

The PCLinuxOS magazine

May, 2011

Enlightenment



Special Edition



PCLinuxOS

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Welcome from the Assistant Editor

Welcome to another Special Edition of the PCLinuxOS Magazine! Just as we did with KDE, LXDE and XFCE, we have compiled all the e17 articles into one, easy-to-access document.

Many users adore the e17 desktop! We have many in our community who have done custom isos and themes, so your e17 desktop can look however you want it to look. I know that those who do isos and themes are hard at work updating and improving on their already awesome designs, and we have all seen screenshots in the forum that promise good things to come.

The Enlightenment Desktop Environment has been a real learning experience, but we have enjoyed the exploration. I learned so much about Enlightenment in the last year! I originally tried it when it was e16 using an eLive cd. I quickly decided it wasn't for me, so I opted to keep exploring live cds which, of course, brought me to PCLinuxOS. During our e17 article series, however, I felt much more comfortable with it, so my earlier difficulty may have only been because I was a beginner.

I noticed immediately that e17 does a few things much differently than any of the other desktop environments, and so I did a little research into Enlightenment.



From the [Enlightenment website](#);

"Enlightenment is not just a window manager for Linux/X11 and others, but also a whole suite of libraries to help you create beautiful user interfaces with much less work than doing it the old fashioned way and fighting with traditional toolkits, not to mention a traditional window manager. It covers uses from small mobile devices like phones all the way to powerful multi-core desktops (which are the primary development environment).

The Enlightenment Window Manager was first released in 1997 by Carsten

"Rasterman" Haitzler. Its release revolutionized the face of desktops on UNIX platforms and beyond, featuring a more graphically stimulating environment than ever previously seen on a conventional desktop. Since that time the window manager has been emulated and has driven the graphical appeal we see on desktops everywhere.

The Enlightenment DR16 Window Manager is a robust, flexible, highly configurable, graphically rich yet

unobtrusive desktop environment for the X11 windowing system. It is fully themable and easily configured. There are a wide range of configuration options to suite any taste."

We hope you find this special edition useful for configuring your e17 desktop!

Sincerely, Meemaw
Never Stop Learning!

Posted by Linuxera on May 1, 2011



e17: An Overview

by Paul Arnote (parnote)

Similar but different would be an excellent way to describe e17, also known as Enlightenment, or simply "E." In many ways, it brings a whole new way

of working with and thinking about the Linux desktop. It does so without throwing away everything you've become accustomed to in a Linux desktop, while providing a lot of eye-candy, all within a small memory footprint. As such, e17 runs exceptionally well on older, less capable hardware.

E17 really is a window manager for the X11 window system on Linux. It's not a full-fledged desktop environment, as KDE, Gnome, Xfce and LXDE are.

The cornerstones to the popularity of e17 are its modularity and its ability to be heavily customized to the users needs. If you don't use or need a module, you can simply unload it without sacrificing system stability and features. With the ability to customize the e17 desktop, it means that users can create their own, unique user experience, tailoring the desktop to exactly match the way they work with the computer.

History

The first release of Enlightenment was in 1997, by Carsten Haitzler, a.k.a. Rasterman. Under development for more than a decade, the latest stable release is version E16 1.0.4. However, PCLinuxOS uses E17, which just moved from alpha to beta status within the last month or two. The rewrite of Enlightenment for E17 revolved around making Enlightenment more modular, via the EFL (Enlightenment Foundation Libraries). By breaking the window manager into smaller modules, the Enlightenment developers hope to make maintenance easier. It will also mean that only the affected libraries (and the applications that call them)



My customized e17 desktop, running the PCLinuxOS-e17 Light ISO on an IBM Thinkpad T23 with a P3 1.13 GHz processor and 512 MB RAM.

will need to be rebuilt as Enlightenment continues to grow and mature.



Doing More With Less

The efficient use of modules allows E programmers to "do more with less." In essence, the programmers focus on the meat and functionality of a program, and independent "edje" files are responsible for handling the finer points of the graphical user interface. Thus, they don't have to spend large quantities of time on designing and redesigning the user interface (UI) for each and every application that is written.

Memory & System Requirements

The [Enlightenment web site](#) lists the minimum memory requirements for running Linux + Enlightenment as 16 MB (and possibly as low as 8 MB). In order to experience the full "Enlightenment experience," 64 MB (and greater) are recommended. For PCLinuxOS-e17, 512 MB RAM is recommended, although it will run and install with less than one-half that amount of system memory.

While Linux desktop systems represent the most common tool used to develop the Enlightenment and

EFL (due to the speed), development is done with the goal that it also runs on mobile phones, televisions, netbooks and more. In fact, there are several major electronics manufacturers who have partnered with the Enlightenment development team, including Samsung.

As a result, Enlightenment and EFL have been successfully run and tested on x86-32, x86-64, Atom, PowerPC, ARM, MIPS, Sparc, and other architectures. In fact, as little as a 200 MHz ARM core will provide sufficient processing power to adequately run Enlightenment and EFL.

The graphic needs of Enlightenment are quite modest, as well. It is designed to run on screens as small as QVGA (320 x 240), but the graphics architecture is designed to scale to full-HD (1920 x 1080) and beyond, using displays ranging from 8-bit paletted colors all the way up to full 24/32 bit true color displays.

Impressions

The "full" Enlightenment ISO, containing a wide range of KDE applications, is intended for computers with more modern processors (although, it will typically run quite well on older computers). The "light" Enlightenment ISO is intended for older, slower computers, and uses lighter weight Gtk+ applications. On my IBM Thinkpad T23 (P3, 1.13 GHz, 512 MB RAM, 8 MB S3 Video), the light version runs faster and is more responsive. But it's worth mentioning that the full version also runs quite well. With the full version, I experienced brisk performance until Qt4/KDE libraries had to be

loaded in to launch a KDE application. Then, there was about a 10 second delay before the display of the KDE application on this older computer. I experienced no such delays when launching the Gtk+ applications in the light version.

The light version comes heavily customized in the default installation. While experienced e17 users will love its flash and glitz, new users may have some difficulty in figuring out what to do and where to go, since nothing is where you are accustomed to looking for it on the other desktops in the other versions of PCLinuxOS. Fortunately, Texstar has created a package that will make the light version look and act more like the other desktop environments. New e17 users may find installing the package (called econfig-light) from Synaptic helpful in getting their bearings. After all, there are plenty of other things to learn about and explore in e17, and that learning curve is made a lot easier if users have a familiar looking interface to operate in. Users can revert back to the flashy, glitzy screen layout at any time, simply by installing the econfig-itask package from Synaptic.

Conclusions

If you are looking for a Linux desktop that is fast and responsive, that uses a minimum of memory, and that has ample amounts of eye candy, then e17 definitely is for you. Overall, I've found e17 to be very stable. Its ability to be customized allows users to tweak and tune just about every aspect of the interface, and to create an e17 user experience that is uniquely their own.

e17: Beginner Desktop Tweaks

by Paul Arnote (parnote)

As we've mentioned before, one of the things that is most appealing about e17 is the ability to tweak and tune the desktop to your heart's content. With just the addition of a few modules and a few gadgets, you can have the desktop of your dreams.

What may not be apparent is that you can tweak and tune your e17 down to how each individual desktop appears. You can even pick a different wallpaper for each of your virtual desktops, a KDE 3.5.10 feature that has been lost (or become more difficult) under KDE 4. Plus, each and every shelf and gadget you add to your screen can also be displayed on every desktop, or only one desktop that you select. Try doing that with KDE 4's widgets.

Applying Different Themes

Probably one of the things you will want to eventually do is apply a different theme. Under e17, it's very easy to apply new themes to your desktop.

First, you will want to install the themes by Agust from Synaptic. Simply search for "agust" in Synaptic, and you will find two packages in the PCLinuxOS repository containing the e17 themes for PCLinuxOS.

Next, from the e17 main menu, select **Settings > Theme**. You will see the dialog below.



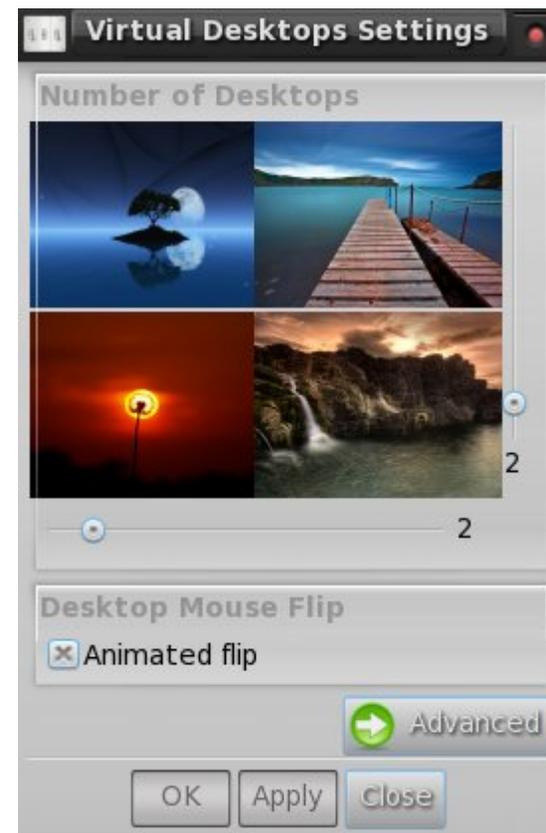
Select the theme you want to use, then select Apply, then Close. The settings under the "Advanced" button will be covered in more detail later, in a separate article on how to make your own e17 themes.

Different Desktop Wallpapers

It's actually quite easy to define a different wallpaper for each one of your virtual desktops.



First, from the main e17 menu, select **Desktops > Virtual > Set Virtual Desktops**.

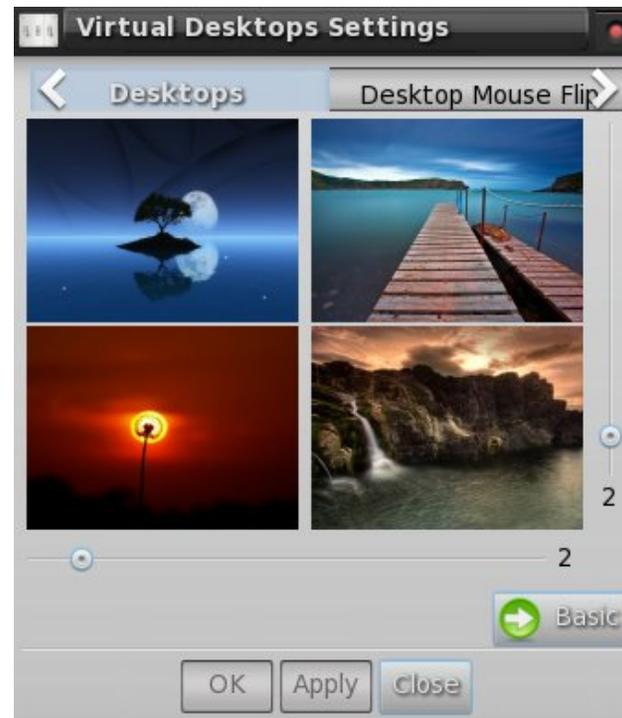


Next, you will get the **Virtual Desktops Settings** dialog window. First, the sliders below and to the right of the desktops display will allow you to configure how many virtual desktops you want, along with the configuration you want to display them in.

Initially, you will see the same wallpaper displayed on all of your desktops. If you click on each of the images displayed, you will be presented with the dialog box shown above. In the "Name" field, you can give that virtual desktop a name. By selecting the "Set" button below the image, you can select the wallpaper to display on that particular virtual desktop. Repeat this procedure for each of your virtual desktops that you want to have a custom wallpaper displayed on. On my computer, I elected to retain the wallpaper of the e17 theme that I installed, and to change the wallpaper on the other three desktop backgrounds.



By selecting the "Advanced" button in the first dialog, you will be presented with the dialog box above. Notice that there is now a button, labeled "Basic," in the place previously occupied by the "Advanced" button, to easily allow you to switch back and forth between the basic and advanced settings.



Also notice the presence of tabs across the upper portion of the dialog box. Besides the first tab, "Desktops," the other tabs are labeled "Desktop Mouse Flip," and "Flip Animation." The "Desktop Mouse Flip" allows you to set if you want any animation when you drag a window to the desktop edge and if you can drag that window to another

virtual desktop. The "Flip Animation" allows you to set what type of animation you want to use when you activate the animation by dragging a window to the virtual desktop screen edge.

Stick a launcher up on a shelf!



We'll talk more in depth about setting up shelves in a separate article, but this is also a desktop tweak that you may want to employ now. Specifically, I set up a new shelf to act primarily as a separate application launcher, and to monitor CPU speed.

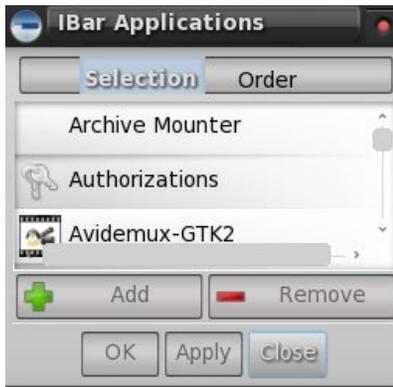
At the top of the shelf, I placed the CPU Speed gadget. Immediately below that, I placed a second instance of the IBar gadget. There is already one IBar gadget in my bottom shelf. But I wanted another instance of it to hold other applications I commonly use. In my case, those applications are, from top to bottom Gimp, DeadBeeF, File Roller, Gcalctool Calculator and Leafpad.



When you first add a second instance of IBar, the settings for the other IBar will automatically be displayed. But you can easily set up the second IBar to display a completely different set of applications to launch. Right click on the second IBar, select "Gadget IBar," then "Settings." You will then see the window above displayed. Select the "Add" button, and provide the name of the new source file you want to use for the second IBar. In my case, I called it "oftused."

Towards the bottom half of the window, you can determine what information is displayed. Select "Apply," then "Close." You may have to do a bit of cleanup of the second IBar, deleting items you don't want and inserting items you do want.

To delete unwanted items from the second IBar, right click the individual icons you want to remove from the IBar, then select the "Icon <Program Name>" entry, then "Remove." To add items to the second IBar, simply right click the IBar, and select "Gadget IBar," then "Contents." By default, the "Selection" tab is highlighted. Listed below that are all the applications installed on your system that have corresponding .desktop files. Choose the one that you want, select the "Add" button, then select "Apply." Repeat the procedure for each application you want to add to your second IBar.



After you are finished selecting the applications you want to display in your second IBar, switch to the "Order" tab, and set the order you want your applications to appear in. Select the "Apply" button, then the "Close" button. Your second (new) IBar should now be filled up with the applications you selected.

Trust me. It's a lot easier than it sounds.

Placing Icons On The Desktop

I'm not a huge fan of having a lot of icons on my desktop. It's too reminiscent of the desktop icon mess I used to have in Windows, where EVERY application wanted to install itself to your Windows desktop. But then, I also know that there are probably just as many PCLinuxOS users who like having icons on their desktop as there are those who do not.

