

The KHelpCenter



The KHelpCenter

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Abstract

KDE is an international technology team that creates [Free Software](#) for desktop and portable computing. Among KDE's products are a modern desktop system for Linux® and UNIX® platforms, comprehensive office productivity and groupware suites and hundreds of software titles in many categories including Internet and web applications, multimedia, entertainment, educational, graphics and software development.

Chapter 1

Welcome to KDE

2009-05-09 4.00.00

The KDE team welcomes you to user-friendly UNIX® computing.

1.1 Welcome to the K Desktop Environment

1.1.1 Information about KDE

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

[What is the K Desktop Environment?](#)

[Contacting the KDE Project](#)

[Supporting the KDE Project](#)

[Useful links](#)

1.1.2 Getting the most out of KDE

1.1.2.1 General documentation

[A Quick Start Guide to the Desktop](#)

[KDE User's guide](#)

[Frequently asked questions](#)

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1.1.2.2 Basic applications

[Desktop Panel](#)

[Control Center](#)

[File Manager](#)

Chapter 2

KDE Help System User Manual

2009-05-09 4.00.00

2.1 KDE Help System

The KDE help system is designed to make accessing the common UNIX® help systems (man and info) simple, as well as the native KDE documentation (XML).

All base KDE applications come fully documented, thanks to the efforts of the Documentation team. If you are interested in helping with the documentation efforts, join the [mailing list](#) and write to the team at kde-doc-english@kde.org. No experience is required, just enthusiasm and patience.

If you would like to help translating KDE documentation to your native language, review the information, including coordinators for each language team, on the [Localization web site](#), and in the [Contact](#) section of this document.

2.1.1 Installation

KHelpCenter is an integral part of the KDE Base installation, and is installed with every copy of KDE. It can be found in the kdebase-runtime package, and is available from the <ftp://ftp.kde.org/pub/kde/>, or will be found in your operating system's kdebase-runtime package.

2.2 Invoking Help

KHelpCenter can be called in several ways:

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From the Help menu The most common will probably be from within an application. Choose Help → Application's Handbook (F1) to open that application's handbook.

From the Kickoff Application Launcher Choose the big K in your panel, and select the Applications tab followed by selecting Help to open KHelpCenter, which will open up to the default welcome page.

From the command line KHelpCenter may be started using a URL to display a file. URLs have been added for **info** and **man** pages also. You can use them as follows:

An application help file `khelppcenter help:/kedit`

Opens the KEdit help file, at the contents page.

A local URL `khelppcenter file:/usr/local/src/qt/html/index.html`

A Man page `khelppcenter man:/strcpy`

An Info page `khelppcenter info:/gcc`

Invoking `khelppcenter` with no parameters opens the default welcome page.

2.3 The KHelpCenter interface

The KHelpCenter interface consists of two panes of information.

The toolbar and menus are explained further in Section 2.3.4.

Documents contain their own navigation tools, enabling you to move either sequentially through a document, using Next, Previous, and Home links, or to move around in a less structured manner, using hyperlinks.

Links can take you to other parts of the same document, or to a different document, and you can use the Back (Left pointing arrow) or Forward (Right pointing arrow) icons on the toolbar to move through the documents you have viewed in this session.

The two panes display the contents of the help system, and the help files themselves, on the left and right respectively.

2.3.1 The Contents pane

The Contents pane in KHelpCenter is displayed on the left hand side of the window. As you might expect, you can move the splitter bar, to make sure you can comfortably read the contents of either pane.

The Contents pane is further divided into two tabs, one containing a [menu](#) showing all the help information KHelpCenter is aware of, and the other contains the KDE [glossary](#) of terms.

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2.3.1.1 The Contents Menu

The Contents contains the following default entries:

Welcome to KDE Contains links that provide Information about KDE as well as Getting the most out of KDE.

KDE User's manual The KDE User's manual is an in-depth exploration of KDE, including installation, configuration and customization, and use.

Application manuals Native KDE application documentation. All KDE applications have documentation in XML format, which are converted to HTML when you view them. This section lists all the KDE applications with a brief description and a link to the full application documentation.

The applications are displayed in a tree structure that echoes the default structure of the K menu, making it easy to find the application you are looking for.

Control Center Modules Provides a list of links to various modules that are located in the KDE System Settings application.

Kioslaves Contains a list of links to various KIO modules documentation.

Plasma Manual The Plasma Manual is the documentation for the most visible pillar of KDE, the core interface to the desktop.

Tutorials Short, task based or informational tutorials.

UNIX® manual pages UNIX® man pages are the traditional on-line documentation format for UNIX® systems. Most programs on your system will have a man page. In addition, man pages exist for programming functions and file formats.

Browse info pages TeXinfo documentation is used by many GNU applications, including **gcc** (the C/C++ compiler), **emacs**, and many others.

The KDE FAQ Frequently asked questions about KDE, and their answers.

Contact Information Information on how to contact KDE developers, and how to join the KDE mailing lists.

KDE on the web Links to KDE on the web, both the official KDE website, and other useful sites.

