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Subject: Linux "start" equivalent  
Posted by [rainbowsally](#) on Sun, 21 Dec 2014 09:55:50 GMT  
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I was having problems with functions4u in linux. And I still am, but it seems like this should be pretty simple to fix.

Linux has a 'start.exe' equivalent that will sort out the desktop environment and user-preferences for each user and the mime-linkage to applications for different file types.

It's xdg-open <file>

It discovers the user's DE and if necessary the mime-type and looks up the desktop file and extracts the "Exec=" value.

Functions4U doesn't work in linux, unfortunately, though launching the spreadsheet is quite simple.

xdg-open <name>.xls

You don't need the name of the exact binary executable that ends up being run. Might be OpenOffice -calc. Might be LibreOffice --calc. Might be a wine application. Might even be a upp output file in your home folder.

Just FYI, in case any of you linux guys didn't know that or had forgotten about it.

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Subject: Re: Linux "start" equivalent  
Posted by [koldo](#) on Mon, 22 Dec 2014 20:06:35 GMT  
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Hello rainbowsally

This is the implementation of LaunchFile() in Functions4U:

```
bool LaunchFile(const char *_file) {
    String file = UnixPath(_file);
    int ret;
    if (GetDesktopManagerNew() == "gnome")
        ret = system("gnome-open \"" + String(file) + "\"");
    else if (GetDesktopManagerNew() == "kde")
        ret = system("kfmclient exec \"" + String(file) + "\" &");
    else if (GetDesktopManagerNew() == "enlightenment") {
        String mime = GetExtExecutable(GetFileExt(file));
```

```

String program = mime.Left(mime.Find(".")); // Left side of mime executable is the program to
run
ret = system(program + "\"" + String(file) + "\" &");
} else
ret = system("xdg-open \"" + String(file) + "\"");
return (ret >= 0);
}

```

Please post the details of the system where you find the problems.

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Subject: Re: Linux "start" equivalent  
 Posted by [rainbowsally](#) on Tue, 23 Dec 2014 08:51:38 GMT  
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Hi koldo.

koldo wrote on Mon, 22 December 2014 21:06Hello rainbowsally

This is the implementation of LaunchFile() in Functions4U:

```

bool LaunchFile(const char *_file) {
String file = UnixPath(_file);
int ret;
if (GetDesktopManagerNew() == "gnome")
ret = system("gnome-open \"" + String(file) + "\"");
else if (GetDesktopManagerNew() == "kde")
ret = system("kfmclient exec \"" + String(file) + "\" &");
else if (GetDesktopManagerNew() == "enlightenment") {
String mime = GetExtExecutable(GetFileExt(file));
String program = mime.Left(mime.Find(".")); // Left side of mime executable is the program to
run
ret = system(program + "\"" + String(file) + "\" &");
} else
ret = system("xdg-open \"" + String(file) + "\"");
return (ret >= 0);
}

```

Please post the details of the system where you find the problems.

I'm using Linux Mint/KDE (but also have XFCE, no gnome at present).

I think you'll find that Functions4U is written by a Windows user guessing at how to make it work in Linux.

First of all, the /etc/mime.cfg or whatever it is doesn't exist in Mint nor in Open[sic]SUSE, and even if it did it would ignore the USER's preferences.

I hate launching Dolphin when I need Konqueror, for example.

It's just a suggestion. Both "start.exe %s" and "xdg-open %s..." could greatly simplify the code and it would work better.

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Subject: Re: Linux "start" equivalent  
Posted by [koldo](#) on Wed, 24 Dec 2014 12:45:27 GMT  
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Hello 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) + "\"");
```

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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 387 times

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Subject: Re: Linux "start" equivalent

Posted by [koldo](#) on Thu, 25 Dec 2014 18:14:50 GMT

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Hello rainbowsally

All you say is true. However not always the standards are complied. In fact after testing some times some Linux distributions, I decided to be pragmatic and use the code that works better than use the standards.

Coming to LaunchFile(), it uses kfmclient in case of KDE and xdg-open in other cases so, is the problem that KDE is not detected by LaunchFile() in Mint?

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Subject: Re: Linux "start" equivalent

Posted by [rainbowsally](#) on Fri, 26 Dec 2014 12:37:16 GMT

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Hi koldo.

[Edited a third time.]

koldo wrote on Thu, 25 December 2014 19:14

Coming to LaunchFile(), it uses kfmclient in case of KDE and xdg-open in other cases so, is the problem that KDE is not detected by LaunchFile() in Mint?

I recently realized that I was not doing MT right. I thought the "build" I had to enable that in was when I compiled the ide.

Edit #1.

To make sure UPP doesn't get blamed if a user launches a UPP application from the commandline, it's probably a good idea to use "kfmclient exec <filename> 2>/dev/null" to silence the commandline noise.

Edit #2.

Controls4U:

Wow! Okay. :)

Now... Using Linux/Mint15/KDE though I think I'm using GTK instead of QT, if that makes any sense to you.

I'm pretty confused. I'm not sure if this is one of the apps that wouldn't run before or not, but it's pretty cool. :) [Edit #3: Yes, it's the one.]

However...

1. The experimental file browser thinks text files are directories and says that the directory "does not exist or is not available". The problem is that the treeview in the left panel should not show files at all. The files show in the right panel.

2. Meter and Knob.

Wow! :)

3. JB Controls. Beautiful. I like the progress bar (contrast between the text and the background).

4. Static Clock. I'd like to see the highlight fade to transparent a little more when the 'image' background is used, but very very nice!

[Edit #3: or maybe no highlight at all.]

5. Static Image and Edit file.. The file browser isn't working. That is, when I click on the right arrow, it returns immediately saying "file not found".

[Edit #3: The folder icon on the left is the active control. Not sure what the arrow on the right is for, but I was hitting the arrow.]

...

Functions 4U samples. Aha! That's what the 'functions' were. Not program functions.

Having probs with the file/download or whatever buttons on that page too. This one also has big buttons you can hit to get path and apply patch. These are not working (yet) on my system. I don't use Firefox as the default browser, but I doubt that's the problem. (??)

[Edit #3: probably the same issue. Haven't checked. Looking for MT issues that might be causing somewhat jerky movement. I noticed a Sleep(1) in the MT code for the GUI but it doesn't appear to be used.]

Wow. Just wow. :)

Thank you koldo.

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Subject: Re: Linux "start" equivalent  
Posted by [koldo](#) on Sat, 27 Dec 2014 15:03:21 GMT  
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Hello rainbowsally

Thank you for the review.

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