

The Ark Handbook

Matt Johnston



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Abstract

Ark is an archive manager for KDE.

Chapter 1

Introduction

Ark is a program for managing various archive formats within the KDE environment. Archives can be viewed, extracted, created and modified from within Ark. The program can handle various formats such as **tar**, **gzip**, **bzip2**, **zip**, **rar** and **lha** (if appropriate command-line programs are installed).

Chapter 2

Using Ark

2.1 Opening Archives

To open an archive in Ark, choose Open... from the File menu. You can also open archive files by dragging and dropping from Konqueror or Dolphin. Archive files should be associated with Ark, so you can also right click a file in Konqueror or Dolphin and select Open with Ark to open it or select an extract action for this file.

2.2 Working with Files

Once an archive has been opened, you can perform various operations on the files inside the archive. By selecting a file and using the Action menu, you can choose what you want to do:

- Add File... will add files from your disk to the archive.
- Add Folder... will add folders from your disk to the archive.
- Delete will remove the currently selected file(s) from the archive.
- Extract... will extract the file to a location you specify on disk.
- Preview will open the file in the associated viewer.

2.3 Extracting Archives

Once an archive has been opened in Ark, it can be extracted. To quick extract files from an archive, you can select Extract... from the Action menu. This

opens a submenu with previously accessed folders, and you can select to quick extract into any of them. Clicking on the check mark at the right side of the Extract button in the toolbar performs the same action.

To open the Extract dialog click the Extract button in the toolbar or use the shortcut Ctrl+E. This dialog allows you to select where you will extract files to. The default location is the folder the archive is in.

You can specify to extract the files into a subfolder. The default name of this subfolder is the first part of the archive name, but you can edit it to your needs. If you want to preserve paths when extracting, select this option. You may also choose to open the destination folder in Konqueror or Dolphin once the extraction is complete.

If a file in the archive list is highlighted, you can also select which files to extract:

- Selected files only extracts only the files which have been selected.
- All files extracts the entire contents of the archive.

2.4 Creating Archives and Adding Files

To create a new archive in Ark, choose New from the File menu.

You can then type the name of the archive, with the appropriate extension (`t-ar.gz`, `zip`, `bz2` etc.) or select a supported format in the Filter combo box and check the Automatically select filename extension option. To add files to the archive, choose Add File... from the Action menu. If you want to add an entire folder to an archive, choose Add Folder... from the Action menu.

An alternative way to add files to the archive is to drag a file from Konqueror, Dolphin or the desktop into the main Ark window, and it will be added to the current archive.

Chapter 3

Command Reference

3.1 The File Menu

File → **New (Ctrl+N)** Creates a new archive.

File → **Open... (Ctrl+O)** Opens an archive.

File → **Open Recent** Shows a list of recent archives to choose from.

File → **Quit (Ctrl+Q)** Closes Ark.

3.2 The Action Menu

Action → **Add File...** Shows the Add Files dialog, where you can select files.
Hold down **Ctrl** and click to select multiple files.

Action → **Add Folder...** Shows the Add Folder dialog. Just select a folder and click the OK button.

Action → **Delete** Removes the currently selected files from the archive.

Action → **Extract...** → **Quick extract to... (Ctrl+E)** This opens a submenu with previously accessed folders, and you can select to quick extract into any of them.

Action → **Preview** Opens the currently selected file in the associated viewer program.

3.3 The Settings Menu

Settings → **Show Statusbar** Toggles whether the status bar is displayed.

Settings → **Configure Shortcuts...** Displays the Configure Shortcuts dialog box. This lets you choose shortcut keys for various menu items. To change a shortcut, select an action from the list, and then choose which keystroke to use. Clicking on the right Key button lets you choose which specific key to use. Just press the new key.

Settings → **Configure Toolbars...** Displays a KDE standard dialog where you can configure the toolbar icons.

3.4 The Help Menu

Help → **Ark Handbook (F1)** Invokes the KDE Help system starting at the Ark 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 Ark 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 Ark** This will display version and author information.

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

Chapter 4

Credits and License

Ark is Copyright (c) 1997-2008, The Various Ark Developers

AUTHORS:

- Helio Chissini de Castro helio@conectiva.com.br
- Georg Robbers Georg.Robbers@urz.uni-hd.de
- Henrique Pinto henrique.pinto@kdemail.net
- Roberto Selbach Teixeira maragato@kde.org
- Robert Palmboos palm9744@kettering.edu
- Francois-Xavier Duranceau duranceau@kde.org
- Corel Corporation (author: Emily Ezust) emilye@corel.com

Documentation Copyright (c) 2000 Matt Johnston mattj@flashmail.com

Documentation updated for KDE 3.3 by Henrique Pinto henrique.pinto@kdemail.net.

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Appendix A

Installation

A.1 How to obtain Ark

Ark is part of the KDE project <http://www.kde.org/> .

Ark can be found in the kdeutils package on <ftp://ftp.kde.org/pub/kde/> , the main FTP site of the KDE project.

A.2 Requirements

In order to successfully use Ark, you need KDE 4.1. GNU **tar** and a recent **gzip** are also needed if you want Ark to handle tar archives. To handle other file formats, you need the appropriate command line programs, such as **zip**, **unzip**, **ar**, **rar** and **lha**.

A.3 Compilation and Installation

For detailed information on how to compile and install KDE applications see [Building KDE4 From Source](#)

Since KDE uses **cmake** you should have no trouble compiling it. Should you run into problems please report them to the KDE mailing lists.