

Using Linux Desktop Files for Workflow Efficiency

Linux uses desktop files to support the applications and icon shortcuts. These desktop files are stored in the /usr/share/applications folder. They can be copied to /home/username/.local/share/applications. Once in the username applications folder they can be edited to support the individual users needs.

In this example I am sharing how I modified the “konsole” desktop file. This process also works on the standard “terminal” desktop file used in Gnome. The edits in KDE take effect as the desktop file is saved. On Gnome the system needs a reboot to pick up the edits to the desktop file.

I still work in terminal environments. I have a development, quality assurance, and live environments.

In Figure 1, below I have four environments defined: DSL, FSO, EDU2, and FWSL.

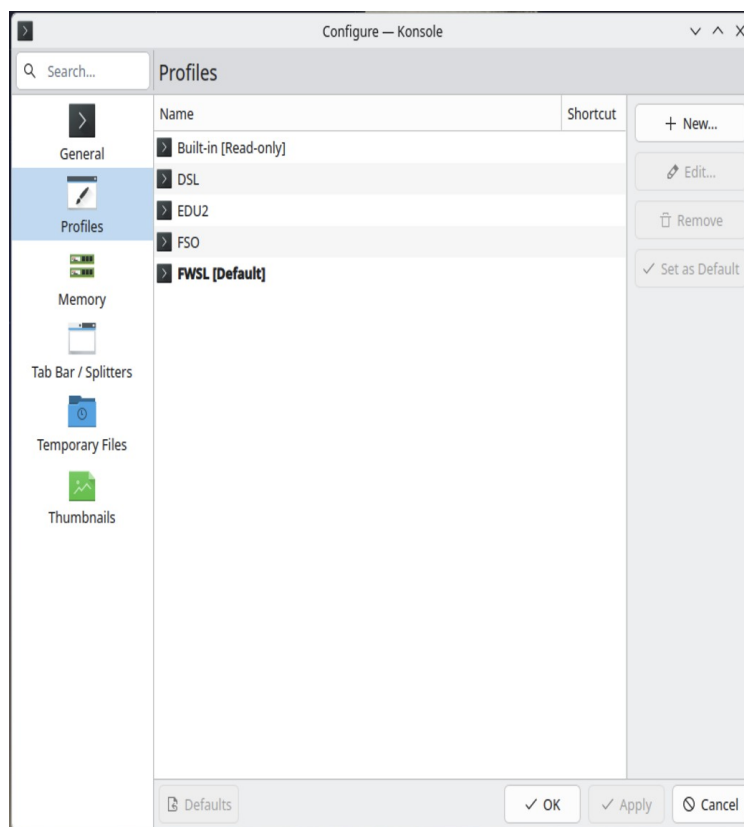


Figure 1: Konsole Profiles

Figure 2 below shows an example Konsole Profile named DSL.

The Command to run the ssh command including a username and IP address. For example “ssh username@123.45.67.89”. Set the Columns at 80 and Rows to 24 to match the old fashion terminal screens.