Of course, one way is to follow the steps above to create a launcher using IBar, as outlined above. But if you really want icons directly on your desktop, there is a way to do that as well.

Open your file manager (Dolphin in the full version, PCManFM in the light version), and travel over to /usr/share/applications. There, you will find all the .desktop files for the applications installed on your computer. Go down the list until you find the application listed that you want to add. Right click on the file, and select copy. Go back to your /home directory, and paste the .desktop file you just copied into your /Desktop folder.

Voila! Now the icon to the application you selected should immediately appear on your e17 desktop.

More to come

Like I mentioned before, there are more tweaks for e17 coming. We have articles in the pipeline covering how to make your own custom e17 themes, how to customize your bottom shelf, how to set up and use a custom shelf, and a rundown of the available modules and gadgets. All of these articles will help you further tweak and tune your Linux e17 desktop in many ways that you never could before. That is one of the beautiful things about e17, and one you should exploit.



e17 Settings Panel, Part 1

by Meemaw

In your newly installed E17 desktop, you will want to tweak all your settings so it looks and acts just the way you want it to. For that, you will need to open the E17 Settings Panel. Since it has many sections, we will investigate E17's Settings Panel in three installments.

Left click your menu button (or anywhere on your desktop) and choose **Settings > Settings Panel**. The first window you see will be the main settings window which opens the first section, **Look**, by default.



As you can see, any appearance-related item you would want to change is located here. When you click on any of the listed items, another window will open and allow you to configure that item to your liking.

The **Look** section is the longest and includes the following sections:

Wallpaper - Here you can change the wallpaper on your desktop. As covered in another article, you can have each desktop display a different wallpaper, and that can be done from the Screen section below.

Theme - Your theme can be changed here.

Colors - Colors on borders, backgrounds and fonts can be altered.

Fonts - You can assign different fonts to your window designs (I don't know about you, but sometimes I want something just a little different from the font that's the default.)

Borders - Window borders can be altered here. Be careful... if you decide on borderless, it may take your window's title bar as well.

Icon Theme - Some of our artists make beautiful icons! You can try them by changing the icon theme here. You'll have to have them installed from Synaptic, however.

Mouse Cursor - By default there are two cursor themes, Enlightenment and X and you change it here. Some people have noticed that the Enlightenment cursor theme may cause a memory drain on your system, which can be solved by

changing to the X mouse cursor theme. (See <http://www.pclinuxos.com/forum/index.php/topic,763.17.0.html>)

Transitions - You can assign 'crossfade' or 'vswipe' to a few window transitions, or have no transition.

Scaling - Sets the DPI scaling for your monitor display.

Startup - You can change the look of your startup screen here.

Dropshadow - This configures the drop shadow that appears on your windows. You can change the location and size of the shadow.

The next section is **Apps**.



New Applications - Suppose that you installed something that wasn't in the repos (I know, they frown on that but a few of us do it anyway.) If it doesn't install a link in the menu, you can add it using this section.

Favorite Applications - In the default menu, you will see Favorite Applications. You can add your own favorites to that menu here. The defaults are Firefox, Configure Your Computer (PCC), and Synaptic.

IBar Applications - If you have an IBar, you can also configure it here to contain the applications you want

Restart Applications - There is no information available (that we can find) describing what this item is about.

Startup Applications - If you want Dropbox, XChat or Pidgin to start on boot, you can add them to Startup in this section.

The next section is **Screen**----->

Virtual Desktops - Another place to configure your desktops.

Screen Resolution - This is where you change your screen resolution.

Screen Lock - For privacy, you can lock your screen if need be.



Screensaver - Configure XScreensaver here.

Power Management - This is where you can set hibernate or sleep. I always set my monitor to turn off after two hours of non-use. (I hope it saves some power overnight!)

The next section is **Windows** ----->

Window Display - Determines placement of windows and display of window geometry whenever windows are moved or resized.

Window Focus - How to activate windows.

Window List - Which windows have to be shown in the windows list (e.g. in your task bar), and some options for the behavior.

Window Geometry - Settings for moving and resizing of windows (like resistance of edges, etc.).

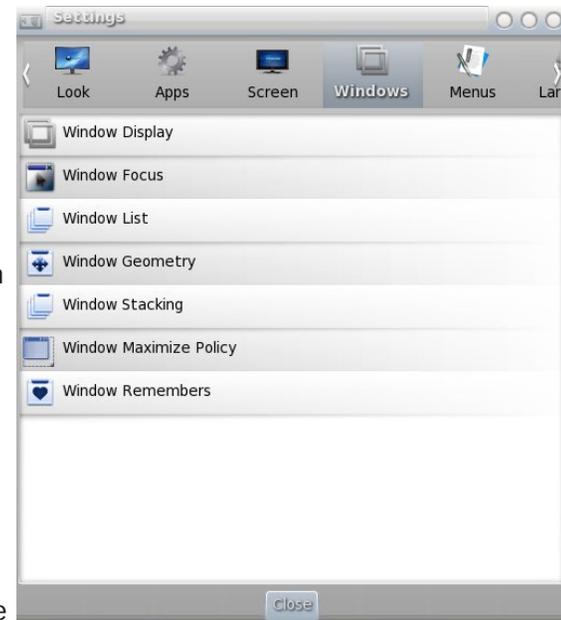
Window Stacking - How windows are stacked, or if windows may appear above full screen windows, etc.

Window Maximize Policy - How windows have to be extended when maximizing.

Window Remembers - Here are the window size and position coordinates that Enlightenment remembers for all different applications. You

can set it to 'remember' where your application window should open, and when you start the same application again, it will appear in the same place, with the same size.

We will continue next month.

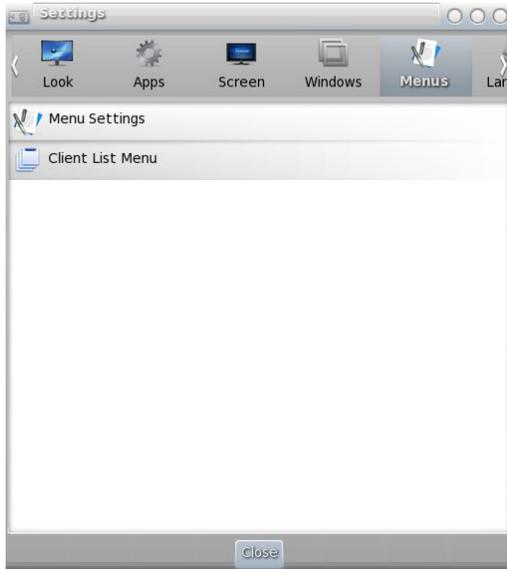


e17 Settings Panel, Part 2

by Meemaw

We continue our exploration of the E17 Settings Panel. The next four sections are **Menus**, **Language**, **Files** and **Input**.

The fifth section is **Menus**.

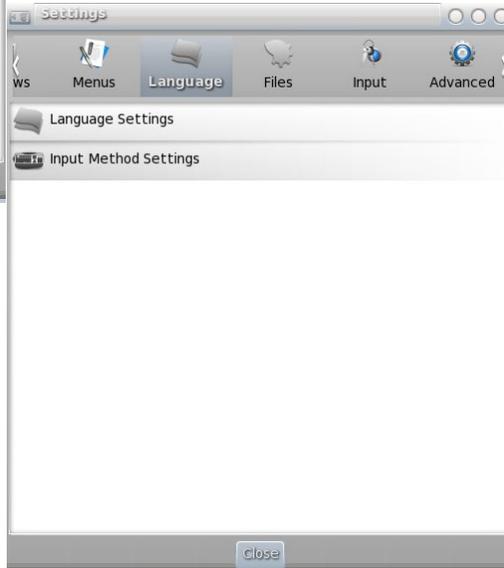


Menu Settings - Which and how menu items are shown in the menu.

Client List Menu - Controls the grouping of current open windows.

The next section is **Language**. --->

Language Settings - If you are not a native English speaker, you will find this



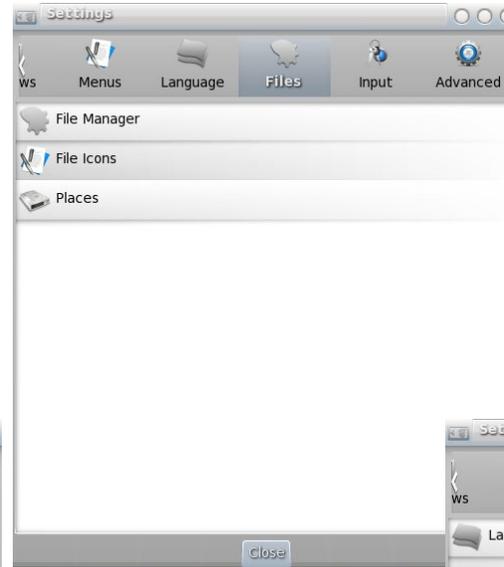
option helpful to change the language of Enlightenment to your preferred one.

Input Method Settings - Select the input method. The default is for Smart Common Input Method, or SCIM.

The next section is **Files** --->

File Manager - Sets defaults to be used by e17's file manager.

File Icons - Select file associations for different types of files, and the icon to display.



Places - Select default folders to show in left pane of file manager.

The next section is **Input**. ----->

Key Bindings - You can configure 'hot keys' for certain commands.

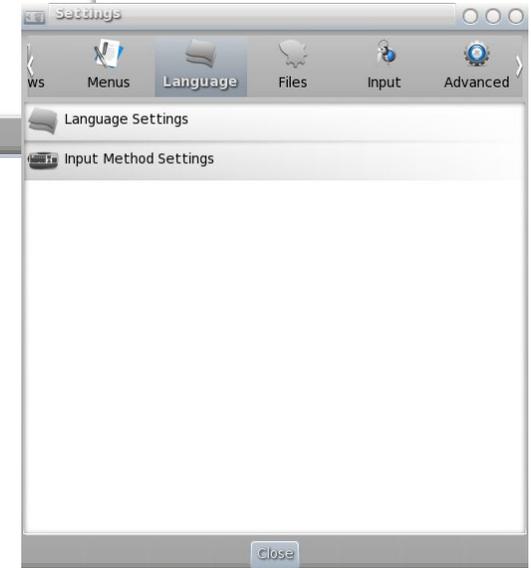
Edge Bindings - Here you can configure what will happen when the mouse goes to or clicks on an edge of the screen.

Interaction - Enable/disable thumbscroll.

Mouse Bindings - Using multiple mouse buttons at the same time can also do something special. This is the place where you can configure this.

Mouse Settings - This configures your mouse for left or right hand and gives settings for acceleration and threshold.

Next month we'll finish out the items in this window.



e17 Settings Panel, Part 3

by Meemaw

The last four sections in the Settings Panel are **Advanced**, **Settings**, **Extensions** and **System**.

Advanced



ACPI Bindings - This is a configuration you can use to tell the system what to do for certain keystrokes. For example, you can designate that the computer be suspended or shut down immediately if the power button is pressed. You can also choose what you want to do if your laptop lid is closed (shut down or hibernate or suspend). There are several defaults already in place.

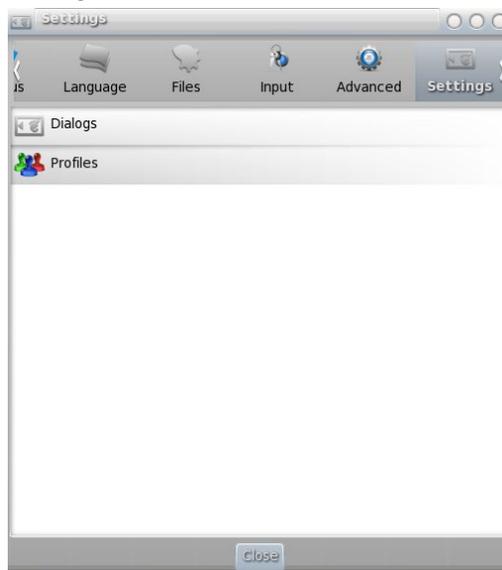
Performance - Sets things like frame rate and cache size.

Search Directories - Sets the default directories for data, images, icons, themes, fonts, modules and backgrounds. You can change or add locations.

Engine - Enables or disables Composite

Configuration Panel - You can configure the whole Settings Panel to appear in your menu if you wish. You will get a menu item under Settings called 'All' which will have each section in the settings panel.

Settings



Dialogs - Confirmation dialogs can be enabled or disabled here.

Profiles - Profiles are different screen configurations you can choose, from default to minimal, and even for a phone or touchscreen. There is a short explanation for each.

Extensions



Modules - Many of the modules you will use are already loaded. However, others (like Drawers) need to be loaded and you do it from here. It comes up as a small window, but enlarge it because the majority of your module loading and settings are in this window.

Screenshot - Your E17 installation has a screenshot program already on a shelf...(unless you removed it.) It can be configured here.

Shelves - New shelves can be added and configured from here.

Mixer - Designates which sound card to use, and will launch the mixer so it can be configured.

Pager - Configuration for your pager (multiple desktops.)

Everything Configuration - This starts the configuration for Everything, which is a 'plugin-based application' that lets you run almost anything.

Itask NG - This a more advanced taskbar and app launcher, with zoom effect.

Everything Plugins - Configure which plugins you want to use

Everything Start - There is a gadget called Everything Start which you can load. It puts an icon on your desktop which will start Everything with a single click.

Everything Files - This is to edit your recently opened files list in everything. You can clear the list and start over if you wish.

Everything Applications - For configuring which applications should be included.

Everything Aspell - Aspell is a spell checker which can be one of the applications you run in Everything

Everything Websearch - If you add the websearch module, this configuration item will show up in the section, allowing you to configure it.

Gadgets - Extra gadgets can be loaded and configured here.

System

This section contains many of the same things that PCLinuxOS Control Center (Configure Your Computer) includes. You'll need to enter your root password on many of them.



Network Center - Configuring your Internet connection.

Firewall Setup - Configure your firewall.

HP Device Manager - Help with your HP printer

GDM Login Setup - Configure your login screen to show a certain wallpaper, and what you want it to include.

Repository Speed Test - You can run this to find the fastest repo for updating using Synaptic.

NTFS Configuration Tool - Configure your system to read the NT file system used with Windows

Authorizations - You can use this section do designate which user is authorized to perform some functions, such as killing a process or unmounting a drive.

Although it's not in the picture, after I updated through Synaptic, the following item appeared in this last section;

Update Package Sources List - I haven't tried it so I'm hoping it does just what we all had to do in a terminal not long ago when the repos changed.

