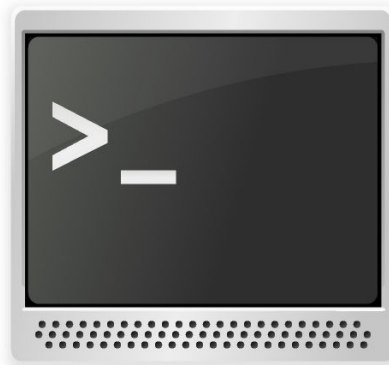


# The Konsole Handbook

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# 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.

Konsole typically runs a command shell, an application that executes commands that you type. The shell the Konsole runs depends on your account settings. Consult your operating system documentation to know what the shell is, how to configure it and how to use it.

### 1.2 Scrollback

Konsole uses the notion of scrollback to allow users 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), **Shift+Page Down** (to move forward), **Shift+Up Arrow** (to move up a line) and **Shift+Down Arrow** (to move down a line) keys.

The amount of scrolling using **Shift+Page Up/Down** can be switched between half and full page in the **Scrolling** tab of the profile configuration window (use **Settings** → **Edit Current Profile...** to open this window).

### 1.3 Profiles

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

- ssh into another machine
- starting an irc session
- use tail to watch a file

All new and changed profiles are saved in the user's local home folder in `$XDG_DATA_HOME /konsole`.

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, color 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.

Any profiles which have **Show in Menu** checked will be listed by their name in the **File** → **New Tab** menu. There will be no submenu if only the default profile is to be shown.

## 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 mouse, the marked text is displayed in reversed color 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. Hold the **Ctrl** key and drag the selected text to the desired location.

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 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 text in columns. 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 in 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 appends a new-line. That is convenient for executing pasted command quickly, but it can be dangerous so use it with caution.

**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**

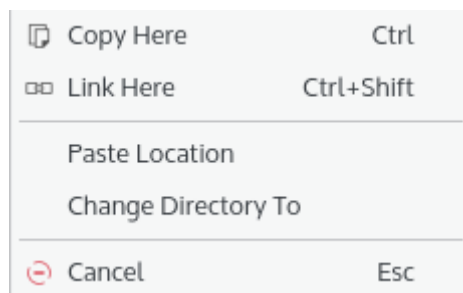
These items appear in the menu when the right mouse button is pressed:

- **Copy**
- **Paste**
- With a text selection a submenu **Search for** with a list of the preferred Web Shortcuts and an option to configure web shortcuts.
- **Open File Manager**
- **Set Encoding**
- **Clear Scrollback**
- **Adjust Scrollback...**
- **Show Menu Bar**, only when the menubar is hidden
- **Switch Profile**
- **Edit Current Profile...**
- **Close Tab**

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

## 1.5 Drag and Drop

If you drop a file, folder or URL on a Konsole window, a context menu appears with these actions:



**Move Here (Shift)**

Move the dropped item into the current folder. This item only appears in the context menu, if you have the rights to delete the dropped file or folder.

**Copy Here (Ctrl)**

Copy the dropped item into the current folder.

**Link Here (Ctrl-Shift)**

Insert a symbolic link to the dropped item.

**Paste Location**

Insert the full file path of the dropped item at the cursor.

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### **Change Directory To**

If a folder is dropped, this action appears in the context menu and allows you to change the working folder of the Konsole session.

### **Cancel (Esc)**

Break the drag and drop action.

If you press the shortcuts before releasing the left mouse button during drag and drop, no context menu appears and the actions will be executed immediately.

If you want to use the **Ctrl** key for drag and drop or disable the context menu to insert URLs as text by default, enable the corresponding options on the **Mouse** tab in the profile settings dialog.



## 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.

Alternatively you can use the shortcut **Ctrl+Shift+M** to show or hide the menubar.

#### 2.1.1 File Menu

**File** → **New Window (Ctrl+Shift+N)**

Opens a new separate Konsole window with the default profile

**File** → **New Tab (Ctrl+Shift+T)**

Opens a new tab with the default profile

**NOTE**

Konsole ships with a default profile. Any new profiles added by the user will be listed in the submenu. There will be no submenu if only the default profile is to be shown.