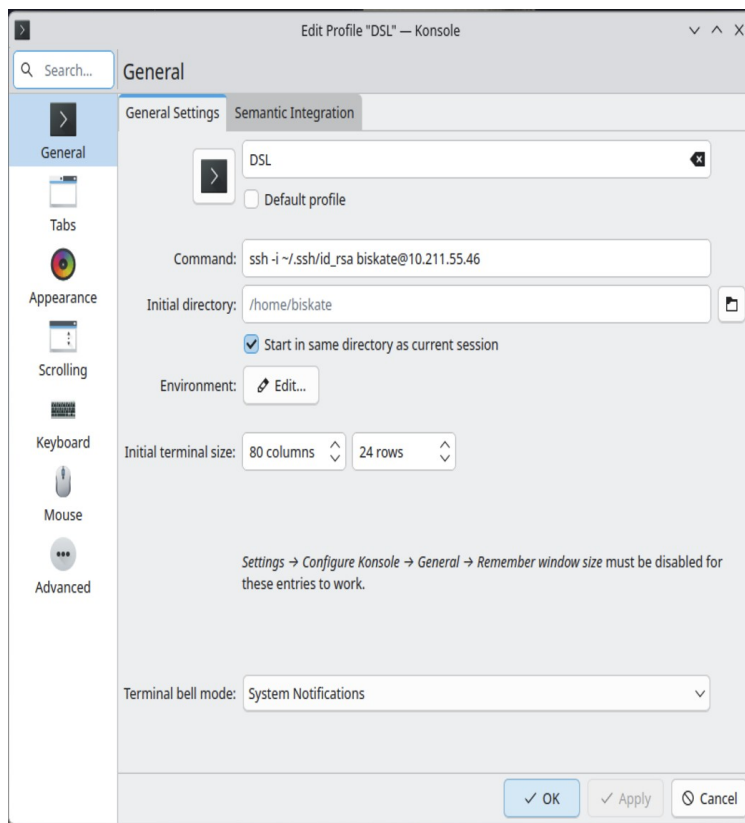


Figure 2: Konsole Example Profile

Four new “Actions” were added to the “Actions” variable as shown below in Figure 3. Four new “Desktop Actions” sections were added to the end of the “org.kde.konsole.desktop” file.

```
Actions=NewWindow;NewTab;dsl;edu2;fso;fwsl;
```

```
[Desktop Action dsl]
Name=DSL
Icon=window-new
Exec=konsole --profile "DSL"
```

```
[Desktop Action edu2]
Name=EDU2
Icon=window-new
Exec=konsole --profile "EDU2"
```

```
[Desktop Action fso]
Name=FSO
Icon=window-new
Exec=konsole --profile "FSO"
```

```
[Desktop Action fwsl]
Name=FWSL
Icon=window-new
Exec=konsole --profile "FWSL"
```

Figure 3: Additional Desktop Actions

After the “org.kde.konsole.desktop” file is saved the example show below in Figure 4 now shows when the “Konsole” menu icon is right clicked. Gnome users will need to restart before the new menu options are available.

Selecting the Option Profile will take the user to the associated “konsole” profile.

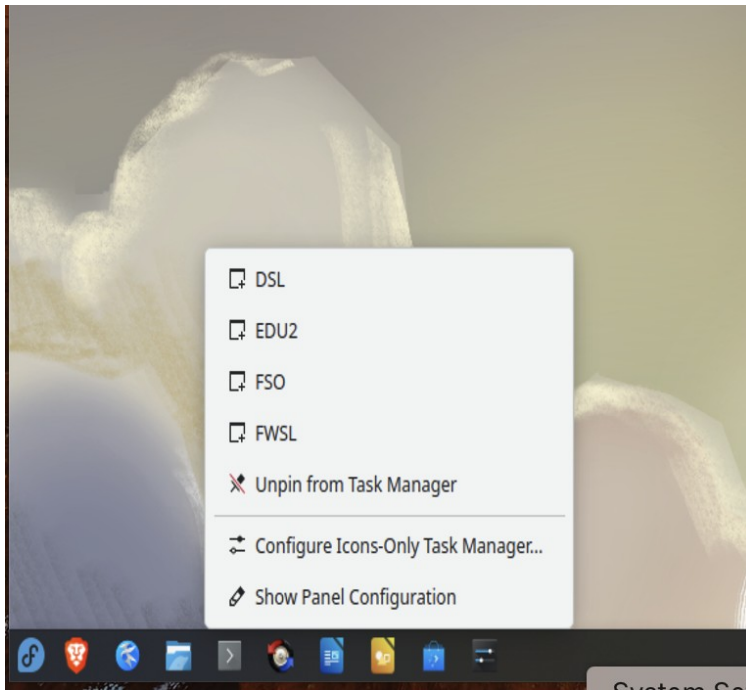


Figure 4: Right Click konsole icon