Supporting KDE How to help, and how to get involved.

2.3.2 The Man and Info sections

Man pages are the standard UNIX® manual pages, and have been in use for many years on many operating systems. They are extremely thorough, and are the very best place to get information about most UNIX® commands and applications. When people say 'RTFM', the Manual they are referring to is very often the man page.

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The man pages are not perfect. They tend to be in depth, but also extremely technical, often written by developers, and for developers. In some cases this makes them somewhat unfriendly, if not downright impossible for many users to understand. They are, however, the best source of solid information on most command line applications, and very often the only source.

If you've ever wondered what the number is when people write things like `man(1)` it means which section of the manual the item is in. You will see KHelpCenter uses the numbers to divide the very many man pages into their own sections, making it easier for you to find the information you're looking for, if you're just browsing.

Also available are the Info pages, intended to be a replacement for the man pages. The maintainer of some applications no longer update the man pages, so if there is both a man page and an info page available, the info page is probably the most recent. Most applications have one or the other though. If the application you are looking for help on is a GNU utility, you will most likely find it has an info page, not a man page.

2.3.2.1 Navigating inside the Info pages

Info documents are arranged hierarchically with each page called a node. All info documents have a Top node, i.e. the opening page. You can return to the Top of an info document by pressing Top.

Prev & Next are used to move to the previous/next page at the current level of the hierarchy.

Clicking on a menu item within a document moves you to a lower level in the hierarchy. You may move up the hierarchy by pressing Up.

Man is treated similarly to info, with the section index being the Top node and each man page on the level below. Man entries are one page long.

2.3.3 The KDE glossary

The glossary provides a quick reference point, where you can look up the definitions of words that may be unfamiliar to you. These range from KDE specific applications and technologies, through to general UNIX® computing terms.

In the left hand pane you will see a tree view, with two choices: Alphabetically or By topic. Both contain the same entries, sorted differently, to allow you to quickly find the item of interest.

Navigate down the tree views to the left, and items you select will be displayed on the right.

2.3.4 The menus and toolbar

KHelpCenter has a very minimal interface, allowing you to concentrate on getting help rather than learning how to use the help browser.

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The icons available to you in the toolbar are as follows:

TOOLBAR ICONS

Table of Contents Go to the main welcome page of KHelpCenter.

Back Go to the previous page you viewed.

Forward Go forward one page. This icon is only active if you have already used the Back icon.

Print Frame Print the contents of the currently visible page.

Copy Copy text to the clipboard to be pasted in another application.

Find Find a word or words within the currently visible page.

Increase Font Sizes Increase the size of the text in the viewer pane.

Decrease Font Sizes Decrease the size of the text in the viewer pane. This icon is only enabled if you have previously enlarged the text.

The menus contain the following entries:

File

File → **Print Frame...** Print the contents of the currently visible page.

File → **Quit (Ctrl+Q)** Close and exit KHelpCenter

Edit

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

Edit → **Select All (Ctrl+A)** Select all the text in the current page.

Edit → **Find... (Ctrl+F)** Find a word or words in the currently visible page.

View

View → **Set Encoding** Change the encoding of the current page. Normally, the default setting of Auto should be sufficient, but if you are having problems viewing pages written in languages other than English, you may need to choose a specific encoding in this menu.

Go

Go → **Back** Go back to the previous page you were viewing.

Go → **Forward** If you have previously moved back with the back icon or menu entry, you can work your way forward again with this menu entry.

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Go → ... At the bottom of the Go menu, you will find a history list, of the last few pages you have looked at. Selecting one will take you directly back to that page.

Settings

Settings → **Show Toolbar** Hides the toolbar that contains the icons at the top of the application.

Settings → **Show Statusbar** Shows or hides the statusbar which is located at the bottom of the application.

Settings → **Configure Fonts...** Allows you to configure the font family and size used by KHelpCenter.

Settings → **Build Search Index...** If your distribution support this, you can build an index of search terms.

Settings → **Configure Shortcuts...** Configure the shortcuts available to KHelpCenter.

Settings → **Configure Toolbars...** Configure the toolbars available to KHelpCenter.

2.4 Credits and Licenses

KHelpCenter

Originally developed by Matthias Elter elter@kde.org

The current maintainer is Cornelius Schumacher schumacher@kde.org

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This program is licensed under the terms of the [GNU General Public License](#).

Chapter 3

What is KDE?

2009-05-09 4.00.00

3.1 What is KDE?

KDE is an international technology team that creates [Free Software](#) for desktop and portable computing. Among KDE's products are a modern desktop system for Linux® and UNIX® platforms, comprehensive office productivity and groupware suites and hundreds of software titles in many categories including Internet and web applications, multimedia, entertainment, educational, graphics and software development. KDE software is translated into more than 60 languages and is built with ease of use and modern accessibility principles in mind. KDE 4's full-featured applications run natively on Linux® BSD™, Solaris™, Windows® and Mac OS X.

KDE is...