**File** → **Clone Tab**

Attempts to clone the current tab in a new tab

**File** → **Save Output As... (Ctrl+Shift+S)**

Saves the current scrollbar as a text or html file

**File** → **Print Screen ... (Ctrl+Shift+P)**

Print the current screen. By default the output is scaled to fit the size of the paper being printed on with black text color and no background. In the print dialog these options can be changed on the **Output Options** tab.

**File** → **Open File Manager**

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 → Close Window (Ctrl+Shift+Q)**

Quits Konsole

**NOTE**  
 Konsole will display a confirmation dialog if there is more than one tab open. This dialog can be disabled by clicking on the **Do not ask again** checkbox.  
 If you want to get the confirmation dialog get back, delete the entry

```
[Notification Messages]
CloseAllTabs=true
```

in \$XDG\_CONFIG\_HOME /konsoleerc.

### 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 → Select All**

Selects all the text in current window

**Edit → Copy Input To → All Tabs in Current Window**

Allows input from the current session to be sent simultaneously to all sessions in current window

**Edit → Copy Input To → Select Tabs... (Ctrl+Shift+.)**

Allows input from the current session to be sent simultaneously to sessions picked by user

**Edit → Copy Input To → None (Ctrl+Shift+/)**

Stop sending input from current session into other sessions

**Edit → Send Signal**

Send the specified signal to the shell process, or other process, that was launched when the new session was started.

Currently available signals are:

STOP	to stop process
CONT	continue if stopped
HUP	hangup detected on controlling terminal, or death of controlling process
INT	interrupt from keyboard
TERM	termination signal
KILL	kill signal
USR1	user signal 1
USR2	user signal 2

Refer to your system manual pages for further details by giving the command **man 7 signal**.

**Edit → Rename Tab... (Ctrl+Alt+S)**

Opens a dialog box allowing you to change the name of the current tab ([more info](#))

**Edit → ZModem Upload... (Ctrl+Alt+U)**

Opens up a dialog to select a file to be uploaded if the required software is installed

**Edit → Find... (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.

**Edit → Find Next (F3)**

Moves to the next search instance . If the search bar has the focus, you can use the shortcut **Enter** as well.

**Edit → Find Previous (Shift+F3)**

Moves to the previous search instance . If the search bar has the focus, you can use the shortcut **Shift+Enter** as well.

### 2.1.3 View Menu

**View → Split View → Split View Left/Right (Ctrl+0)**

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+))**

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 all non-current views

**View → Split View → Expand View (Ctrl+Shift+])**

Makes the current view larger

**View → Split View → Shrink View (Ctrl+Shift+[)**

Makes the current view smaller

**View → Detach Current Tab (Ctrl+Shift+H)**

Opens the current tab in a separate window

Quitting the previous Konsole window will not affect the newly created window.

**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 → Read-only**

Toggles the session to be read-only: no input is accepted, drag and drop is disabled.

**View → Enlarge Font (Ctrl++)**

Increases the text font size

**View → Shrink Font (Ctrl+-)**

Decreases the text font size

**View → Set Encoding**

Sets the character encoding

**View → Clear Scrollback**

Clears the text in the scrollback

**View → Clear Scrollback and Reset (Ctrl+Shift+K)**

Clears the text in the current tab and scrollback and resets the terminal

## 2.1.4 Bookmarks Menu

**Bookmarks → Add Bookmark (Ctrl+Shift+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. Currently, Konsole accepts the following:

- `ssh://user@host:port`
- `telnet://user@host:port`

## 2.1.5 Settings Menu

**Settings → Edit Current Profile...**

Opens a dialog to configure current profile

**Settings → Switch Profile**

Switch current profile to a listed profile

**Settings → Manage Profiles...**

Opens an editor for managing profiles

**Settings → Show Menu Bar (Ctrl+Shift+M)**

Toggles the menubar being visible

**Settings → Full Screen Mode (F11)**

Toggles Konsole filling the entire screen

**Settings → Configure Shortcuts...**

Opens the keyboard shortcut editor. More on shortcuts configuration can be found in the [KDE Fundamentals](#).

