
SECTION 2 Use the Linux Desktop

In this section of the workbook, you learn how to do the following:

- “Explore Your KDE Desktop” on 2-1
- “Explore Your GNOME Desktop” on 2-3
- “Access the Command Line Interface” on 2-4



On some computers, the KDE desktop displays a powersave Warning message that appears for a few seconds each time you start the KDE desktop.

You can close the message by clicking on it. However, to permanently disable it, you need to edit the powersave configuration file with a text editor.

Because you learn how to use a text editor in Section 7, the steps for editing the configuration file are included in Exercise 7-1. If you would like, you can edit the configuration file during or after this exercise.

Exercise 2-1 Explore Your KDE Desktop

It is possible to administer SLES9 without a graphical user interface. However, sometimes a GUI is much more convenient than a pure text console. The purpose of this exercise is to familiarize you with KDE.

To explore your KDE desktop, do the following from the GUI login screen (where you were left after installing SLES 9):

1. In the Username field, enter **geeko**.
2. In the Password field, enter **N0v3ll** (use zero; *not* an uppercase o).

You need to complete this exercise for Exercise 2-2 to work properly.

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Exercise 2-1 Explore Your KDE Desktop

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To explore your KDE desktop, do the following from the GUI login screen (where you were left after installing SLES 9):

1. In the Username field, enter **geeko**.
2. In the Password field, enter **N0v3ll** (use zero; *not* an uppercase o).

You need to complete this exercise for Exercise 2-2 to work properly.

For security reasons, asterisks are displayed instead of the actual letters when you enter the password.

3. Select **Login**.

The KDE desktop environment starts, and initial dialogs appear.

4. Close the SUSE LINUX welcome screen and the Kandolf's Useful Tips dialog by selecting the **X** in the upper right corner of the windows.

5. (Conditional) If a new hardware dialog appears, deselect **Keep me informed about new hardware**; then select **No**.

6. Start the file manager Konqueror by selecting the **blue house** icon in Kicker.

7. View the navigation area by selecting the **red folder** icon on the left side of the Konqueror window.

8. View the contents of the /etc/ directory by selecting **etc** in the side panel (a single mouse click).

9. Copy the file /etc/DIR_COLORS to the directory /tmp/ by scrolling down and selecting the **DIR_COLORS** file icon, dragging it over the **tmp** folder icon in the navigation area, and releasing the mouse button.

10. From the popup menu, select **Copy Here**.

11. View the contents of the directory /tmp/ by selecting **tmp** in the side panel (a single mouse click).

12. Rename the copied file by right-clicking the **DIR_COLORS** file icon, and then selecting **Rename** from the popup menu.

13. For the new filename, type **example.txt**; then press **Enter**.

14. Quit Konqueror by selecting the **X** button in the top right corner of the window.

15. Open the KDE menu by selecting the leftmost icon in the bottom panel.

16. Select **Logout**; then select **Logout** again.

For security reasons, asterisks are displayed instead of the actual letters when you enter the password.

3. Select **Login**.

The KDE desktop environment starts, and initial dialogs appear.

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15. Open the KDE menu by selecting the leftmost icon in the bottom panel.

16. Select **Logout**; then select **Logout** again.

You are returned to the GUI login screen.

17. Open the **Menu** drop-down list; then select **Shutdown**.
18. Select **Restart computer**; then enter the root password **novell** in the Password field and select **OK**.

After the computer has restarted, the login screen appears.

19. Log in as **geeko** with a password of **N0v3ll**; then select **Login**.
20. Close all windows that open automatically by selecting the **X** button in the top right corner of the window.

(End of Exercise)

Exercise 2-2 Explore Your GNOME Desktop

Whether you use KDE or GNOME is entirely a matter of personal preference. The purpose of this exercise is to familiarize you with the GNOME desktop.

To explore your GNOME desktop, do the following:

1. From the KDE menu, log out as **geeko** by selecting **Logout > Logout**.
2. From the GUI login screen, select the **Menu** drop-down list; then select **Session Type > GNOME**.
3. Log in as **geeko** with a password of **N0v3ll** (select **Login**).

The GNOME desktop environment starts.

4. From the GNOME desktop, select the **Applications** menu (top panel) and view the applications available.
5. Start the Nautilus file manager by selecting the **house icon** in the top panel.
6. Display the side pane by selecting **View > Side Pane**.

You are returned to the GUI login screen.