- [A Desktop Environment](#)
- [An Application Development Framework](#)
- [An Office Application Suite](#)

3.2 KDE The Desktop Environment

KDE or the K Desktop Environment, is a network transparent, easy to use contemporary desktop environment available for UNIX® and compatible systems. Together with a free implementation of UNIX® such as GNU/Linux®, UNIX®/KDE constitutes a completely free and open computing platform available to anyone free of charge. Source code is available for everyone to look at,

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learn from, modify and improve. Whilst there is always room for improvement, KDE today delivers a viable feature packed alternative to the more commonly found commercial operating system/desktop combinations available.

KDE will continue to bring open, reliable, stable and monopoly-free computing enjoyed by scientists and computing professionals world-wide to the everyday user.

3.3 KDE The Application Development Framework

KDE also brings to the forefront many innovations for application developers. An entire infrastructure has been designed and implemented to help programmers create robust and comprehensive applications in the most efficient manner, eliminating the complexity and tediousness of general UNIX® application development. KDE recognizes the fact that a computing platform is only as good as the first class applications available to users. KDE's application framework, implements the latest advances in framework technology positioning it in direct competition with popular development frameworks like Microsoft's MFC/COM/ActiveX technology etc. KDE's innovative KParts compound document technology enables developers to quickly create first rate applications using cutting edge technology.

More information about KDE development can be found at <http://techbase.kde.org/Development>.

3.4 KDE The Office Application Suite

KOffice is a free, integrated office suite for KDE.

Leveraging the KDE application development framework a great number of applications have been built for the K Desktop Environment. A selection of those applications is contained in the KDE base distribution. At this moment KDE is developing a complete office application suite based on KDE's innovative KParts technology. This modern day office suite offers spread-sheet applications, presentation creators, organizers, news clients and much more. KPresenter, a part of this application suite has already been successfully used for many presentations.

More information about KOffice can be found at <http://www.koffice.org/>.

Chapter 4

Contact the KDE team

2009-05-09 4.00.00

4.1 Mailing lists

KDE has several mailing lists up. See below for some of the most useful. Older articles can be found in the [mailing list archive](#).

kde For general discussion, users helping each other.

kde-announce Announcements of new KDE applications

kde-devel For developers.

kde-artists Creating icons and other artwork

kde-doc-english For people interested in writing documentation for KDE.

kde-i18n-doc Internationalization and documentation issues

<http://l10n.kde.org/teams/> For localized information, which may include user email lists and websites, check the translation teams page at the above URL.

4.2 Contacting the KDE developers

On this page, you can find links to KDE related web sites.

The K Desktop Environment is developed by a large group of people around the world. Our main communication channel is the Internet. For general questions, you will be best served by asking on the mailing lists mentioned in the

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[previous section](#), and contact addresses for individual developers can be found in the documentation of their individual application.

Please visit our [Official Representatives](#) page for official enquiries regarding KDE (e.g. interviews).

More information about KDE is available at <http://www.kde.org/> .

Other KDE websites include:

www.kde.org KDE's official website

techbase.kde.org The KDE technical documentation library

websvn.kde.org A web interface to the KDE Subversion repository

l10n.kde.org KDE's internationalization and documentation server

ftp.kde.org The main KDE FTP server. Please have a look at the link below to find a mirror site in your geographic region.

www.kde.org/mirrors KDE web and FTP mirror sites

www.kde-apps.org A directory of KDE applications.

www.kde-look.org KDE themes, icons, and other items to change the look of your desktop.

Chapter 5

Supporting KDE

2009-05-09 4.00.00

5.1 Supporting KDE

If you are new to KDE, the KDE project might look like big machinery to you. Undoubtedly, KDE is no longer a small project, nevertheless it is very important to realize that it is easy to 'make a difference' in the KDE world.

There is always a need for dedicated developers, graphic artists, sound engineers, translators and documentation writers. Consider jumping aboard this exciting international project and make yourself a name in the software world.

Along the way you will make countless friends and acquaintances all over the world. Also, the satisfaction that stems from doing actual hands-on work, that will benefit an uncountable number of users world-wide, and from seeing an unparalleled project grow, is hard to beat. Please consider joining and supporting KDE and hop aboard this exciting journey towards a free and open alternative computing platform.

5.2 How to get started

- Subscribe to the [KDE mailing lists](#) that interest you.
- Read the [mailing list](#) archives in order to get a feel for KDE development.
- Learn how to program using the KDE application framework and join the friendly KDE developers' community.

5.3 Supporting financially

The KDE team is working very hard on providing you with the best desktop available for the UNIX® operating system. KDE is available for free and will always be available for free, including each and every line of its source code, for everyone to modify and distribute. If you enjoy and use KDE please consider supporting the KDE Project financially. KDE is in constant need of funds in order to finance its operations.

If your busy schedule or skills do not permit you to be actively involved in KDE development, please consider supporting KDE financially.

There are three ways to make a payment to the KDE project: PayPal, personal check, and money order. Please review <http://www.kde.org/support/support.php>.

Your contribution is very much appreciated. Thank you!

Appendix A

Credits and Licenses

A.1 License

This documentation is licensed under the terms of the [GNU Free Documentation License](#).