Have fun with E17!!!



e17: Shelves & Drawers Explained

by Meemaw

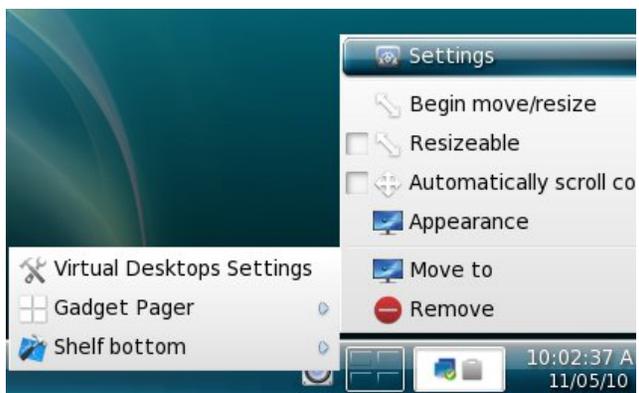
E17 has its own method of configuration. Rather than having a panel, there is a shelf for your desktop items. One of the things you can add to a shelf is a drawer. Different, huh? I'm going to try to explain these two things for you.

Shelf

In a default installation of e17 (the full version), the shelf is at the bottom of the screen and contains the Start menu, Deskshow (e17's version of Show the Desktop), an IBar, the task list, the Mixer (speaker), the Pager, a System Tray and the clock (see bottom of page.)

The Deskshow looks like a window between the Start Menu and the IBar. The IBar is a program launcher and in the default install, it contains Configure Your Computer (PCC), Synaptic, a terminal, and Dolphin File Manager. The default Pager shows only 2 desktops.

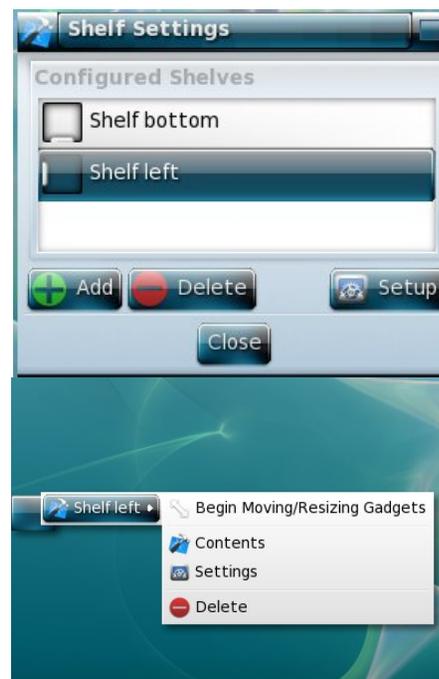
Each of these items can be configured the way you want them. When you right-click an item, you will usually get two choices: configure the shelf or the item. So if you want to change to 4 desktops and right click on **Pager**, you get a menu saying **Shelf Bottom** and **Pager**. It says **Shelf Bottom** because the shelves are distinguished from each other by their location on the screen - this one is at the Bottom. Choose **Gadget Pager** and you will get the following menu (top right):



If you click on the top item '**Virtual Desktop Settings**' you get the screen that lets you choose the number of desktops you want. Going to **Gadget Pager > Settings**, you can choose how you want it all to behave. There is a basic screen and an advanced screen with more choices. (If you make a change, remember to click on Apply to save it before closing each window).



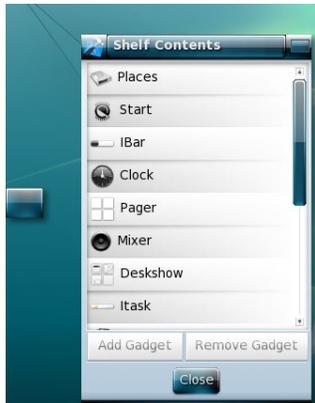
Each of the items on your shelf can be configured similarly. You can even add new shelves. In your menu you can click on **Settings > Shelves** and you will get a window showing the shelves you have. From there you can choose to Add or Delete a shelf. E17, by default, adds the new shelf at bottom right, but by clicking the Setup button, you can change position of the shelf. Then to configure the contents, you should right click the shelf and choose Contents from the menu.



Choose the contents from the menu that appears. Notice there is a Settings menu there as well, so you can do everything by right clicking the shelf.

From the Setting menu, you can increase the size of the shelf. This one is 84 pixels high (next page.) While I have my clock somewhere else and wouldn't want a shelf with only a clock, many people configure their





desktops differently. This illustration was just to show what can be done.

Drawers

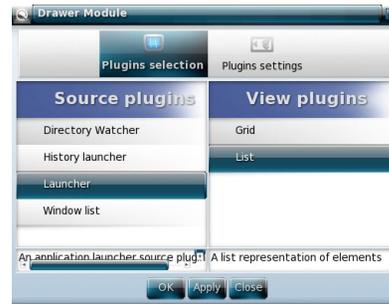
A drawer is another kind of quick launcher, but rather than having the programs you want to launch in a row, like the IBar, there is a single icon and clicking on it gives you a pop-up menu containing your desired items. It's nice because it takes up less space on your shelf.

The drawer must be loaded before it can be used, but it's already there in modules. Just go to **Settings > Modules** and you will see a list of modules. Scroll down to Drawer and click on it, then click on Load.

Now you will see a drawer on your shelf. Right click it and

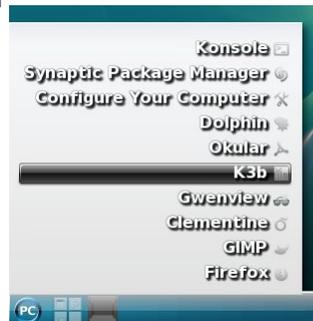


choose **Gadget Drawer > Settings**.



From here you can choose what you want in your drawer, and how you want it to look. Mine is a launcher in list view, but you can configure it

differently. It can be a window list, history launcher or directory launcher, and can view as a list or in a grid (group of icons). The text in the list can be different sizes, but the grid can't be modified.



The settings are versatile because you can even choose the order in which your items are displayed by moving them up and down in the list during configuration. Notice in the top window that **Selection** is highlighted. That is where you choose your contents, but right next to it, you can change the **Order** of the list.



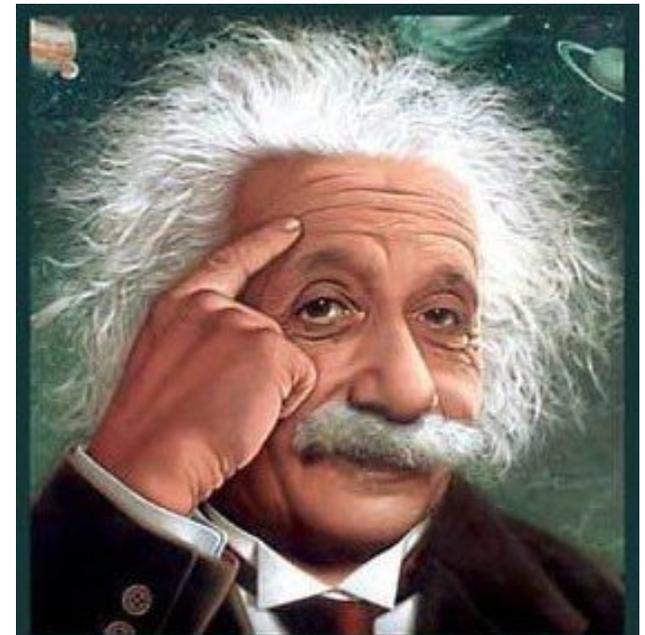
Notice behind the settings where it says **Selected Bar Source**. The default is the list of programs if you are doing a launcher. If you want two different drawers, you will need to designate two different sources, or both your drawers (or your drawer and your IBar, for that matter) will contain the same thing. I have added another source for my drawer and named it **Games**, and added five games to it. It uses the same application list but tells the system that this is different from the other drawer or IBar. My IBar at the top has my most used programs in it, and my drawer contains the games I like.



In our exploration of E17, we have noticed that there seems to be a problem adding a drawer to the desktop. You can create a shelf and add your drawer there, but adding it straight to the desktop has resulted in some strange results. **Be cautious!**



My e17 desktop with an IBar at top and my games drawer on the shelf.



It's easier than $E=mc^2$
 It's elemental
 It's light years ahead
 It's a wise choice
 It's Radically Simple
 It's ...

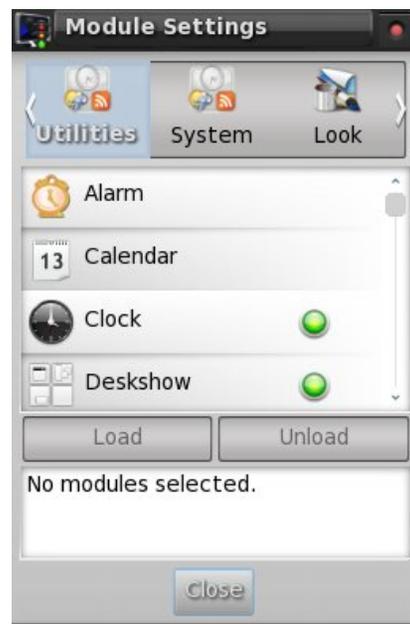


e17: A Look At Modules

by Paul Arnote (parnote)

One of the huge attractions of e17 is its modular construction. With the addition or subtraction of a variety of modules, e17 can be as lean as possible, or it can be as full featured as the "big daddy" desktops KDE and Gnome. Also, you will find that modules and gadgets are somewhat closely tied together. Loosely translated, this means that before you can make use of a particular gadget, you must first activate the module that controls the gadget's function.

By going to the PC menu, you can bring up the Modules dialog box. Simply go to Settings » Modules. It should look something like this:



In total, there are 133 modules, divided into eight different sections. Here is a list of those sections, with the modules available under each section, and the default description of each module (if available):

UTILITIES

Alarm: A module which allows you to set popup reminders.

Calendar: Calendar sheet showing the current day.

Clock: Nice clock gadget to show current time.

Deskshow: Gadget to allow you to quickly uncover your desktop.

DiskIO: Visualize disk i/o.

Drawer: A gadget that acts as a container for data.

EMpris: Control MPRIS supporting music player like Amarok, Audacious, xmms, VLC and others.

EWeather: A weather gadget.

Execwatch: Shows the last state of a periodic executed cmd. Useful as an update checker or for checking if a remote host is available (through ping).

Forecasts: The forecasts gadget will display the current weather conditions plus a few days forecast.

IBar: Iconic application launcher.

IBox: A home for your iconified applications.

ITask: It will hold all of your open applications for fast switching.

liirk: Act like a taskbar but only for selected applications.

Language: Gadget to control active keyboard, keyboard layout, and layout variants.

MPDule: View what's playing in MPD.

Mail: Mail notification gadget. Checks POP3, IMAP, maildir and mbox mailboxes.

Moon: Gadget for e17 which displays the current phase of the moon.

News: Gadget to monitor RSS feeds.

OpenOffice.org Quickstart: This module preloads the openoffice process to save start time with the costs of some memory.

Pager: Gadget to allow you to visualize your virtual desktops and the windows they contain.

Photo: View photos or a mini slideshow within this gadget.

Screenshot: Gadget to take screenshots using imprint.

Slideshow: Turns your desktop background into a slideshow.

Start: e17's "Start" button equivalent.

Systray: System tray that holds application icons like Skype, Pidgin, Kopete and others.

TClock: A digital clock gadget.

Taskbar: Gadget to provide a taskbar.

Uptime: Gadget to display the current uptime of the system.

Weather: A weather gadget.

Winselector: This gadget provides a menu-based access to all the windows.

Wlan: Gadget to monitor a wlan device.

SYSTEM

Battery: A gadget to visualize your battery status.

Bluetooth Manager: A gadget to manage your Bluetooth connection and devices.

Connection Manager: Control Wifi and wired networks as a user.

CPU: Used to monitor CPU utilization.

Cpufreq: Gadget to monitor and change the CPU frequency.

DBus Extension:

Ecomorph: Ecomorph module.

Itask NG: A dock that holds a taskbar and application launcher.

Mem: Used to monitor memory utilization.

Mixer: A module to provide a mixer for changing volume.

Mobile Modems Manager: Control mobile modems.

Net: Network interface monitor.

Places: This module manages the volume devices attached to the system.

Temperature: Temperature monitor.

LOOK

Composite:

Dropshadow: Module to add a dropshadow to windows.

Flame: A module to display flames on the desktop.

Penguins: Module to display fancy penguins walking around your desktop.

Rain: Module to display rain on the desktop.

Snow: Module to display snow on the desktop.

FILES

EFM (Starter): e17's integrated file manager (under construction)

EFM Navigation: A module that allows a user to navigate the filemanager module.

EFM Operation Info: Can be placed on the desktop or on a shelf.

EFM Path: A module that allows a user to type a location into the file manager.

EFM Pathbar: A module that provides a pathbar gadget to navigate the filemanager module.

LAUNCHER

Everything (Starter): The run command module provides an application launcher dialog.

Everything Applications:

Everything Aspell: Aspell frontend. Use "aspell" as trigger.

Everything Calculator: Frontend for bc. Use "=" as trigger.

Everything Files:

Everything MPRIS: Control MPRIS compatible media players from Everything.

Everything Pidgin: Open chat windows and send files to buddies.

Everything Places: Access folder bookmarks and mount drives.

Everything Settings: Quickly open e17 settings dialogs.

Everything Tracker: Find files with Tracker (requires version 0.8).

Everything Wallpaper: Select wallpaper or create new ones from images.

Everything WebSearch: Find stuff on Wikipedia, use Google suggestions and 'Google for it' (tm) action.

Everything Windows: Window actions.

Quick Access: Provides quick access to chosen applications.

Run Command: The run command module provides an application launcher dialog.

CORE

Gadgets: Module to manage gadgets on the desktop.

Notification: libnotify alternative. Popup if an event occurs.

Settings Panel:

System Controls: This module provides a unified popup dialog for all the system actions in Enlightenment.

Tiling: Positions/resizes your windows tilingly, like ion for example.

Window Switcher List: A module to show the list of client applications presently running.

Winlist NG:

MOBILE

Illume: This is a module to make Enlightenment tuned for embedded touchscreen displays such as on phones and web-pads with windows always being fullscreen and having a simplified application launcher and manager.

Illume-Bluetooth:

Illume-Home:

Illume-Home-Toggle:

Illume-Indicator:

Illume-Keyboard:

Illume-Keyboard-Toggle:

Illume-Mode-Toggle:

Illume-Softkey:

Illume2:

SETTINGS

ACPI Bindings: Configure your ACPI bindings here.

Applications: Allows configuration of IBar, Restart, and Startup Applications.

Borders: Used to select a default border style.

Client List Menu: Allows customization of the client list menu.

Colors: Used to customize the color classes.

Desk: Used to configure the desktop names and wallpaper for individual virtual desktops.

Dialogs: Configure default dialog properties.

Edge Bindings: Configure your edge bindings here.

Engine: Used to select the rendering engine.

File Icons: Configure e17 mime icons.

Fonts: Font configuration dialog.

Icon Theme: Settings applet used to select an icon theme for e17.

Input Methods: Used to select an input method.

Interaction: Configure default user interaction settings.

Key Bindings: Configure your keybindings here.

Language: Used to select a default language.

Menu Settings: Configures menu behavior.

Mouse Bindings: Used to configure your mouse bindings.

Mouse Cursor: Select the mouse cursor style.

Mouse Settings: Configure mouse behavior.

Performance: Used to configure certain performance related items, such as frame rates and cache settings.

Power Management: Configure the DPMS settings of your system.

