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Subject: Re: Linux "start" equivalent  
Posted by [rainbowsally](#) on Thu, 25 Dec 2014 13:08:30 GMT  
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Hi koldo.

koldo wrote on Wed, 24 December 2014 13:45Hello rainbowsally

You can make me a favor :) : please tell me the way to identify your desktop system and the best way to launch a program in your system. I mean:

- The way to identify your system

For example: environment variables (GNOME\_DESKTOP\_SESSION\_ID in gnome, KDE\_FULL\_SESSION in KDE) or some text in xprop output.

- The best way to launch a program in your system

For example:

```
system("kfmclient exec \"" + String(file) + "\" &");  
system("xdg-open \"" + String(file) + "\"");
```

The best way is just as you wrote above. At least for KDE. The environment variables generally have some clue as to the desktop being used.

But you may not realize this but both of the commands above do the same thing. That is kfmclient and xdg-open will both launch the same file but the xdg-open is "generic". Probably works on your Ubuntu, no?

If you like you can take a look at xdg-open. It's a script so you can pretty much tell the extents it goes to in order to figure out everything.

If Ubuntu has xdg-open, so does Mint and so does open[sic]suse.

I may also have the sources for kfmclient for kde 4.6, if you're curious about that one.

PS. xprop is for reading the "atoms" (flags and misc stuff) and icon bitmaps and things like that found in running applications. Very cool, but not much help here.

Also, if this remains important to you, let me know. I THINK we can scan the environment variables for strings containing "DE" at the end of a key OR a value (in a key-value pair) to find, or at the very least to get strong clues, about a user's current desktop environment.

I'm willing to do you a favor. :) It just might not be necessary. Let me know.

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## File Attachments

1) [xdg-open.tar.gz](#), downloaded 382 times

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