

? What is KDE?

! KDE is an international team co-operating on development and distribution of Free, Open Source Software for desktop and portable computing. Our community has developed a wide variety of applications for communication, work, education and entertainment. We have a strong focus on finding innovative solutions to old and new problems, creating a vibrant, open atmosphere for experimentation.

? And KDE 4?

! KDE 4 is the latest major series of open source software releases from KDE. This software includes: a workspace for Linux and Unix systems, a set of base applications that run on Linux, Unix, Windows and Mac OS X, and a development environment complete with applications and libraries for third party developers. KDE 4.0 was released in January, 2008. Since then, KDE has been releasing significant updates to the KDE 4 series on a biannual schedule.

? What is the KDE 4 Workspace?

! For users on Linux and Unix, KDE 4 offers a full suite of user workspace applications which allow interaction with these operating systems in a modern, graphical user interface. This includes Plasma, KDE 4's innovative desktop interface and KWin, a powerful and stable window manager. Other applications are included to aid with system configuration, running programs, or interacting with hardware devices. While the fully integrated KDE 4 Workspace is only available on Linux and Unix, some of these features are available on other platforms.

? Does KDE 4 provide the software I need?

! In addition to the workspace, KDE 4 includes a number of key applications such as the Konqueror web browser, Dolphin file manager and Kontact, the comprehensive personal information management suite. KDE 4 includes many other applications for education, multimedia, networking, games and much more so chances are there will be an application that does what you need. Most applications are available on all of KDE 4's supported platforms.

? What about software that is not part of KDE 4?

! There are many other KDE applications that are released independently from KDE 4, including the fast and lean office productivity suite KOffice, fully featured music player Amarok, multipurpose disc burner K3b, powerful IRC client Konversation and the celebrated digital photo management tool Digikam. Many third-party applications that work with KDE 4 can be found at kde-apps.org.

? How do I get KDE 4?

! The easiest way to try KDE 4 is by using a LiveCD. These CDs contain fully functioning operating systems with KDE 4 preconfigured and ready to use, but will not adversely affect your existing computer. For users that cannot install another operating system, KDE 4 Applications can be run natively on Windows and OS X. Or, if you want the full KDE 4 experience, many Linux or Unix operating systems include the option to install KDE during the operating system installation process. See kde.org/trykde for more information.