Profiles: Allows management of configuration profiles.

Scaling: Used to configure how display scaling is handled.

Screen Lock: Configures the integrated desk lock.

Screen Resolution: Used to configure your screen's resolution.

Screen Saver: Configures the X screensaver.

Search Directories: Specifies the e17 search paths and default directories.

Shelves: Shelf configuration dialog.

Startup: Used to configure the e17 splash screen.

Theme: Used to configure your theme preferences.

Transitions: Used to choose a default transition. Transitions are used upon wallpaper changes, among other things.

Virtual Desktops: Configure the virtual desktop properties.

Wallpaper: Used to pick a wallpaper.

Wallpaper 2: Used to pick a wallpaper.

Window Display: Configures default window properties such as default geometries, border icons, placement styles, etc.

Window Focus: Configure window focus behavior.

Window List: Configure your window list properties.

Window Manipulation: Configures window raise, resistance, and maximize policies.

Window Remembers: Delete existing window remembers.

That's all 133 e17 modules listed above. It's important to remind you that the modules have to be selected in order to use the gadgets that are associated with the module.

Many of the modules are fairly self explanatory, based either on their name or on their description. In all fairness, we'll take a closer look at what some of the more popular modules do when we take a look at the gadgets that are associated with the modules in a separate article.



e17: Gadgets Galore

by Paul Arnote (parnote)

Once you have the modules installed, you can then place a wide variety of gadgets on your e17 desktop. Its the gadgets that really put the icing on e17 users' desktops, and you can do so without suffering much of a memory hit. In fact, much of what you see on the e17 desktop is a gadget, or a collection of gadgets. Even the panel is a collection of gadgets, placed onto a shelf. Just remember that if you don't see the gadget listed that you want to use, it's most likely because you don't yet have the module installed/activated that controls the gadget.

By selecting the PC Menu, go to Settings > Gadgets. You will see a window similar to the one below:



Your list of gadgets may differ somewhat from that shown above, based on the modules you have installed.

So, let's take a look at a few of the more popular gadgets that you can add to your desktop.

Clock



The analog clock does seem to be one of the more popular gadgets for the e17 desktop, and rightfully so. It's very well done and looks quite distinguished on the desktop. The clock gadget is listed simply as "Clock" in the gadget list.

Places



Another popular gadget for the e17 desktop is the "Places" gadget. It allows you to see the status of your mounted drives at a quick glance.

Wlan



If you use e17 on your notebook computer and connect to the internet via a wireless wifi connection, you might want to place the Wlan monitoring gadget on your desktop. You can get immediate visual feedback on the quality and strength level of your wifi connection.

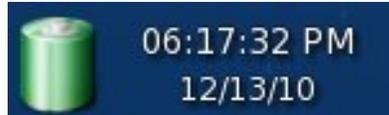
Screenshot



The screenshot gadget in e17 allows you to take screen shots of either your entire desktop, the active window, or a region of your desktop, depending on how you have it set up. You set the screenshot gadget up by right clicking on the icon, and selecting "Capture Mode" from the menu that pops up. Left clicking on the screenshot gadget starts a countdown (if you have a delay set up) before either

taking the screenshot, or changing the cursor to "+" to allow you to select the window to capture.

Digital Clock & Battery



At the far right side of my panel are the battery and digital clock gadgets. The battery gadget allows me to monitor the current state of my laptop's battery (charging or discharging), as well as how long it will take to complete the charge, or how much time is left before my battery's charge is depleted.

The digital clock is fairly self explanatory, and can be found in the list of available gadgets as "TClock."

Systray, Pager & Mixer



Working right to left along the panel, we come to the Systray gadget, where your system notifications occur. Next, is the Pager gadget, which gives you a graphical representation of your virtual desktops. Then is the Mixer gadget, which gives you access to the various functions of your sound card, along with the ability to control the volume of your sound card.

Taskbar



Even the taskbar is a gadget in e17, listed in the list of gadgets as "Taskbar."

Ibar, Deskshow & Start Menu



At the far left side of the panel are three more gadgets. Going from right to left, is the Ibar gadget, which allows you to set up a quick launch bar of applications of your choosing. Next is the Deskshow gadget. When you click on it, all the open windows are minimized so you can see the desktop. Finally, at the far left, is the Start gadget, which provides the more traditional "start menu" that you find on other desktop environments.



Cpufreq, Temperature & Ibar

On my installation of e17, I've set up another shelf on the desktop to hold some other gadgets that I find useful. At the top of the vertical shelf is the Cpufreq gadget. With on-demand CPU scaling, this little gadget lets me know to what clock speed my CPU is currently running at. Below that is the Temperature gadget, which informs me of the

temperature of my CPU whenever I hover my mouse pointer over it.

The bottom two-thirds of the vertical shelf is taken up by a second instance of the Ibar gadget. This instance serves as a quick launch bar for other applications I frequently use. From the top and going downward, the applications are Gimp, DeaDBeeF, File Roller, Gcalctool and Leafpad. For more information on how to properly set up a second instance of Ibar on your e17 desktop, see the e17: Beginner Desktop Tweaks article in the December 2010 issue of The PCLinuxOS Magazine.

Conclusion

As you can see, virtually everything on the e17 desktop is made up of a collection of gadgets. How you arrange those gadgets is clearly up to you, and the possibilities are as endless as the number of people using e17. It makes it very easy to create a desktop experience that is not only tailored to you and your needs, but also one that is unique and unlike the next e17 user's desktop.

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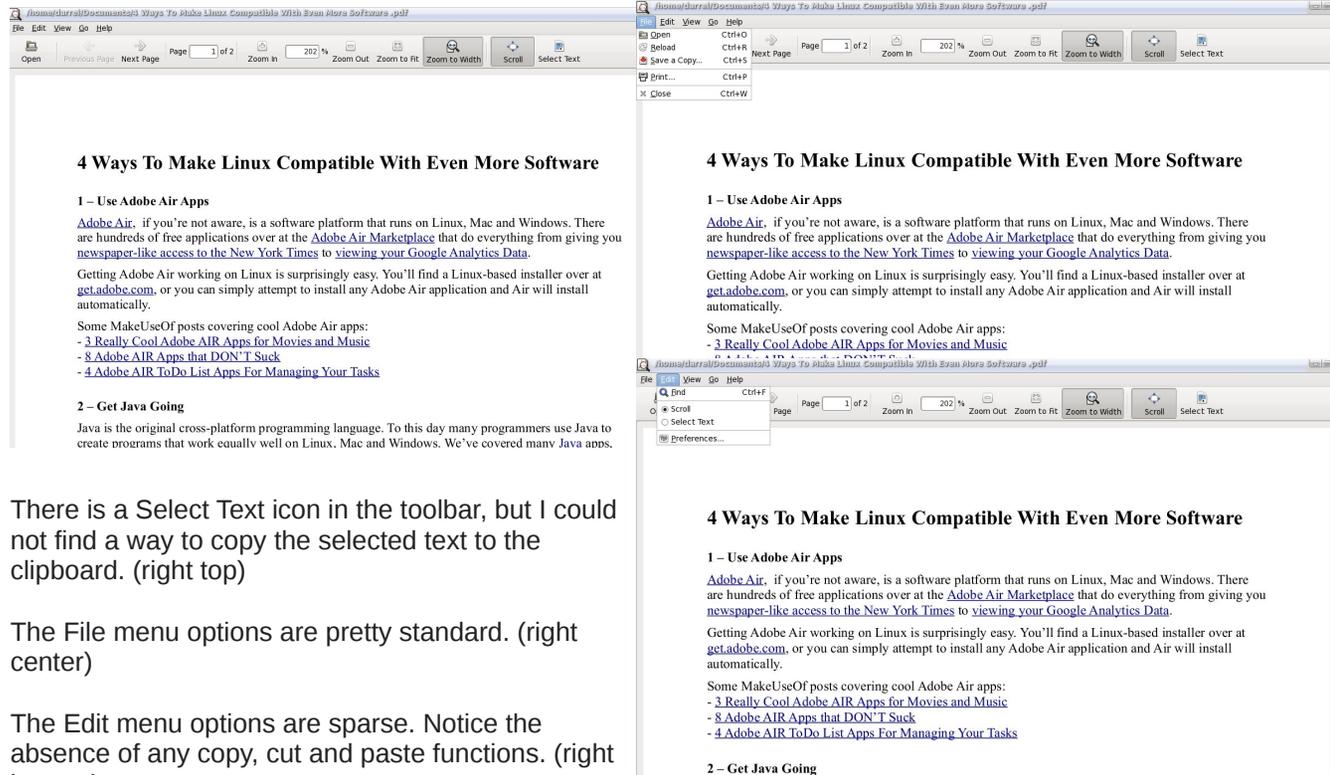
e17 Accessories: ePDF & ePhoto

by Darrel Johnston (djohnston)

Most of us make sure we have a PDF reader and a photo viewer on our selected desktop. When you are using E17, an option for each program is ePDF and ePhoto.

ePDF

ePDF is a lightweight viewer for pdf files. It doesn't have as many options as Adobe's reader.

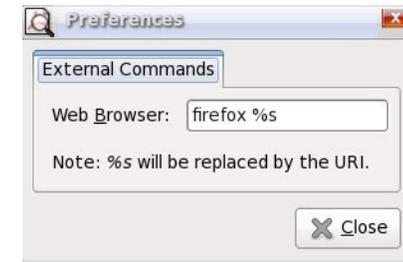


There is a Select Text icon in the toolbar, but I could not find a way to copy the selected text to the clipboard. (right top)

The File menu options are pretty standard. (right center)

The Edit menu options are sparse. Notice the absence of any copy, cut and paste functions. (right bottom)

Shown below is the result of selecting Edit Preferences from the program menu. The only option is to select an external web browser.

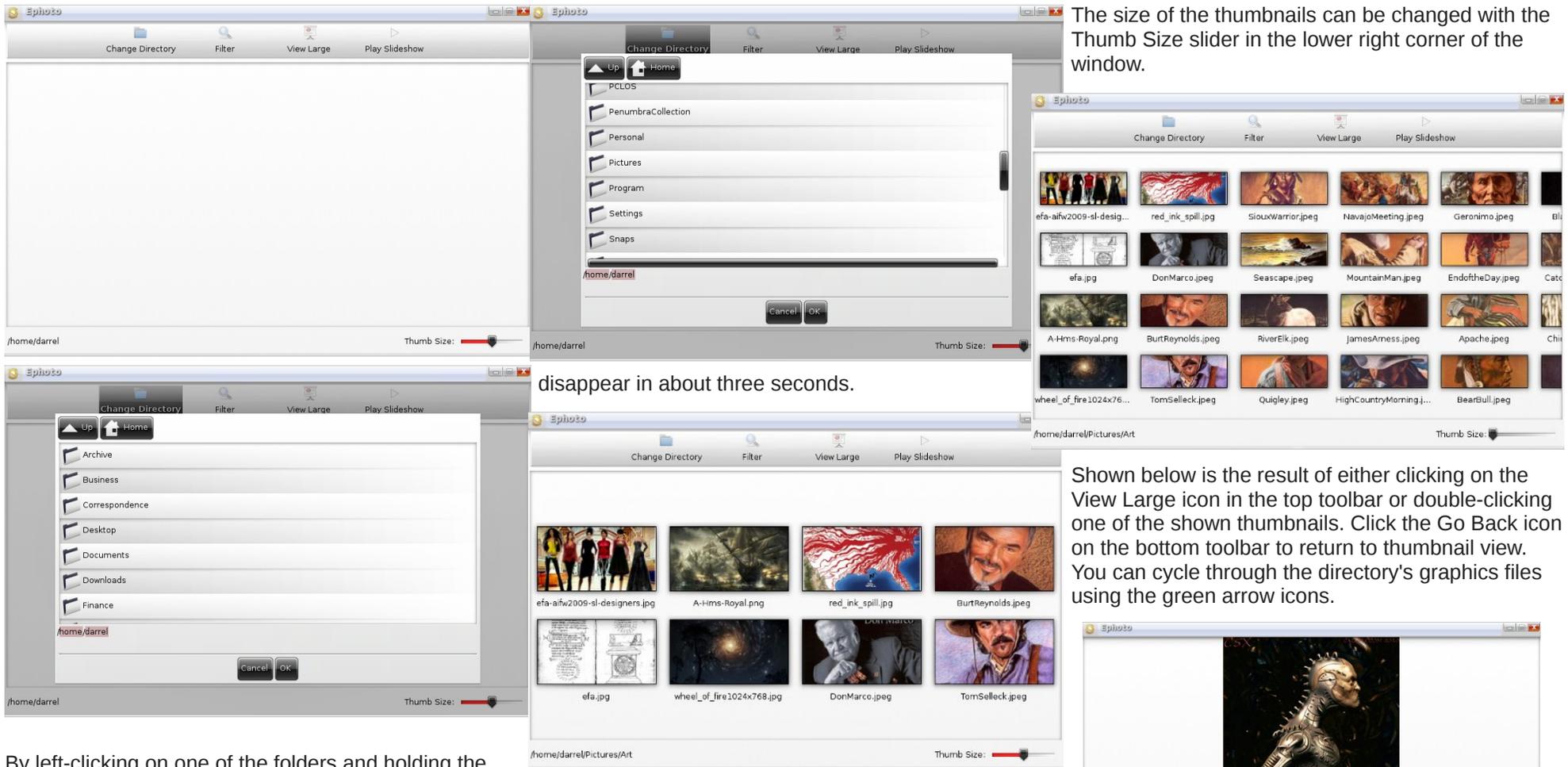


ePDF is supposed to be light on resources. When viewing some of the PCLinuxOS magazine issues, I saw CPU loads of as high as 99%, and a few seconds of lag times when going from one page to the next. This happened whether the window was at default size or maximized to screen size.

ePhoto

ePhoto is an e17 application for viewing graphics files. When viewed, each image is scaled to the display window size. If you have a very large window for ePhoto and display a small image, the image will be enlarged to the window's size, and can appear to be very grainy. I could find no option to change this characteristic of the program. If ePhoto is started from the Graphics section of the menu, it will appear as it does below. (next page)

Clicking on the Change Directory icon brings up the file requester window shown next page. (bottom left) The default starting directory is your home directory. Note that there is no slider.



The size of the thumbnails can be changed with the Thumb Size slider in the lower right corner of the window.

