

# **The Konsole Handbook**

**Jonathan Singer, Kurt Hindenburg, Robert Knight,  
Kurt Hindenburg, Waldo Bastian, and Mike  
McBride**



# The Konsole Handbook

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## **Abstract**

Konsole is KDE's terminal emulator.

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

### 1.1 What is a terminal?

Konsole is an X terminal emulator, often referred to as a terminal or a shell. It emulates a command line interface in a text only window.

Explaining the use of the UNIX® CLI is beyond the scope of this document. A search of the web for these terms will produce more information.

### 1.2 Scrollback

Konsole uses the notion of scrollback to allow user's to view previously displayed output. By default, scrollback is on and set to save 1000 lines of output in addition to what is currently displayed on the screen. As lines of text scroll off the top of the screen, they can be reviewed by moving the scroll bar upwards, scrolling with a mouse wheel or through the use of the Shift+Page Up (to move back a page), Shift+Page Down (to move forward a page), Shift+Up Arrow (to move up a line) and Shift+Down Arrow (to move down a line) keys.

When the **scrolllock** is on, ordinary input and output from the shell is suspended, and you can scroll through the history with **Page Up**, **Page Down**, **Up Arrow** and **Down Arrow**.

Konsole provides a number of actions located in the [Scrollback](#) menu.

### 1.3 Profiles

Profiles allow the user to quickly and easily automate the running of common commands. Examples could include:

- ssh into another machine

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- starting an irc session
- use tail to watch a file

Procedure to create a new profile:

1. Click on the menu entry Settings → Manage Profiles...
2. Click on the button New Profile....
3. Fill in the first entry with a name. This is the name that will show in the menu, and will be the default label instead of Shell when you start a session of this type.
4. Enter a command just as you normally would if you opened a new shell and were going to issue that command. For our first example above, you might type **ssh** *administration*.
5. On the other tabs of the dialog, configure this session's appearance. You can configure a different font, colour scheme, \$TERM type and many other settings for each session.
6. Press the OK button. The new session is now available in the Manage Profiles... dialog.

After creating profiles, they are listed by their name in the File menu underneath the default Shell item.

### 1.4 Mouse Buttons

This section details the use of the mouse buttons for the common right handed mouse button order. For the left handed mouse button order, swap left and right in the text below.

**Left** All left mouse button clicks will be sent to a mouse-aware application running in Konsole. If an application will react on mouse clicks, Konsole indicates this by showing an arrow cursor. If not, an I-beam (bar) cursor is shown.

Holding the left mouse button down and dragging the mouse over the screen with a mouse-unaware application running will mark a region of the text. While dragging, the marked text is displayed reversed for visual feedback. Select Copy from the Edit menu to copy the marked text to the clipboard for further use within Konsole or another application. The selected text can also be dragged and dropped into compatible applications. Click on the selected text and drag it to the desired location. Depending on your KDE settings, you may need to hold the **Ctrl** key while dragging.

Normally, new-line characters are inserted at the end of each line selected. This is best for cut and paste of source code, or the output of

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a particular command. For ordinary text, the line breaks are often not important. One might prefer, however, for the text to be a stream of characters that will be automatically re-formatted when pasted into another application. To select in text-stream mode, hold down the **Ctrl** key while selecting normally.

Pressing the **Ctrl** and **Alt** keys along with the left mouse button will select a column of text.

Double-click with the left mouse button to select a word; triple-click to select an entire line.

If the upper or lower edge of the text area is touched while marking, Konsole scrolls up or down, eventually exposing text within the history buffer. The scrolling stops when the mouse stops moving.

After the mouse is released, Konsole attempts to keep the text in the clipboard visible by holding the marked area reversed. The marked area reverts back to normal as soon as the contents of the clipboard change, the text within the marked area is altered or the left mouse button is clicked.

To mark text on a mouse-aware application (Midnight Commander, for example) the **Shift** key has to be pressed when clicking.

**Middle** Pressing the middle mouse button pastes text currently in the clipboard. Holding down the **Ctrl** key as you press the middle mouse button pastes the text and sends it to Konsole.

### NOTE

If you have a mouse with only two buttons, pressing both the left mouse button and right mouse button together emulates the middle mouse button of a three button mouse.

If you have a wheel as the middle button, rolling it in a mouse unaware program will move Konsole's scrollbar.

**Right** These items appear in the menu when the right mouse button is pressed: Copy, Paste, Clear Scrollback & Reset, Open Browser Here, Change Profile, Edit Current Profile..., Show MenuBar, Character Encoding and Close Tab

In a mouse aware application, press the **Shift** key along with the right mouse button to get the popup menu.

## Chapter 2

# Command Reference

### 2.1 The Menubar

The menubar is at the top of the Konsole window. If the menubar is hidden, Show Menu Bar can be reached by right clicking in the window (as long as no full screen application is running in that window such as vi, minicom, etc.). The default shortcut is listed after each menu item.