17. Open the **Menu** drop-down list; then select **Shutdown**.
18. Select **Restart computer**; then enter the root password **novell** in the Password field and select **OK**.

After the computer has restarted, the login screen appears.

19. Log in as **geeko** with a password of **N0v3ll**; then select **Login**.
20. Close all windows that open automatically by selecting the **X** button in the top right corner of the window.

(End of Exercise)

Exercise 2-2 Explore Your GNOME Desktop

Whether you use KDE or GNOME is entirely a matter of personal preference. The purpose of this exercise is to familiarize you with the GNOME desktop.

To explore your GNOME desktop, do the following:

1. From the KDE menu, log out as **geeko** by selecting **Logout > Logout**.
2. From the GUI login screen, select the **Menu** drop-down list; then select **Session Type > GNOME**.
3. Log in as **geeko** with a password of **N0v3ll** (select **Login**).

The GNOME desktop environment starts.

4. From the GNOME desktop, select the **Applications** menu (top panel) and view the applications available.
5. Start the Nautilus file manager by selecting the **house icon** in the top panel.
6. Display the side pane by selecting **View > Side Pane**.

7. View the file system tree in the side pane by selecting **Tree** from the drop-down list at the top of the side pane.
8. Display the contents of the directory /tmp/ by expanding **Filesystem**; then select **tmp**.
9. Delete the file **example.txt** by right-clicking the file icon and selecting **Move to Trash**.
10. Close the Nautilus file manager window.
11. From the top of the Gnome desktop, select the **Actions** menu; then select **Log Out**.
12. Select **OK**.
You are returned to the GUI login screen.
13. From the **Menu** drop-down list, select **Session Type > KDE**.
14. Log in as **geeko** with a password of **N0v3ll** (select **Login**).

(End of Exercise)

Exercise 2-3 Access the Command Line Interface

As has been stated before, SLES 9 does not need a GUI for its administration. And even with a graphical desktop environment running you can switch to the text consoles any time if you like to. This exercise shows you how.

To access the command line interface, do the following:

1. Switch to the first virtual terminal by pressing **Ctrl + Alt + F1**.
2. (Conditional) If you see a SUSE - A Novell Company splash screen, press **Enter** and if still no commandline, then display the command line on the second virtual terminal by pressing **Alt + F2**.
3. Type **geeko** as a login name and press **Enter**.

7. View the file system tree in the side pane by selecting **Tree** from the drop-down list at the top of the side pane.
8. Display the contents of the directory /tmp/ by expanding **Filesystem**; then select **tmp**.
9. Delete the file **example.txt** by right-clicking the file icon and selecting **Move to Trash**.
10. Close the Nautilus file manager window.
11. From the top of the Gnome desktop, select the **Actions** menu; then select **Log Out**.
12. Select **OK**.
You are returned to the GUI login screen.
13. From the **Menu** drop-down list, select **Session Type > KDE**.
14. Log in as **geeko** with a password of **N0v3ll** (select **Login**).

(End of Exercise)

Exercise 2-3 Access the Command Line Interface

As has been stated before, SLES 9 does not need a GUI for its administration. And even with a graphical desktop environment running you can switch to the text consoles any time if you like to. This exercise shows you how.

To access the command line interface, do the following:

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2. (Conditional) If you see a SUSE - A Novell Company splash screen, press **Enter** and if still no commandline, then display the command line on the second virtual terminal by pressing **Alt + F2**.
3. Type **geeko** as a login name and press **Enter**.

4. Type **N0v3ll** as the password and press **Enter**.
5. Switch to the second virtual terminal by pressing **Ctrl + Alt + F2**.
Notice that you are not logged in at this terminal.
6. Press **Ctrl + Alt + F1** to switch back to the first terminal.
You are still logged in as **geeko**.
7. Log out by entering **exit**.
8. Switch back to the graphical user interface by pressing **Ctrl + Alt + F7**.

(End of Exercise)

4. Type **N0v3ll** as the password and press **Enter**.
5. Switch to the second virtual terminal by pressing **Ctrl + Alt + F2**.
Notice that you are not logged in at this terminal.
6. Press **Ctrl + Alt + F1** to switch back to the first terminal.
You are still logged in as **geeko**.
7. Log out by entering **exit**.
8. Switch back to the graphical user interface by pressing **Ctrl + Alt + F7**.

(End of Exercise)