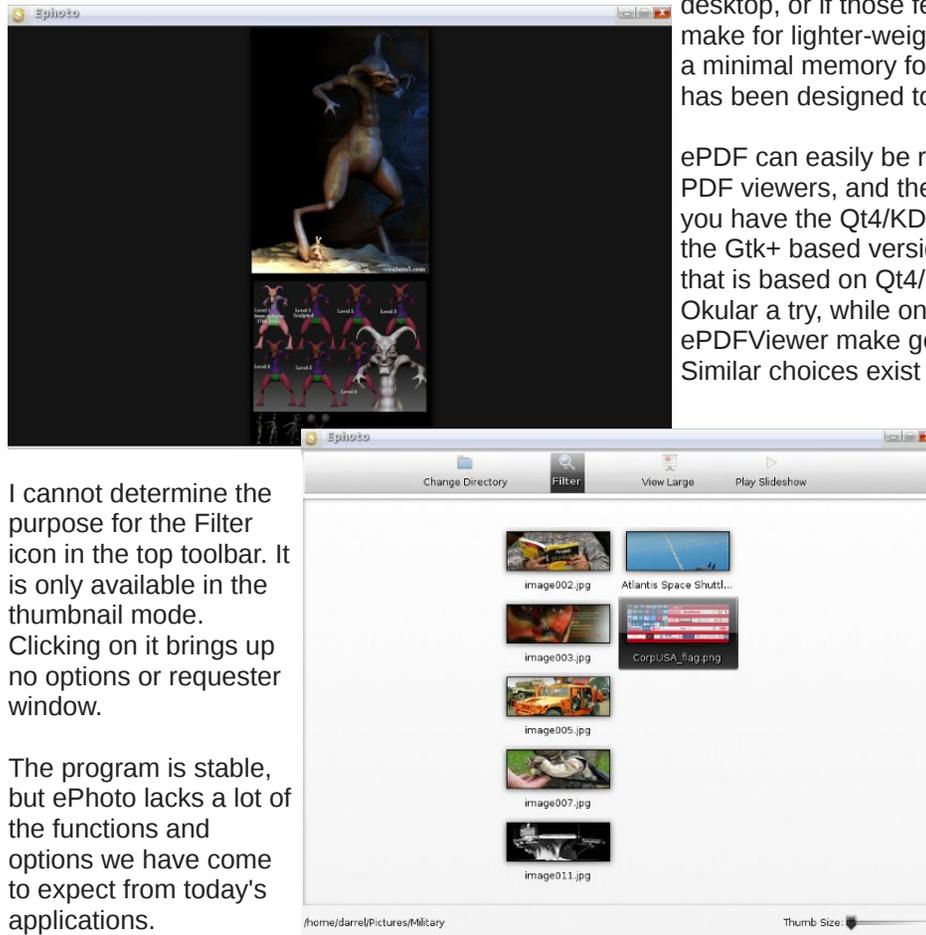
disappear in about three seconds.

Shown below is the result of either clicking on the View Large icon in the top toolbar or double-clicking one of the shown thumbnails. Click the Go Back icon on the bottom toolbar to return to thumbnail view. You can cycle through the directory's graphics files using the green arrow icons.

By left-clicking on one of the folders and holding the left mouse button down, a slider will appear to the right. To slide the directory list downwards, you must move your mouse upwards. To slide the list upwards, you move the mouse downwards. This seems to be counter-intuitive. In any case, once you let go of the left mouse button, the slider will

Here I have selected a directory, and all graphics files within that directory are displayed as thumbnails.

Clicking the Slideshow icon in the bottom toolbar or the Play Slideshow icon in the top toolbar will display a slideshow in the display window. I found no full screen slideshow option. The slideshow will continuously cycle through the list until you single-left-click on the picture being displayed. You will then be returned to the thumbnails display.



I cannot determine the purpose for the Filter icon in the top toolbar. It is only available in the thumbnail mode. Clicking on it brings up no options or requester window.

The program is stable, but ePhoto lacks a lot of the functions and options we have come to expect from today's applications.

Conclusion

As you can see, ePDF and ePhoto are capable native e17 applications, but lacking in features that are found on many other applications that exist for the other desktop environments. It's not certain if the lack of features is due to the beta nature of the e17 desktop, or if those features have been left out to make for lighter-weight applications that will run with a minimal memory footprint, much as the rest of e17 has been designed to perform.

ePDF can easily be replaced with more capable PDF viewers, and the choice varies with whether you have the Qt4/KDE version of e17 installed, or the Gtk+ based version. Under the version of e17 that is based on Qt4/KDE, you may want to give Okular a try, while on the Gtk+ version, Evince or ePDFViewer make good, lightweight alternatives. Similar choices exist for ePhoto.

Still, if you're looking to stick to native e17 applications, then you are likely to find ePDF and ePhoto suitable for most of your PDF and photo viewing needs.

Meemaw and parnote also contributed to parts of this article.

International Community PCLinuxOS Sites



e17: Configure The Everything Module To Do Everything

by coffeetime & smurfslover

Everything Module (from the website)
<http://trac.enlightenment.org/e/wiki/Gadgets/Everything>

This is a plugin based module that offers a broad number of tasks to perform, from running applications, directory browsing, managing music playlist, indexed file searching to browsing stuff from youtube.

Basically, Everything is like a fancy kickoff, where one can do everything using keyboard/key bindings, plus adding interesting stuff like quick access to Wikipedia, Google, YouTube, etc.

Some plugins can be called up by setting a trigger in the options, for example, you can configure it so you can type a 'y' to activate the YouTube plugin, type what you want to search for and Everything gives you a list with titles and thumbnails. However, you will have to load some of the modules. Go to the **Settings Panel > Extensions > Modules > Launcher** and load the ones you want if they aren't already loaded:



Everything configuration:

The default key to launch everything is **ALT+ESC**

To configure Everything, run it and type 'ev co', first item should be 'everything configuration'.

Code:

```
ev co
```

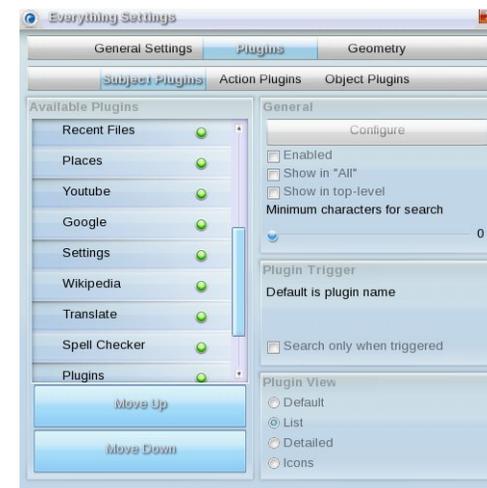
When you get the following window, double click **Everything Configuration**.



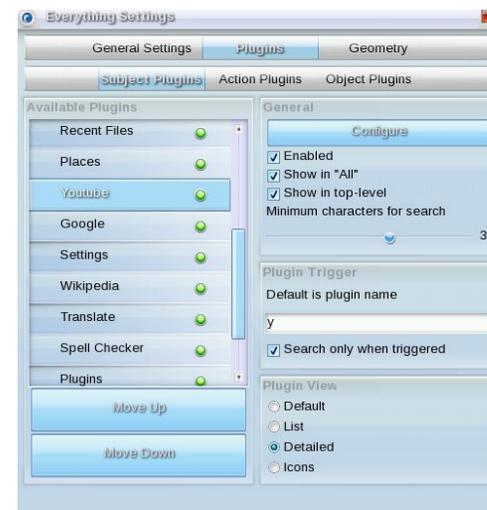
Here's an example. Let's add YouTube:



Press Enter. You should get the configuration window.



Click on Youtube to highlight it and check *Enabled* on the right side. Apply.



e17: Configure The Everything Module To Do Everything

You should see it in the main window. When it is highlighted, press Enter.



Use right arrow key and move to *Wikipedia Page*

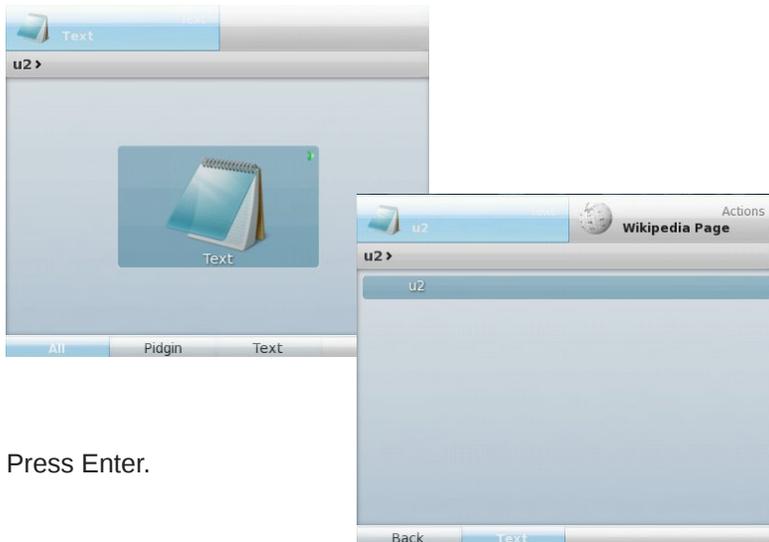


Scroll down to Youtube



Right arrow key. Choose what you want. For example, Watch on Youtube will open Firefox.

Let's use it. For example type *u2*



Press Enter.

Press Enter. You should see something like the next window (top right);

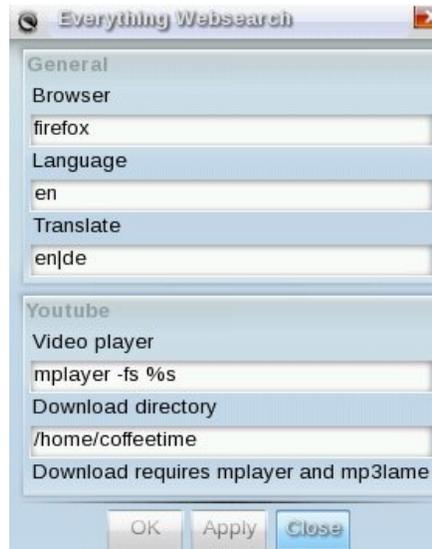


Many times, just typing in what you are looking for will bring up the list and you can choose which one you want, click on actions and choose your action. Possible actions include watching your video on Youtube or even downloading and saving it. In the upper right corner of the window the launcher shows the default action, click the word **Actions** to get a list of possibilities. The chosen action will be defaulted.

If you want to configure Youtube, like setting or changing the browser you want to use, click on **Configure**.



When you do that, you will get the following window;



You can search for or browse through

- Files and directories
- Recently used files
- Places
- Apps
- e17 settings
- windows
- desktops
- commands you've run through the launcher (exebuf plugin)

Other plugins:

- Websearch: Google , Youtube (downloading and converting), Wikipedia,
- aspell spell checking
- calculator (trigger is =)

- mpris to control an mpris compatible media player (banshee, exaile,...)
- pidgin - open chats and send files
- Wallpaper - change or import wallpapers
- Tracker - support for tracker indexing service (gnome indexing service using nepomuk) (I wouldn't recommend using tracker if you want to keep your e17 fast & light.)

You can configure Everything to run or open almost anything. Once you start configuring it, you may use it more than your normal menu. After you start using it a lot, you will find that all your most often-used items will be in the default window. All you will have to do is run Everything and choose what you want to use next.

If you arrow over to the Applications item (at the bottom) and press Enter, you will get a list of your most recently opened apps.

smurfslover said, "Since I discovered it and learned to use it, I use almost nothing else; the menu just becomes useless. It's very similar to KDE's krunner - it's fast and light and much easier to use."

Meemaw also contributed to this article.



The PCLinuxOS Magazine

Created with Scribus 1.3.9

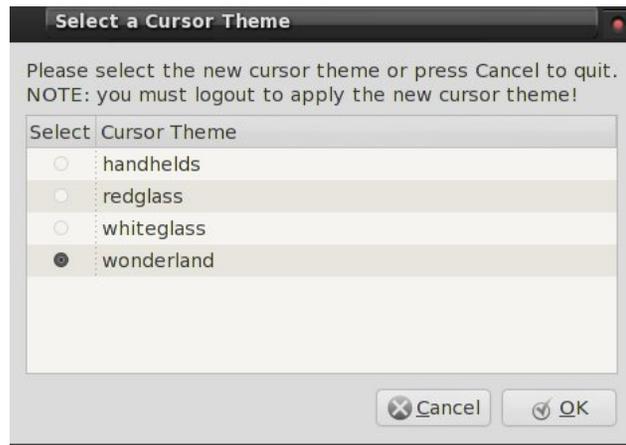
e17: Tips & Tricks

by Paul Arnote (parnote)
and Darrel Johnston (djohnston)

There are many things you can do to customize your e17 desktop. Here, we'll list some of those helpful tips and tricks. Most of these, while important, aren't long enough to warrant their own article. So, I've decided to collect them here, for your quick reference.

Changing Your Mouse Pointer

The tool in e17 to change your mouse pointer is quite barren and lacking, and doesn't give you full access to change your mouse cursor. Instead, it only allows you to choose between the e17 cursors and the X cursors. Often times, it's the X cursors that you want to control and alter.



Instead, simply install LXCursor from Synaptic. This will give you full access to the X cursors installed on your system. Simply pick the cursor set that you would like to use. Note that you will have to log out, then back in, to apply your new cursor theme.

Change Your Keyboard Layout

There is a bug in the e17 keyboard module that does not allow you to switch your keyboard layout. But there is a work-around.

First, check in Synaptic to see if **setxkbmap** is installed. If it is not, install it.

Next, open up your favorite text editor, and create a file with the following contents:

```
[Desktop Entry]
Name=Keyboard-fix-e17
GenericName=Keyboard-fix-e17
Comment=Fix hanging keys on loading
e17 keyboard switcher
Encoding=UTF-8
Exec=setxkbmap -option
grp:switch,grp:alt_shift_toggle,grp_led:scroll us,ge
Icon=
Terminal=false
Type=Application
Categories=
StartupNotify=false
```

At the end of the **Exec=** line are the two character country codes for the keyboard layouts you want to

use. The "us" designates the United States keyboard layout, and "ge" designates the Georgian keyboard layout. Replace these with the keyboard layouts you want to be able to switch between. You can find the two character country codes [here](#).

I recommend saving a copy of the file somewhere in your /home directory, as keyboard-fix-e17.desktop. Next, copy the file to one of two locations. Where you choose will affect either an individual user, or all users on the same computer. If you want to allow only an individual user to change their keyboard layout, then copy the file to the user's /home/[username]/.local/share/applications. If you want to allow all the users on the computer to be able to change their keyboard layout, then you will need to copy the file to the /usr/share/applications directory. You will need to do this as the root user.

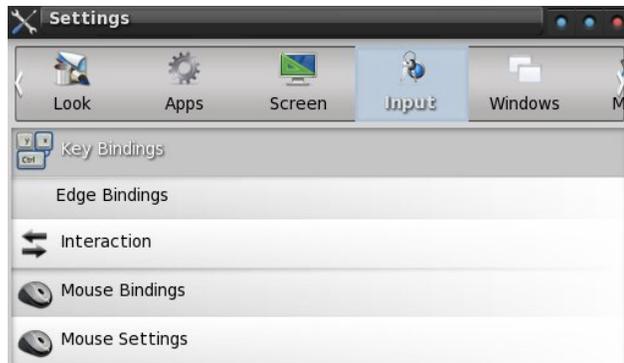
As a final step, open the e17 Settings Panel > Apps > Startup Applications, and add keyboard-fix-e17 to automatically start when you boot the computer. Now, whenever you press the Shift + Alt + ScrollLock key, you can switch between the two defined keyboard layouts.