#### 2.1.1 File Menu

**File → New Tab (Ctrl+Shift+N)** Opens a new tab with the default profile

**File → New Window (Ctrl+Shift+M)** Opens a new separate Konsole window with the default profile

**File → Shell** Opens a new tab with the Shell profile

**NOTE**

Konsole ships with the Shell profile as the default. Any new profiles added by the user will have its own menu item below File → Shell.

**File → Open Browser Here** Opens KDE's file manager at the current directory. By default, that is [Dolphin](#).

**File → Close Tab (Ctrl+Shift+W)** Closes the current tab

**File → Quit (Ctrl+Shift+Q)** Quits Konsole

**NOTE**

Konsole will display a window if there is more than one tab open. This window can be disabled by clicking on the Do not ask again checkbox.

## 2.1.2 Edit Menu

**Edit** → **Copy (Ctrl+Shift+C)** Copies the selected text to the clipboard

**Edit** → **Paste (Ctrl+Shift+V)** Pastes text from the clipboard at the cursor location

**Edit** → **Rename Tab... (Ctrl+Alt+S)** Opens a dialog box allowing you to change the name of the current tab ([more info](#))

**Edit** → **Copy Input To...** Allows input from the current session to be sent simultaneously to other sessions ([more info](#))

**Edit** → **Clear Display** Clears all text from the tab  
All the text cleared will be stored in the [Scrollback](#).

**Edit** → **Clear & Reset** Clears all text from the tab and reset the session  
All the text cleared will be stored in the [Scrollback](#).

## 2.1.3 View Menu

**View** → **Split View** → **Split View Left/Right (Ctrl+Shift+L)** Splits all the tabs into left and right views  
Any output on one view is duplicated in the other view.

**View** → **Split View** → **Split View Top/Bottom (Ctrl+Shift+T)** Splits all the tabs into top and bottom views  
Any output on one view is duplicated in the other view.

**View** → **Split View** → **Close Active (Ctrl+Shift+S)** Closes the current view

**View** → **Split View** → **Close Others (Ctrl+Shift+O)** Closes the non-current view

**View** → **Split View** → **Expand View (Ctrl+Shift+I)** Makes the current view larger

**View** → **Split View** → **Shrink View (Ctrl+Shift+J)** Makes the current view smaller

**View** → **Detach View (Ctrl+Shift+H)** Opens the current tab in a separate window  
Quitting the previous Konsole window will not affect the newly created window.

**View** → **Show Menu Bar** Toggles the menubar being visible

**View** → **Full Screen Mode (Ctrl+Shift+F11)** Toggles Konsole filling the entire screen

**View** → **Monitor for Silence (Ctrl+Shift+I)** Toggles the monitoring of the current tab for lack of activity

By default, after 10 seconds of inactivity, an info icon will appear on the session's tab. The type of alerts can be changed through [Settings](#) → [Configure Notifications](#) → [Silence in monitored session](#).

**View → Monitor for Activity (Ctrl+Shift+A)** Toggles the monitoring of the current tab for activity

Upon any activity, an info icon will appear on the session's tab. The type of alerts can be changed through Settings → Configure Notifications → Activity in monitored session.

**View → Set Character Encoding** Sets the character encoding

**View → Increase Text Size (Ctrl++)** Increases the text font size

**View → Decrease Text Size (Ctrl+-)** Decreases the text font size

## 2.1.4 Scrollback Menu

**Scrollback → Search Output... (Ctrl+Shift+F)** Opens a search bar at the bottom of Konsole's window

This allows for case sensitive, forward or backwards, and regular expressions searches.

**Scrollback → Find Next (F3)** Moves to the next search instance

**Scrollback → Find Previous (Shift+F3)** Moves to the previous search instance

**Scrollback → Save Output...** Saves the current scrollback as a text file

**Scrollback → Scrollback Options...** Opens a dialog to configure number of lines to save ([more info](#))

**Scrollback → Clear Scrollback** Clears all text saved in current tab

**Scrollback → Clear Scrollback & Reset (Ctrl+Shift+X)** Clears all text saved in current tab and resets the terminal

## 2.1.5 Bookmarks Menu

**Bookmarks → Add Bookmark (Ctrl+B)** Adds the current location

**Bookmarks → Bookmark Tabs as Folder...** Adds all tabs to a bookmark folder  
A dialog will open for the bookmark folder name.

**Bookmarks → New Bookmark Folder...** Adds a new folder to the bookmark list  
A dialog will open for the bookmark folder name.

**Bookmarks → Edit Bookmarks** Opens the bookmark editor

### NOTE

You can use the bookmark editor to manually add URLs like `ssh://user@host:port` to open remote connections.

## 2.1.6 Settings Menu

**Settings** → **Change Profile** Changes the profile for the current tab

**Settings** → **Edit Current Profile...** Opens the profile editor for the current tab

**Settings** → **Manage Profiles...** Opens a editor for managing profiles

**Settings** → **Configure Shortcuts...** Opens the keyboard shortcut editor

**Settings** → **Configure Notifications...** Opens the notifications editor

## 2.1.7 Help Menu

**Help** → **Konsole Handbook (F1)** Invokes the KDE Help system starting at the Konsole help pages. (this document).

**Help** → **What's This? (Shift+F1)** Changes the mouse cursor to a combination arrow and question mark. Clicking on items within Konsole will open a help window (if one exists for the particular item) explaining the item's function.

