that possible?*
It is. Click the right mouse button on the small handle of the taskbar, then choose Configure Taskbar... and check Show windows from all desktops in the appearing dialog.
6. *How can I access the K Menu without using the mouse?*
Simply press Alt+F1 and it will appear.
7. *Is there a way to add a menu containing all desktop icons to Kicker?*
Just start Konqueror, go to your home folder and drag the Desktop icon to any free space of Kicker, then choose Add as Quick Browser from the appearing menu.

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8. *How can I change the color and style of Kicker?*

You can change the colors of the panel with the global color module of the Control Center or you can style the panel itself, see in Section 4.1.5 for more about that.

9. *Why is the clock showing the wrong time?*

On some Red Hat®systems, the clock always shows the time in GMT. This is a bug in the system setup, and not directly related to Kicker. However, to solve it, just create this symbolic link: `ln -s /usr/share/zoneinfo /usr/lib/zoneinfo`.

10. *Is it possible to change the K button of the panel to another picture?*

Look for `$HOME/.kde/share/apps/kicker/pics/go.png` and `$HOME/.kde/share/apps/kicker/pics/mini/go.png` and replace them. Do not forget to flatten the replacements to one layer, or else you will not see anything. Create the folders if they do not already exist. Then restart Kicker.

11. *Why is my Settings menu not working?*

Your menu entries may be mixed up for some reason. Simply run `kbuildsys-coca` on a commandline.

Chapter 10

Credits and License

Kicker

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