Change Keyboard Shortcuts (a.k.a. Key Bindings)

Like many Linux users, I am a Windows refugee. Windows 3.1 came installed on my first true IBM-compatible PC many, many years ago, and I remained a Windows user until Vista came out. In fact, it was the Vista flop and its grossly increased hardware requirements that made me give a second

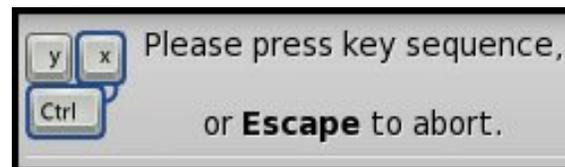
look at Linux. After all of those years using Windows, there are certain keyboard shortcuts that I have become accustomed to using, and those don't always agree with the keyboard shortcuts (or key bindings) of the various Linux desktop development teams.

Fortunately, there's an easy way to change your key bindings to more closely match the way you want to work with your computer. For example, I like being able to use the Alt + Spacebar key binding to access the window menu.



Launch the e17 Settings Panel and go to the "Input" tab. From there, select "Key Bindings" from the choices presented.

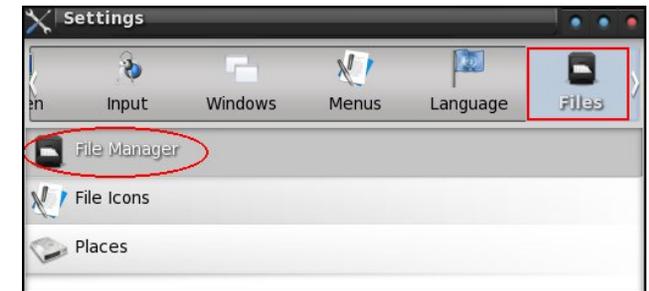
This brings up the Key Bindings Settings dialog box (top image, next column). You can search to see if the key binding you want to use is listed (and already in use), or you can click on the "Add Binding" button (lower left).



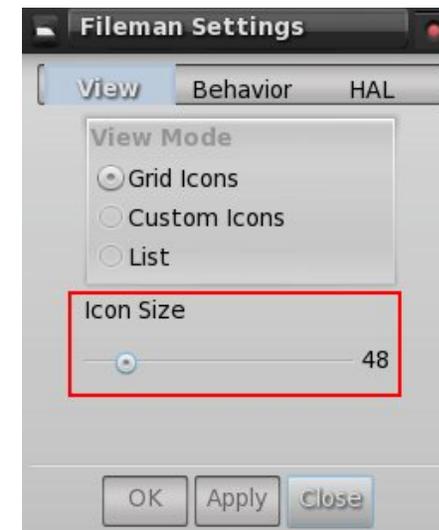
When you select "Add Binding," the window above appears, prompting you to enter the keystroke combination you want to use as your key binding. Once you've done that, you can select the action you want to attach to that key binding from the list along the right side of the window. Repeat this process for each key binding you want to define. Select "Apply" and then "Close" to finish.

Changing Desktop Icon Size

In one of our first e17 articles in this series, we described how easy it was to place icons on your desktop. Well, let's take that a step further, since e17 makes it just as easy to control the **size** of the icons on your desktop.



On the e17 Settings Panel, go to the "Files" tab, and select "File Manager" from the list.



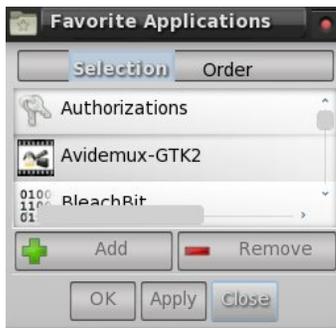
The dialog box (above) will appear. Simply slide the slider (outlined in red) to the size you want your icons on your desktop to appear as.

Add Application To Favorites Menu Made Easy

E17 has a uniquely easy way to add your favorite applications you frequently use to the "Favorite Applications" menu.



After launching the e17 Settings Panel, select the "Apps" tab, then click on the "Favorite Applications" entry.

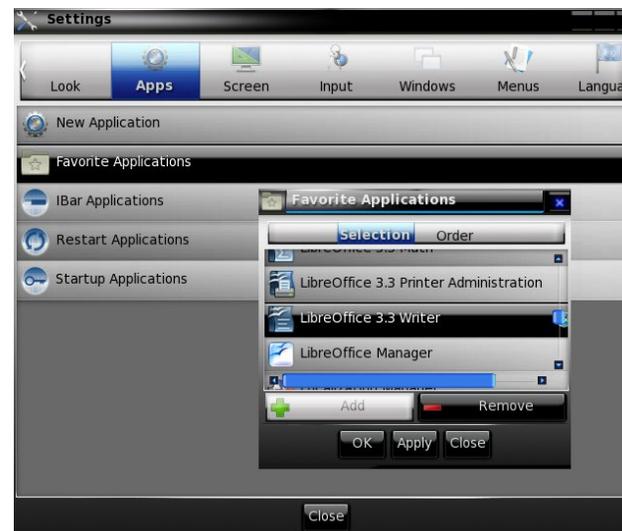


Select the applications you want to add to your "Favorite Applications" menu, one at a time, from the list presented, and click on the "Add" button. Once you have selected all of the

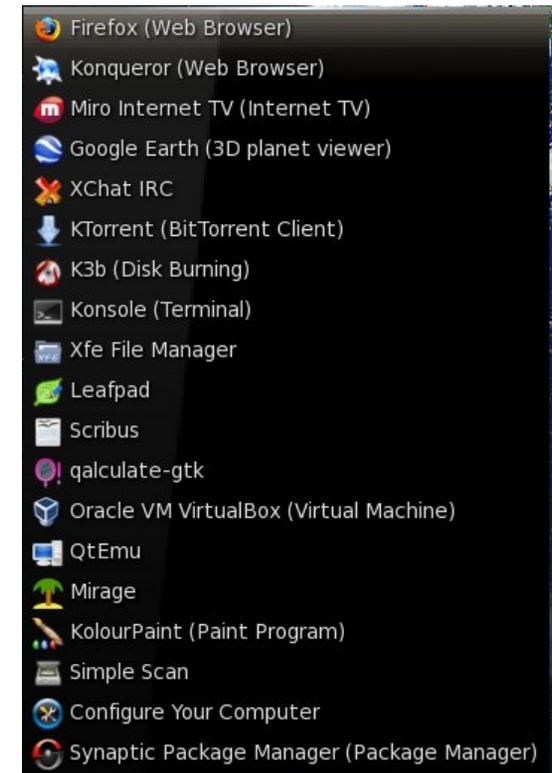
applications you want to add to your "Favorite Applications" menu, select the "Apply" button. Click on the "Order" tab to rearrange the order in which those applications appear on your "Favorite Applications" menu. Click on the "Apply" button, then the "Close" button.

Add Application To Favorites Menu (using a file editor)

Sometimes the items which show in the Selection window will not actually be added to the Favorites menu. The OpenOffice and LibreOffice suite of programs are an example. We see the items are listed in the Selection window, and we select Writer and click the Add button, then click the Apply button.



Next, we arrange the order of the item and click the Apply button. However, when we look at our Favorites menu, Writer has not been added.



Fortunately, this is Linux, and many configuration files are in plain text. I have not been able to determine what the e17 Favorites menu editor has attempted to insert in the menu. However, I do know that all items in the Favorites menu must have a corresponding desktop file in the `/usr/share/applications` directory. Doing a search for a Writer desktop file, I get the following results.

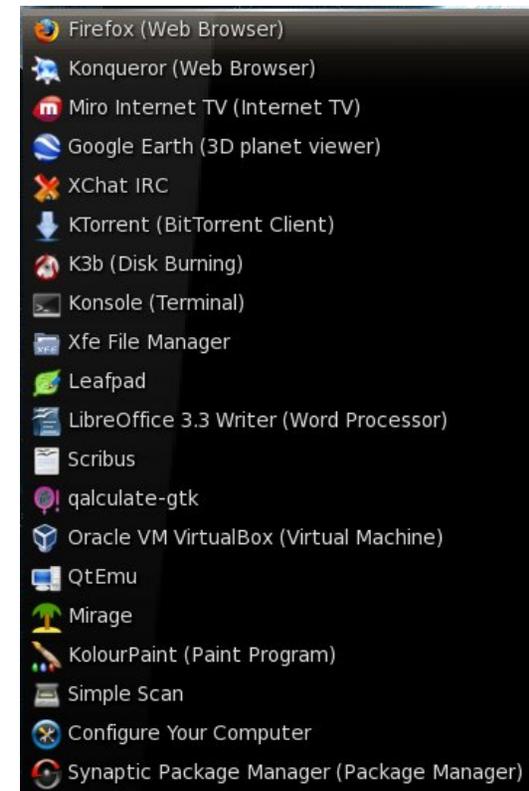
```
bash-4.1$ locate writer.desktop
/opt/libreoffice/share/xdg/writer.desktop
/usr/share/applications/libreoffice-writer.desktop
bash-4.1$
```

The Favorites menu configuration file is `~/.e/e/applications/menu/favorite.menu` (`~` is the symbol for `/home/yourusername`). Opening the file in a text editor, we see it is an XML file in plain text. We know there is a `libre-office.desktop` file in the `/usr/share/applications` directory. It is now a simple matter of adding two line entries to the `favorite.menu` file. The edited file is shown below, with the new entries in red.

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<!DOCTYPE Menu PUBLIC "-//freedesktop//DTD Menu
1.0//EN" "http://standards.freedesktop.org/menu-
spec/menu-1.0.dtd">
<Menu>
  <Name>Favorites</Name>
  <DefaultAppDirs/>
  <DefaultDirectoryDirs/>
  <Layout>
    <Filename>firefox.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>kde4-
kongqbrowser.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>miro.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>Google-
googleearth.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>xchat.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>ktorrent.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>kde4-k3b.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>kde4-konsole.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>xfe.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>leafpad.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>libreoffice-
writer.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>scribus.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>qalculate-gtk.desktop</Filename>
```

```
    <Filename>virtualbox.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>qtemu.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>mirage.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>kde4-
kolourpaint.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>simple-scan.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>pclinuxos-
drakconf.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>synaptic.desktop</Filename>
  </Layout>
  <Include>
    <Filename>firefox.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>kde4-
kongqbrowser.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>miro.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>Google-
googleearth.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>xchat.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>ktorrent.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>kde4-k3b.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>kde4-konsole.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>xfe.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>leafpad.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>libreoffice-
writer.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>scribus.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>qalculate-gtk.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>virtualbox.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>qtemu.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>mirage.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>kde4-
kolourpaint.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>simple-scan.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>pclinuxos-
drakconf.desktop</Filename>
    <Filename>synaptic.desktop</Filename>
  </Include>
</Menu>
```

And we now have a clickable entry for Writer in our Favorites menu.



Convert Old e17 Themes To New Format

One of the really nice things about e17 is how easy it is to apply a wide variety of themes to the desktop. There is a large number of custom themes to choose from at [e17-Stuff](#) and [Enlightenment Exchange](#). But what happens when you want to use an older, favorite e17 theme that isn't in the new format?

Never fear! Most e17 themes are a file that ends with the *.edj file extension. Open a terminal and go to the folder where you stored the "old style" theme, and enter **edje_convert name-of-old-style-theme.edj** on the command line, and press enter. Your "old style" theme will then be converted to the new format.

Put A Shutdown Button On A Shelf

Sometimes, it's convenient to have a shutdown button easily accessible on a shelf or lbar. Fortunately, it's pretty easy to "roll your own" shutdown button.

To get started, right click your mouse on an icon in the lbar or on a shelf, and select "Add New Icon" from the list. Select an icon from the list that's shown, click on "Add," and then "OK."

Next, right click your mouse on that new icon, and select "Change Icon Properties." Delete the name that is there, and rename it. Since we are placing a "shutdown" button, you may want to simply call it "Shut Down."

Now, we need to enter the command to execute. Just type "halt" (without the quotes) in the command line.

At the top, select the "Icon" tab, and fill in /usr/share/icons in the text entry box. This should give you access to most of the icons installed on your computer. Double click in the empty gray box above the text entry, and you will be able to explore

through the icons stored on your computer. If you have a custom icon stored elsewhere on your computer, enter the location of that icon file (typically a *.png file) in the text entry box, and double click in the empty gray box. Select the icon you want to use, and select the "OK" button to apply it.

Now, a single click of your mouse on the icon will allow you to shut down your computer, without having to navigate through menus.

Summary

As you've seen as we've gone through the e17 desktop, e17 is different in a lot of ways from the other desktops that are available in Linux. E17 is highly customizable. Plus, it's also very lightweight and fast. This is what so many PCLinuxOS users find so attractive about e17. If you are trying to resurrect an older system, or breath new life into it, you would be hard pressed to find a better choice than e17 to provide a friendly, customizable, fast graphical desktop to use.



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e17: Create Your Own Custom e17 Themes

by Agustin J. Verdegel T (Agust)

I will attempt to explain the simple way of creating an e17 theme, using the theme that I have created, called "The Night."

The first thing to do is to make a copy of the theme, and then open the copy to start our work.

To open a theme, we use the following command:

```
edje_decc (filename.edj)
```

Personally, I divide the theme work into three parts: the wallpaper in the .edj format, images in the .png format, and the .edc file.

So, let's get started. When you open the theme, find the default.edc file, and edit it to modify the wallpaper file.

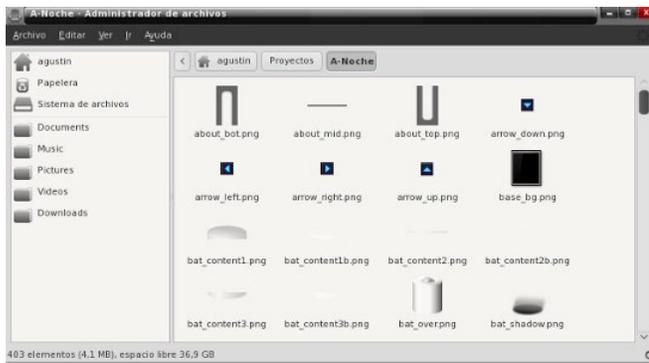
The wallpaper I have formatted as an .edj file is more realistic because it scales well in all resolutions. The wallpaper consists of seven images, and they must look like they do here.