Additionally Konsole has a few special shortcuts with no corresponding menu item:

Shortcut	Description
<b>Shift+Right</b>	Next Tab
<b>Shift+Left</b>	Previous Tab
<b>Ctrl+Shift+Left</b>	Move Tab Left
<b>Ctrl+Shift+Right</b>	Move Tab Right
<b>Ctrl+Shift+Ins</b>	Paste Selection
<b>Shift+Tab</b>	Next View Container

**Settings → Configure Notifications...**

Opens the notifications editor

**Settings → Configure Konsole...**

Opens the Konsole settings editor

This dialog has options influencing the appearance and behaviour of the **TabBar** and general options for the Konsole window.

## 2.1.6 Help Menu

Konsole has the some of the common KDE **Help** menu items, for more information read the section about the [Help Menu](#) of the KDE Fundamentals.

## 2.2 Konsole Dialogs

### 2.2.1 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 for local tabs:

- %n : program name
- %d : current directory (short)
- %D : current directory (long)
- %h : local host (short)
- %u : user name

- %w : window title set by shell
- %# : session number

Konsole will substitute these tokens for remote tabs:

- %c : current program
- %h : remote host (short)
- %H : remote host (long)
- %u : user name
- %U : user name@ (if given)
- %w : window title set by shell
- %# : session number

Examples:

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

### 2.2.2 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.

### 2.2.3 Adjust Scrollback Dialog

The [scrollback](#) options for the history size can be changed in this dialog. Any changes are for the current tab only and will not be saved to the 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 various options.

**--profile *file***

Start Konsole using the specified profile instead of the default profile.

**--fallback-profile**

Use the internal FALLBACK profile. This option is a shortcut for `--profile FALLBACK/`.

**--workdir *dir***

Open with *dir* as the initial working directory.

**--hold, --noclose**

Do not close the initial session automatically when it ends.

**--new-tab**

Create a new tab in an existing window rather than creating a new window.

**--tabs-from-file *file***

Create tabs as specified in the given tabs configuration file.

**NOTE**

The file has one tab per line in the following format:

Each line specifies a tab to open using up to 4 fields specifying how it is to open. Fields are delimited with `;;` and a field name must have a `:` appended. Empty lines or lines with `#` at the beginning are ignored, so you can use line beginning with `#` to add comments.

**title:** a name for this tab, tab default if blank or not specified

**workdir:** working directory, `~` if blank or not specified

**profile:** a Konsole profile to use, the default if blank or not specified

**command:** a command to run

Each line should contain at least one of **command** or **profile** field.

Example: **title: %n;; command: /usr/bin/top ;; profile: Shell**

**--background-mode**

Start Konsole in the background and bring to the front when **Ctrl+Shift+F12** (by default) is pressed.

- separate, --nofork**  
Run the new instance of Konsole in a separate process.
- show-menubar**  
Show the menubar, overriding the default behavior.
- hide-menubar**  
Hide the menubar, overriding the default behavior.
- show-tabbar**  
Show the tabbar, overriding the default behavior.
- hide-tabbar**  
Hide the tabbar, overriding the default behavior.
- fullscreen**  
Start Konsole in fullscreen mode.
- notransparency**  
Disable transparent backgrounds, even if the system supports them.
- list-profiles**  
List all available profiles.
- list-profile-properties**  
List all possible properties with name and type. See option `-p`.  
For more information, please visit [Konsole API Reference](#).
- p *property=value***  
Change the value of a profile property.
- e *command***  
Execute *command* instead of the normal shell.

**NOTE**

This option will catch all following arguments passed to Konsole, and execute it as *command*. So this option should always be used as the last option.

Konsole also accepts generic Qt™ and KDE Frameworks 5 options, see man pages `qt5options` and `kf5options`.



## Chapter 4

# Scripting Konsole

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` will display the D-Bus interface for Konsole.
- `% qdbus org.kde.konsole /Windows/1` will display methods for controlling window 1.
- `% qdbus org.kde.konsole $KONSOLE_DBUS_WINDOW` will display methods for controlling the current window.
- `% qdbus org.kde.konsole /Sessions/1` will display methods for controlling session 1.
- `% qdbus org.kde.konsole $KONSOLE_DBUS_SESSION` will display methods for controlling the current session.
- `% qdbus $KONSOLE_DBUS_SERVICE $KONSOLE_DBUS_SESSION` will display methods for controlling the current Konsole's session.

