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KDE 4 Features

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KDE Workspaces

KDE Workspaces consist of:

- Activities
- Virtual Desktops

They have:

- Widgets
- Panels
- Menu

KDE Under the Hood

- KWin is the window manager
- Plasma is the desktop shell

KDE Activities

To show the Activities Manager:

- Click the ... icon next to the menu icon
- Press Meta-Q
- Right-click the desktop, and choose Activities...
- Click the desktop to give it focus, and press Alt-d, Alt-a

Switching Activities

- Press Meta-tab to rotate through the activities to the right.
- Press Shift-Meta-tab tab to rotate through the activities to the left.
- You can configure a keyboard shortcut to switch to a specific activity by following the steps in the link below. Note that the correct command is now: `qdbus org.kde.kactivitymanagerd /ActivityManager/Activities CurrentActivity`

<http://blog.hanschen.org/2011/05/15/7-ways-to-switch-activities/>

Switching Activities, cont.

You can configure the left mouse button when pressed on the Desktop to present a list of activities to select. To configure it:

1. Click the desktop Tool Box icon in the upper right corner of the screen.
2. Click Default Desktop Settings.
3. Click Mouse Actions.
4. Click Add Action...
5. Click the left mouse button on the Input here... button.
6. Change the action from Standard Menu to Switch Activity.
7. Click OK.

Switching Activities, cont.

Similarly, you can add another mouse action to switch activities via something like Ctrl-Vertical-Scroll. Then scrolling the mouse wheel will switch activities.

Application Windows and Activities

Right-click a window's title bar and click **Activities** to specify which one(s) it should display on. You can also set which desktop(s) it will be on.

Activity Templates

Desktop Icons

Folder

Grid Desktop

Grouping Desktop

Newspaper Layout

Photos Activity

Search and Launch

Virtual Desktops

Each KDE activity defaults to 2 virtual desktops.

You can add additional virtual desktops:

Right-click the virtual desktop panel applet and click Pager Settings to configure the number of desktops, pager options, and desktop switching animations.

Show All Open Windows on the Current Virtual Desktop

Move the mouse cursor to the upper-left corner of the screen or press Ctrl-F9 to show all open applications on the current virtual desktop, or press Ctrl-F10 to show all open windows on all virtual desktops. This is called the “present windows” mode.

You can start typing the title of the window to filter them then press Enter to switch to it.

You can close a window by hovering over it and pressing the X.

Show All Open Windows on all Virtual Desktops

Press Ctrl-F8 to enable the desktop grid layout which will show all open windows on all virtual desktops. You can drag windows between desktops. You can also press the number of the desktop to switch to it.

Kickoff

Click the launcher icon or press Alt-F1.

You can edit the applications by right-clicking the icon and clicking Edit Applications...

You can create a shortcut of an application by right-clicking it in the menu list, and choosing "Add to Desktop" or "Add to Panel".

krunner

krunner is an pop-up application launcher, search tool, language translator, plus other nifty things that is initiated by Alt-F2.

From the pop-up, you can open the System Activity application to monitor and manage running processes. Additionally, you can press Ctrl-Esc to open it.

If it crashes, open a terminal and enter:
krunner

Screen Snap

Move a window to a corner to resize it to a quarter of the screen size into that corner of the screen.

Move a window to a side to resize it to half the screen size onto that half of the screen.

Window Move & Resize

KWin lets you move a window by pressing Alt and clicking on a window's content. While you hold the left mouse button pressed, the window will move with your mouse.

KWin lets you resize a window by pressing Alt and right-clicking on the window.

Plasma Widgets

Everything that makes up a KDE desktop is composed of widgets. From the icons to the panels and menus, widgets are the building blocks. These are considered the native widgets.

Third-party widgets can be installed to enhance the basic desktop further.

Adding a Widget

To add widgets to the desktop, you can right-click it and choose Add Widgets, or click the desktop Tool Box icon in the upper right corner of the screen and choose Add Widgets.

Search the available widgets, then drag and drop the ones you want to the desktop.

Configuring a Widget

Each widget when hovered over (unless it is locked) displays a pop-up menu that has 4 basic icons:

- Resize – Box with arrows pointing to two corners.
- Rotate – Curved double-ended arrow.
- Configure – Wrench.
- Delete/Remove – An X.

Some have an Expand/Enlarge option too represented by a box with arrows pointing to all corners.

Possible Comic Widget Bug

If the comics don't show up in the list after installing them from the widget itself, manually download the comic and run the following command to install it (change the comic name as appropriate):

```
plasmapkg -t comic -i 92042-dilbert.comic
```

To fix the installer bug, run as root:

```
sed -i 's/-i/-u/g' /usr/share/kde4/config/comic.knsrc
```

Locking Widgets

Widgets can be locked once they are configured and positioned so that they don't get accidentally changed or moved.

To lock the widgets, you can right-click the desktop and choose Lock Widgets, or click the desktop Tool Box icon in the upper right corner of the screen and choose Lock Widgets.

Widget Dashboard

Ctrl-12 shows/hides the Widget Dashboard. It displays all of the desktop widgets in the foreground so you can take a quick look at them.

The Desktop Tool Box "cashew" Options

- Add Panel
- Add Widgets
- Activities
- Shortcut Settings
- Default Desktop Settings
- Lock Widgets
- Lock Screen
- Leave

The Panel Tool Box

- Set panel position
- Set panel size
- Set panel location
- More Settings:
 - Adjust panel alignment
 - Set visibility/hiding settings

Application Window Thumbnails

Hover the mouse over the open applications in the taskbar to see a live thumbnail of the window.

Window Manager Settings

Right-click a window's title bar and select More Actions > Window Manager Settings... to open a dialog with several sets of options.

- Enable/disable desktop effects and install new ones.
- Set options for task switching.
- View and set the screen edge actions (hot corners).
- Set window decoration style.
- Set window actions (e.g., what happens when you double-click the title bar).

Desktop Effects

To manage desktop effects, click the launcher icon, then click Configure Desktop > Desktop Effects.

Enable effects on the General tab.

Activate specific effects on the All Effects tab.

Some desktop effects:

- Zoom
- Wobbly Windows

Reloading Plasma

Sometimes you might want to reload Plasma, like right after changing system language so the changes takes effect, or because of a problem with the desktop. To do that, open a terminal and run these commands:

```
kquitapp plasma-desktop
```

```
plasma-desktop
```

Demo