```
/**/
images {
    image: "pclos-logo.png" COMP;
    image: "pclos-logo-effect.png"
COMP;
    image: "pclos-effect.png" COMP;
    image: "topleft.png" COMP;
    image: "topright.png" COMP;
    image: "bottomleft.png" COMP;
    image: "bottomright.png" COMP;
}
group { name:
```

```
"e/desktop/background";
    data { item: "style" "2";
        }
    parts {
        part {
            name: "base";
            type: RECT;
            description {
                state: "default" 0.0;
                min: 800 600;
                color: 0 0 0 255;
            }
        }
        part {
            name: "effect";
            description {
                state: "default" 0.0;
                min: 230 800;
                max: 230 800;
                align: 0.5 0.0;
                rel1 {
                    to: "cause";
                    offset: -40 179;
                }
                rel2 {
                    to: "cause";
                    offset: 0 140;
                }
                image {
                    normal: "pclos-logo-
effect.png";
                }
            }
        }
        part {
            name: "cause";
            description {
                state: "default" 0.0;
                min: 400 400;
                max: 400 400;
                image {
                    normal: "pclos-logo.png";
                }
            }
        }
        part {
            name: "baseeffect";
            description {
                state: "default" 0.0;
                min: 1680 1050;
                image {
                    normal: "pclos-effect.png";
                }
            }
        }
        part {
            name: "topleft";
            description {
                state: "default" 0.0;
                max: 150 150;
                align: 0.0 0.0;
                rel1 {
                    relative: 0.0 0.0;
                    offset: 0 -1;
                }
                rel2 {
                    relative: 1.0 1.0;
                    offset: 0 -1;
                }
                image {
                    normal: "topleft.png";
                }
            }
        }
        part {
            name: "topright";
```


that are indicated in the subject above, down, right or left.

The images that follow belong to the computer's battery icon as it appears on your screen in various states of change.

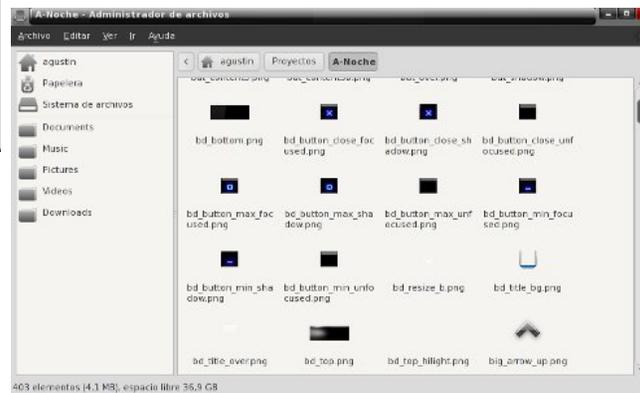


Now comes one of the most important parts of the example, the image `base_bg.png`. It is the one that we will use for the main menu. As you can see, the image will be a very dark color. Therefore, we will have to change the color of the menu letters to a clear or white color, so that the letters contrast with the black color. We will edit the file `default.edc` and change the color of the letters in this manner:

```
color_class {
    name: "menu_item";
    color: 221 221 221 255;
    color3: 0 0 0 64;
}
color_class {
    name: "menu_item_active";
    color: 221 221 221 255;
    color3: 0 0 0 64;
```



As you can see, I have used white, but you can use the color you want (top center).

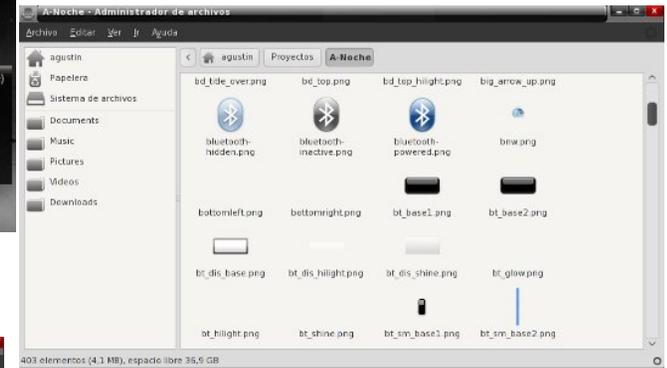


Window Decorations

`bd_bottom.png` is the image for the bottom flange of the window and `bd_top.png` is for the top flange of the window. `bd_title_bg.png` is going to use the edge of the window when it is active. I've made it using a transparent glass effect (below).



`Bd_bottom` images are those used when windows are minimized or expanded.



Here we see the icons to be used for bluetooth. We can use what we like as long as we respect the sizes, to avoid having to modify the default.edc. `bnw.png` image is the image which shows the information on the theme, who has contributed, credits etc(above)

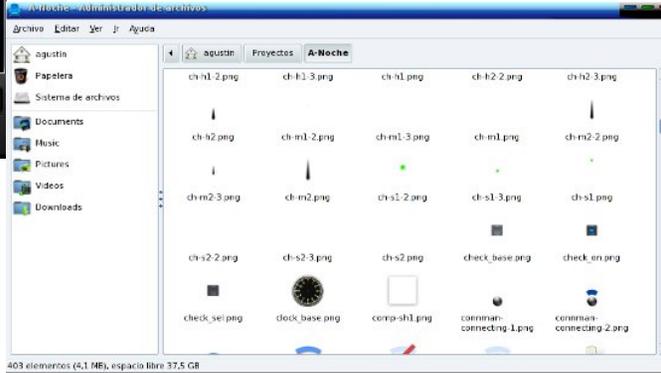
The tabs are going to use the images `bt-base.png`, `base2.png` and `dis_base.png`. `bt_sm_base1.png` tab is the image used when we click a button. `bt_sm_base2.png` is used when the slider is selected.

Here is our example (next page):



the theme consists of 10 images and working windows (below left).

One of the parts of the theme that I particularly like is the clock. We are going to use it as an example. I designed the seconds indicator as only a green point without hands, such as those used for minutes and hours (below).



Part 3

In the following image we see one of the components which is most important to creating the theme. Along with the file .edc, that component is build.sh. The script is:

```
#!/bin/sh
edje_cc @$@ - id . - fd. default.edc
```

Or, (A-Noche.edj), which is the script that created the theme we are examining. Along with the build,



We see more images contained in the theme, but the most important file is default.edc, the file that contains all of our theme elements, and from which we can customize almost anything.



An example is the element calendar. I have added it to the theme and modified the file default.edc to use the calendar that you are seeing (e17_calendar.png). It is necessary to add or to modify it this way.

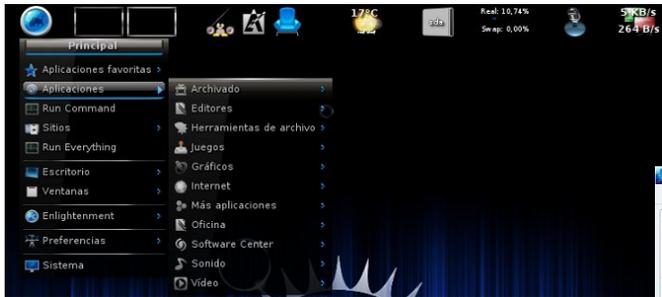
```
/** MOD: CALENDAR **/

images
{
    image: "e17_calendar.png" COMP;
}

fonts
{
    font: "VeraMono.ttf" "VeraMono";
    font: "VeraBd.ttf" "VeraBold";
}

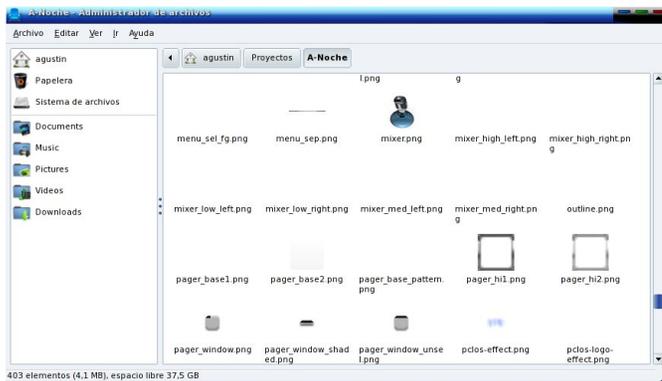
group
{
    name: "modules/calendar/main";
    parts
    {
        part
        {
            name: "calendar";
            description
            {
                state: "default" 0.0;
                aspect: 1.0 1.0;
                aspect_preference: BOTH;
                rel1 { relative: 0.0 0.0; }
                rel2 { relative: 1.0 1.0; }
                image { normal:
                "e17_calendar.png"; }
            }
        }
        part
        {
            name: "monthday";
            type: TEXT;
            mouse_events: 0;
            description
```


The image used for the theme as a logo default is logo_white_128.png. When we select an item in the main menu, the first item in the sub-menu will change to logo_black_128.png. It would be this way:



Part 4

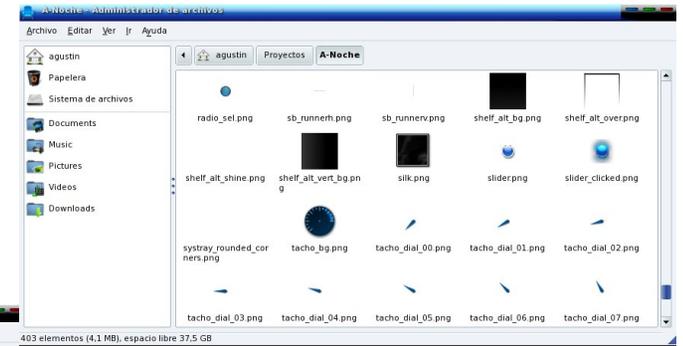
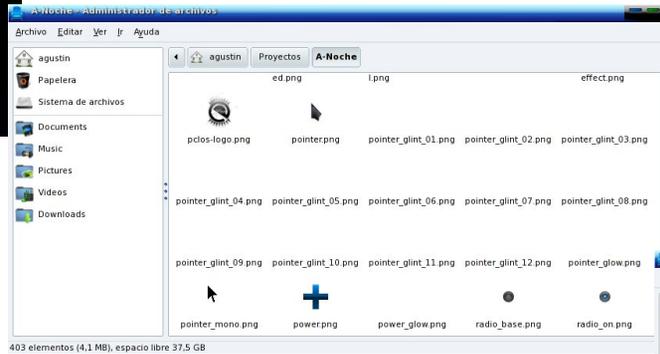
In this section of images, we see the icon that we are going to use as the volume control. Also, we see the images for the pager. They are transparent with a rim of dark color (below).



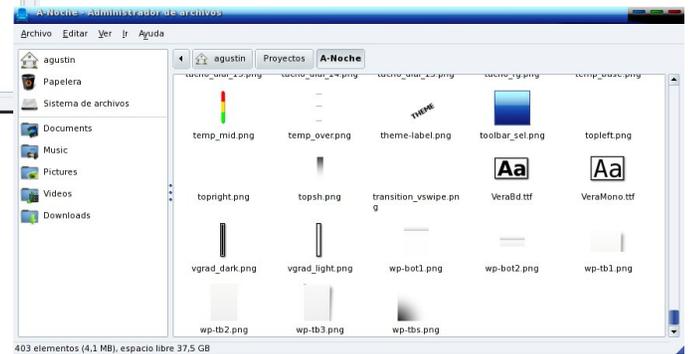
We follow with the transitory effects of the theme:

We see the images of the cursor and its effects are the same, which produces an effect very beautiful to the eyes.

The power icon pertains to the battery. When visible, it indicates that the battery is charging. It will disappear when the battery is totally charged.



Finishing up, we see the images used for the temperature icon (below). The vgrad images are used in the theme for the e17 module everything. Notice also that the ttf fonts used are the same ones used by the calendar.



Now we will look at the color of the shelf that is going to be used in this theme. Note that the predetermined color of the shelf is the same color we have used for the main menu. E17 gives us the options to change the color of the shelf to one more transparent. (That is what I used.) In this example we see that I have put the color black as an option for the color of the shelf.

Looking further, you will see the slider and slider_clicked images. I have added a brightness effect so that when we use the slider, it has a light effect. The icons tachobg and tachodialxx belong to Cpufreq e17 module.

When our theme is ready, we only need to compile it. If you use this theme as your base, compiling it is very easy:

Double click on build.sh.

If everything has gone well, an .edj theme file will be created. In this case, the resulting file will be

A-Noche.edj. Keep in mind that if there is a creation error, it is because there is some error in the theme's contents.

There are some themes that use enlightenment_remote. For those themes, it is necessary to compile them differently. Open a terminal, and enter the following:

```
./build.sh
./build.sh && enlightenment_remote -
restart
```

I wish to give thanks to all those who have donated their time teaching me what I know. They are:

Toma (Tom Haste) , Team Enlightenment
Rui Pais , Team Enlightenment and Leader OzOS
Aubrey , Artist OzOS
Luca di Marini (Darkmaster) , Artist and Leader OPen GEU and
Roxville Prince AMD (Team Elive) on which I have based many of my works.

I am also thankful to Parnote for his interest and for helping me to write this article. I hope that it serves him as an aid to creating themes, but mainly in understanding the operation of E. This is dedicated especially to Texstar, and to Smurfslover for his great work and the interest he has demonstrated in Enlightenment.

Editor's Note: Special thanks to Agust for sharing his technique for creating e17 Themes. Extra special thanks go out to my mother-in-law, Lupe Warnock, for translating Agust's instructions and tutorial from Spanish to English for The PCLinuxOS Magazine.

Screenshot Showcase



Posted by Leiche on March 10, 2011 using e17

e17: Running Ecomorph, Part 1

by Darrel Johnston (djohnston)

The e17 window manager has plenty of eye candy. One aspect that was missing for some time was a 3D desktop display, such as Compiz. Because the enlightenment libraries aren't compatible with Compiz, the more adventuresome e17 developers set out to create their own 3D display manager. Their creation is called ecomorph.

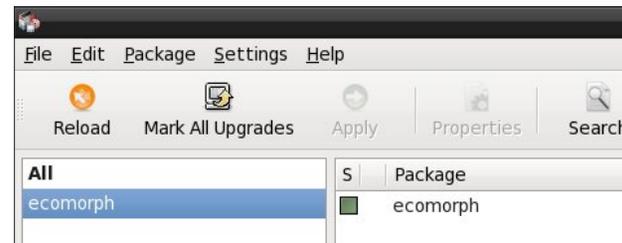
The e17 creators state that e17 will run on a PC with as little as little as 64MB of RAM, a 100mHz CPU, and a VGA video card capable of 640x480 resolution. However, that is cutting it very close. I'm going to err on the side of caution for a PC running a PCLinuxOS version of e17 and a version of e17-Ecomorph.

For the full e-17 version, which is based on KDE4 and Qt libraries, I would recommend a minimum of 512MB of RAM, a 500mHz CPU, and a video card with 32MB of video RAM. The light e-17 version, based more on Gtk+ libraries, would need 256MB of RAM and a video card with 8MB of video RAM.

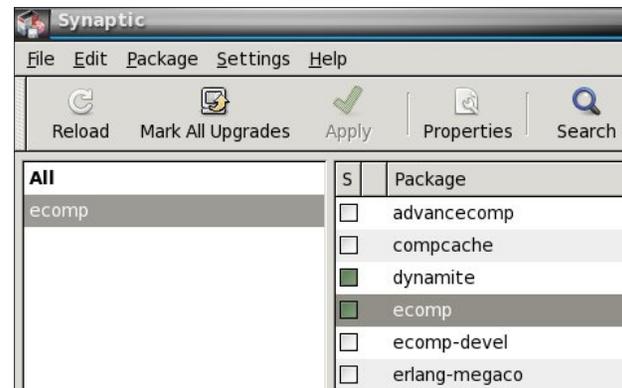
However, either PCLinuxOS e17 version running an e17-Ecomorph desktop session would need at least a 3D-capable video card with 32MB of RAM, at the absolute minimum. And that may be stretching it a bit. Ecomorph is a modified version of Compiz, so a 3D-capable video card is a necessity. An nVidia card is also recommended. ATI may work, but I don't have one and cannot verify whether it will. Intel embedded graphics chipsets would not be recommended. As a general rule of thumb, if you

can run Compiz on your PC, you can run e17-Ecomorph.

In order to run ecomorph, there are some software prerequisites. The first, of course, is an installed e17 desktop. The second is the ecomorph package. A Synaptic search for the terms "e17" and "enlightenment" will not show the ecomorph package. Search for the package in Synaptic by its name, then install it.



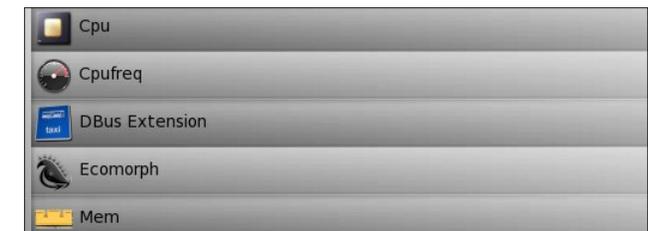
The third prerequisite for running ecomorph is the ecomp package. Once again, a Synaptic search for the terms "e17" and "enlightenment" will not show the ecomp package. Search in Synaptic for the package by its name, then install the package.



After the ecomorph and ecomp packages are installed, we can begin configuring ecomorph. First, be sure Compiz is not running. Open the PCLinuxOS Control Center, click on Hardware in the left panel, then click on Configure 3D Desktop effects in the right panel. Be sure "No 3D desktop effects" is selected.



For the next step, go to the PCLinuxOS menu, select Settings > Modules. Click the System tab at the top of the window. Select the Ecomorph module, then click the Load button at the bottom.

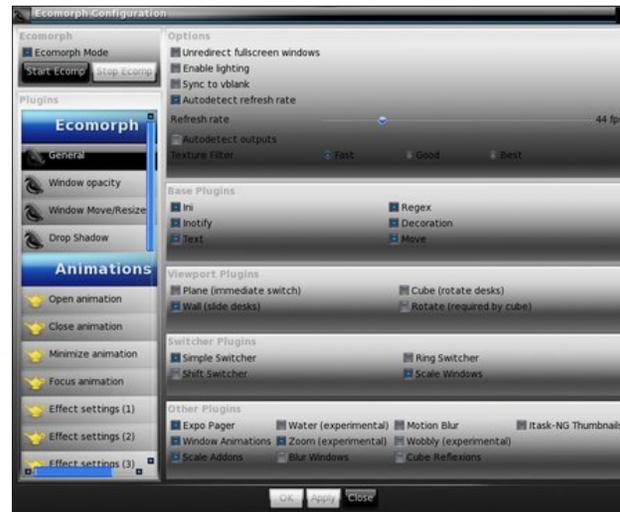


Click the Look tab at the top of the Module Settings window. For ecomorph to work correctly you need to disable the Composite and Dropshadow modules.



Close the Module Settings window. From the PCLinuxOS menu, select Settings > Ecomorph. Do not click the Start Ecomp button. Ecomorph will be started later by logging out, then changing the desktop session to Ecomorph. When you login to the Ecomorph session, Ecomorph should be running out of the box. Next, tick the Ecomorph Mode box just above the Start Ecomp button. Then, click the Apply button at the bottom of the window. The screen may flash for a second or two. If the Apply button at the bottom of the window is selectable again, click it.

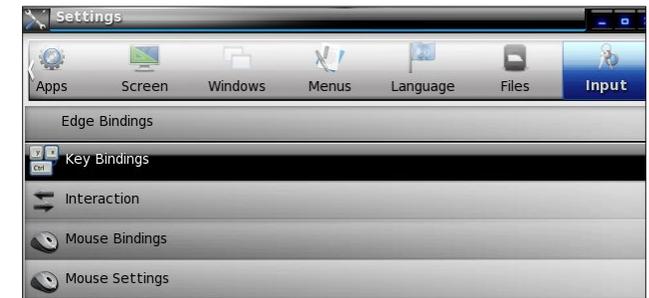
I now want to enable two particular 3D effects, Expo and Cube. The Base Plugins were already enabled. In the Viewport Plugins section, I enabled Plane, Cube, and Rotate. In the Switcher Plugins section, I enabled Ring Switcher,



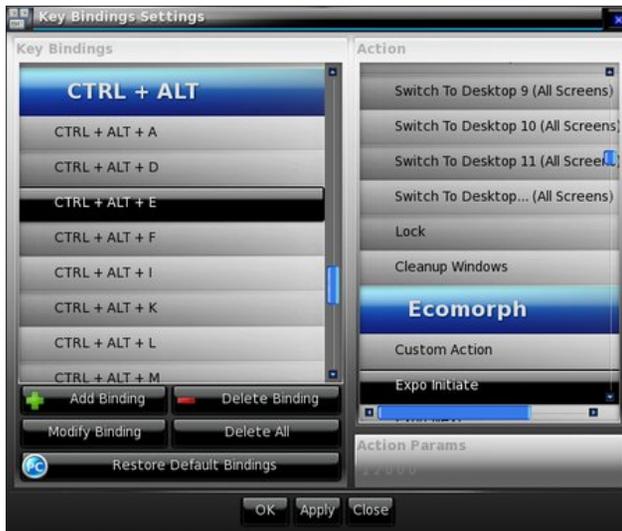
as I want to use that option later. In the Other Plugins section, I enabled Wobbly (windows effect) and Cube Reflexions. Then I saved the settings by clicking the Apply button.



In order to use the Expo and rotating Cube effects, I need to add Key or Mouse Bindings. From the PCLinuxOS menu, select Settings > Settings Panel. At the top of the Settings window, click the right arrow button to scroll the tabs until the Input tab appears. Then select the Input tab. For the Expo effect, I chose to use key bindings. Select the Key Bindings button.



I wanted to use key combinations which were easy for me to remember. First, I scrolled down to the CTRL+ALT section in the left window column to see if the E, N and P combinations were already in use. They weren't, so I chose those. First, click the Add Binding button in the lower left corner of the window. A small message appeared (not shown) stating to "Please press key sequence or Esc to abort". I pressed Ctrl-Alt-E. To assign the key sequence to an action, I scrolled down in the right column of the screen to the Ecomorph section. I clicked the Expo Initiate button to assign the key sequence. I wanted to be sure the setting was saved, so I pressed the Apply button.

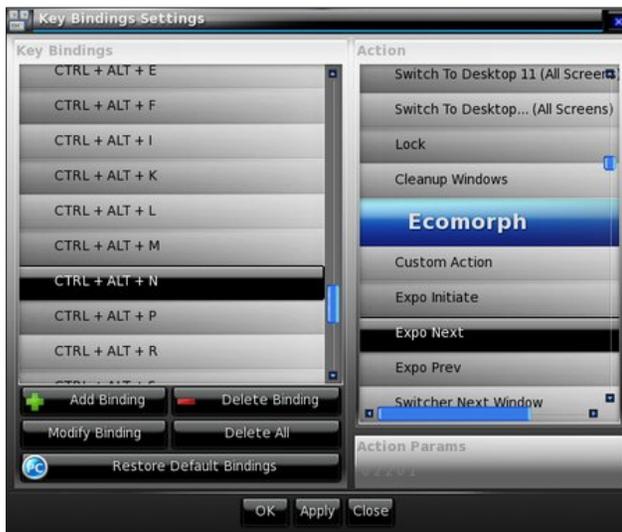


Moving on to the next key sequence, I clicked the Add Binding button, and pressed Ctrl-Alt-N. I

then clicked the Expo Next button in the right column, then clicked the Apply button.



For the last Expo key sequence, I clicked the Add Binding button, then pressed Ctrl-Alt-P. I then clicked the Expo Prev button in the right column, then clicked the Apply button to save the key sequence settings.



To activate the Cube effect, I chose to use a mouse binding. From the Settings window, with the Input tab selected, click on the Mouse Bindings button. I chose a Ctrl-Alt action again. First, I clicked the Add Binding button. A small dialog window appeared explaining how to input the mouse selection, or to "Press Escape to abort". I pressed Ctrl-Alt on the keyboard, then the right mouse button. Note that the selection shows the mouse button first (Right Button+CTRL+ALT). In the right column of the



window, there are no cube options in the Ecomorph section. Using the method posted on the forum by [rpmTECH](#), I clicked Custom Action in the right column. In the lower right corner of the window, an Action Params input box appeared. As per instructions, I deleted the default text in the input box and entered 0 5 0 0 0. I then clicked the Apply button to save the mouse binding.

Once I had finished adding the Ecomorph settings I wanted to use and test, it was time to try them out. I closed all open windows, then logged out. At the login window, I selected E17-Ecomorph session, then logged in with my username and password. The screenshot below (next page) shows the Expo effect.



The screenshot below shows the familiar rotating Cube effect.



There are many, many special effects configuration options available in the Ecomorph Configuration window. In the next article, I will delve into some of them.

Special thanks go to Agust and smurfslover for their many e17 and Ecomorph [tips and tricks](#) in the forum.

Screenshot Showcase



Posted by coffeetime on March 11, 2011 running e17

e17: Running Ecomorph, Part 2 - Settings

by Darrel Johnston (djohnston)

An entire magazine could be written on the possibilities for the Ecomorph settings. I'm only going to cover some of them here. I'll only delve into some which smurfslover and Agust have not already covered in the forum.

In the Ecomorph Window Move/Resize section, the only option is the window opacity level. Use the slider to set the level. NOTE: To anyone who may notice that my two CPUs are running at close to 100%, as indicated in the gkrellm panel, it is not due to running Ecomorph. Ecomorph uses very little system memory or CPU cycles. The reason for the high CPU usage is that I am running folding@home in the background. That task basically utilizes all unused CPU cycles.



As mentioned in the previous article, the e17 Dropshadow module is not activated if you want to run Ecomorph. Ecomorph's Drop Shadow settings are in the section shown below.



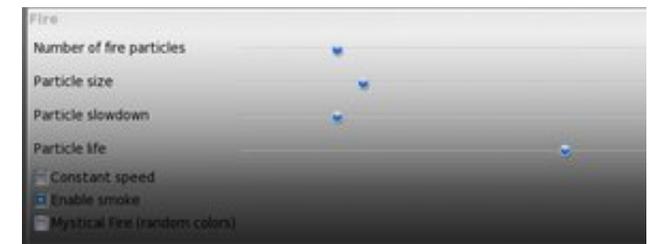
The Open, Close and Minimize window animations have a lot of options. Shown below are the settings for the animation done when opening the main menu window. The burn effect is enabled by default. You can change the duration, or length, of the animation by using the slider.



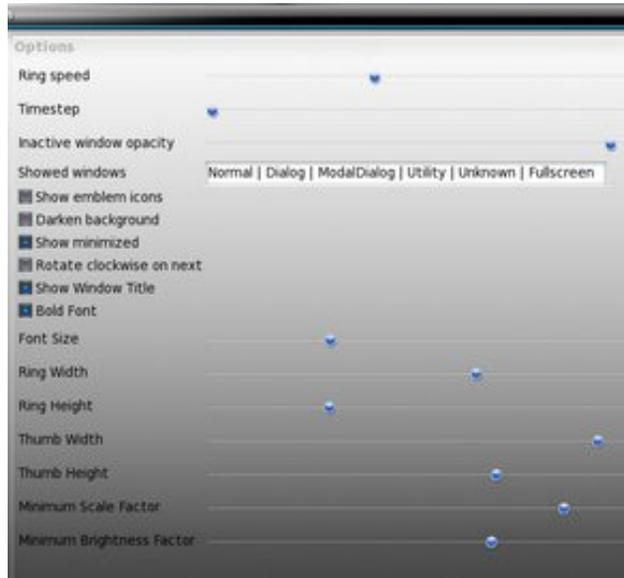
Shown below are the animation settings chosen for closing the main menu, a popup or dropdown menu. Explode is enabled by default. To enable a random effect, set the "Animation for selected match" area to Random. In the "Animation random pool" area, select which effects you want included, then change the option from "None" to "Random".



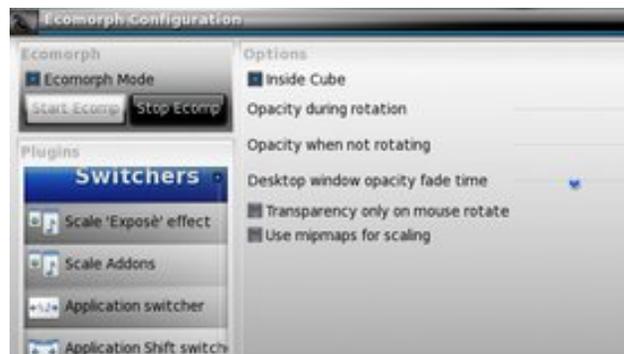
Effect settings (1) (2) (3) and (4) each have a different set of options. In the Effect settings (3) section, I have "Enable smoke" checked. It adds a smoke after-effect to the "Burn" Open (main menu) animation settings shown previously.



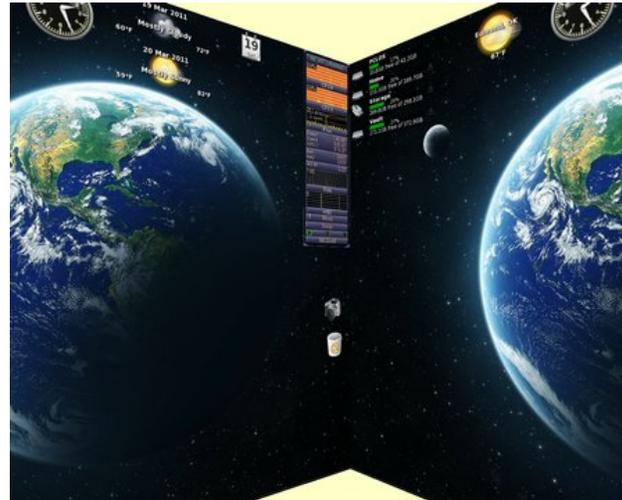
The Switchers section shows the different window switchers' options. Shown are default options for the Ring switcher.



In the Desktop section, there are two Cube categories. In the first, there is an option to show the rotated cube as an "Inside Cube".



Looking at the rotated cube as if from the inside.



Almost everyone is familiar with the Compiz wobbly windows effect. Shown below are the Ecomorph wobbly window options.



Shown below is the wobbly window effect during closing a window.



One could spend hours or days experimenting with all the Ecomorph special effects. As mentioned at the beginning of the article, Ecomorph consumes very little memory or CPU cycles. I don't see much difference, if any, between running it or the standard e17 desktop. Ecomorph has been very stable and has not crashed once, despite using the purportedly unstable cube effect. However, for me, Ecomorph is a lot of bling, and simply offers a chance to show off the possibilities of a Linux desktop to onlookers. I have not yet found a reason that Ecomorph makes using the desktop any easier. As always, your mileage may vary.