If any of the above commands outputs: Service 'org.kde.konsole' does not exist, change `org.kde.konsole` to one of the following:

- `org.kde.konsole-`pidof -s konsole`` (will select first pid)
- `$KONSOLE_DBUS_SERVICE` (this can be used from the current Konsole)
- select one from the output of `'qdbus | grep konsole'`

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

## Chapter 5

# Using Style Sheet for the Tab Bar

The default style sheet for the tab bar sets the minimum and maximum tab widths. The user can create a `.css` file and have Konsole use that as the style sheet for the tab bar. In the `.css` file, the widget to use is `QTabBar::tab`.

For more information, consider reading [Qt Style Sheets](#)

Examples:

- Change the selected tab's background to a light gray

```
QTabBar::tab:selected {
    background: #999999
}
```

- Change the selected tab's text to red

```
QTabBar::tab:selected {
    color: red
}
```

- All tabs will be at least 200 pixels in width

```
QTabBar::tab {
    min-width: 200px
}
```

- Only the selected tab will be at least 200 pixels in width

```
QTabBar::tab::selected {
    min-width: 200px
}
```

- Any of these can be combined in one file

```
QTabBar::tab::selected {
    background: #999999;
    color: red;
    min-width: 200px;
}
QTabBar::tab {
    min-width: 100px
}
```

## Chapter 6

# Did You Know?, Common Issues and More

### 6.1 Did You Know?

- Pressing **Ctrl** while selecting text will cause line breaks to be converted to spaces when pasted.
- Pressing the **Ctrl+Alt** keys while selecting text will select columns.
- The **Ctrl+Wheel** combination will zoom text size, like in Konqueror and Firefox.
- When a program evaluates either mouse button, pressing the **Shift** key will allow the popup menu to appear.
- The **Ctrl+Shift+F10** shortcut will activate the menu.
- The **Shift+Insert** keys will insert the clipboard.
- Double-clicking will select a whole word. Continuing to hold the mouse button and moving the mouse will extend the selection.
- Triple-clicking will select a whole line. Continuing to hold the mouse button and moving the mouse will extend the selection.
- There is a hidden feature for the “%d” formatter in tab title. You can tell Konsole to abbreviate a directory name into its first character. For example, “/path/to/konsole/src” can be abbreviated into “konsole/s”. If you want to enable and control this hidden feature, open `konsole.rc` in `qtpaths --paths GenericConfigLocation` and add following lines:

```
[ProcessInfo]
CommonDirNames=name1,name2,name3...
```

#### NOTE

If you are using Yakuake, you need to edit `yakuake.rc` in `qtpaths --paths GenericConfigLocation` instead.

### 6.2 Common Issues

- Some fonts might be unavailable for usage in Konsole, although they are available in other applications. That doesn't mean there is a bug in Konsole. Konsole requires monospaced fonts to provide the best visual result, so it asks Qt™ to only list monospaced fonts.

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Starting with version 16.08 (August 2016), Konsole can be configured to allow selecting any font with the caveat that the display may not be correct.

- Since KDE4 all the tabs use the same process ID. This has the side-effect that if one tab's process has issues, all the other tabs may experience issues as well.

This is most noticeable when a command that connects to an external device or system (ssh, nfs) has issues.

- Konsole treats arguments after the `-e` option as one command and runs it directly, instead of parsing it and possibly dividing it into sub-commands for execution. This is different from `xterm`.

– `konsole -e "command1 ; command2"` does not work

– `konsole -e $SHELL -c "command1 ; command2"` works

- Konsole doesn't provide convenience for running login shell, because developers don't like the idea of running login shell in a terminal emulator.

Of course, users still can run login shell in Konsole if they really need to. Edit the profile in use and modify its command to the form of starting a login shell explicitly, such as `"bash -l"` and `"zsh -l"`.

- The `--new-tab` option sometimes behaves strangely. It may create new window, or it may create new tab in another existing Konsole window instead of the current Konsole window.

Those behaviors feel strange, but they are not necessarily bugs. The `--new-tab` option tries to reuse existing Konsole windows, but not all Konsole windows are reusable. All Konsole windows opened through KRunner are reusable, while most Konsole windows opened from command line are not.

## Chapter 7

# Credits and Copyright

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