**Help** → **Report Bug...** Opens the Bug report dialog where you can report a bug or request a 'wishlist' feature.

**Help** → **Switch Application Language...** Opens a dialog where you can edit the Primary language and Fallback language for this application.

**Help** → **About Konsole** This will display version and author information.

**Help** → **About KDE** This displays the KDE version and other basic information.

## 2.2 Rename Tab Dialog

The name of the current tab can be changed from this dialog. The dialog can be displayed via the menu, the shortcut Ctrl+Alt+S or by double-clicking on the tab in the tab bar. These changes can be made permanent by editing the current profile.

Konsole will substitute these tokens:

- %n : program name
- %d : current directory (short)
- %D : current directory (long)
- %w : window title set by shell

- `%#` : session number
- `%u` : user name

Examples:

- `%d` : `%n` with `/usr/src` as current directory and running `bash` will display `usr/s : bash`
- `%D` : `%n` with `/usr/src` as current directory and running `top` will display `/usr/src : top`
- `%w (%#)` with `as` as current directory and running `vim` in the first tab will display `[No Name] () - VIM(1)`

## 2.3 Copy Input Dialog

The text entered in one tab can simultaneously be sent to other tabs. This dialog allows you to select which tabs will get that input. The current tab will be greyed out.

## 2.4 Scrollback Options Dialog

The `scrollback` option for the history size can be changed in this dialog. There is also a check box to save these settings to the current profile.

## Chapter 3

# Command-line Options

When Konsole is started from the command line, various options can be specified to modify its behavior.

- help** List the various options.
- profile *file*** Start Konsole using a saved set of sessions.
- list-profiles** List all of the available profiles.
- background-mode** Start Konsole in the background and bring to the front when the F12 key is pressed.
- new-tab** Create a new tab in an existing window rather than creating a new window.
- workdir *dir*** Open with *dir* as the working (starting) directory.
- notransparency** Disable transparent backgrounds, even if the system supports them.
- force-transparency** Try to enable transparency, even if the system does not appear to support it.
- hold, --noclose** Do not close the initial session automatically when it ends.
- p *property=value*** Change the value of a profile property.
- e *command*** Execute *command* instead of the normal shell.

**NOTE**

Any arguments after *command* will be passed to *command*, not Konsole.

Konsole also accepts generic Qt™ and KDE options:

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**--help-qt** List Qt™-specific options

**CAUTION**

The following Qt™ options have no effect on Konsole:

**--fn, --font *fontname*** Defines the application font

**--bg, --background *color*** Sets the default background color

**--fg, --foreground *color*** Sets the default foreground color

**--btn, --button *color*** Sets the default button color

**--help-kde** List KDE-specific options

**--help-all** List all options

**--author** Show the authors' names

**-v, --version** Show the version number

**--license** Show license information

## Chapter 4

# Scripting Konsole

For KDE 4, the old DCOP has been replaced with D-Bus. Konsole does support numerous methods that can be used with D-Bus.

There are two ways to use the D-Bus interface: Qt™'s GUI `qdbusviewer` and the command line `qdbus`.

Examples:

- `% qdbus` will display all services available.
- `% qdbus org.kde.konsole-`pidof -s konsole`` will display the D-Bus interface for Konsole.
- `% qdbus org.kde.konsole-`pidof -s konsole` /Konsole` will display methods for controlling the main Konsole window.
- `% qdbus org.kde.konsole-`pidof -s konsole` /Session/1` will display methods for session 1.

In the above examples, ``pidof -s konsole`` will work if you have only one Konsole window running. If you have more than one Konsole running, you'll have to replace the above text with that pid of the Konsole you want to control.

For more information, please visit [D-Bus tutorial](#).

## Chapter 5

# Credits and Copyright

Konsole is currently maintained by Robert Knight [robertknight@gmail.com](mailto:robertknight@gmail.com)

Previous Konsole maintainers include: Kurt Hindenburg [kurt.hindenburg@gmail.com](mailto:kurt.hindenburg@gmail.com)  
and Waldo Bastian [bastian@kde.org](mailto:bastian@kde.org)

The application Konsole Copyright (c) 1997-2008 Lars Doelle [lars.doelle@online.de](mailto:lars.doelle@online.de)

This document was written by Jonathan Singer [jsinger@leeta.net](mailto:jsinger@leeta.net)

This document was updated for KDE 3.4 by Kurt Hindenburg [kurt.hindenburg@gmail.com](mailto:kurt.hindenburg@gmail.com)

This document was updated for KDE 4.1 by Kurt Hindenburg [kurt.hindenburg@gmail.com](mailto:kurt.hindenburg@gmail.com)

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## Appendix A

### Links

For more information please visit these websites:

- [Konsole's homepage](#)
- [Konsole's mailing list](#)
- [KDE on FreeBSD](#)
- [KDE on Solaris](#)