

Add application icons to the desktop

2025-11-23T22:10:05+01:00

Motivation

Add icons to desktop so that you do not have to remember all the names

Case Study: Fiji

1. Download the Fiji application

Use following links: * link to Fiji download
* link to stable download for linux on x86-64

I downloaded it to ~/Documents/Programs, the full path is:

```
/home/vld/Documents/Programs
```

2. Extract the file in the Thunar manager

- Will extract to fiji-stable-linux64-jdk
- Now when you navigate to the /home/vld/Documents/Programs/fiji-stable-linux64-jdk/Fiji.app/fiji-linux-x64 and click it the fiji will start
- This is not very practical for GUI use

3. Add it to applications

```
cp /home/vld/Documents/Programs/fiji-stable-linux64-jdk/Fiji.app/ImageJ2.desktop ~/.local/share/applications/  
chmod +x ~/.local/share/applications/fiji.desktop
```

4. Edit the desktop file

```
vim ~/.local/share/applications/fiji.desktop
```

should look like this:

```
[Desktop Entry]  
Version=1.0  
Name=ImageJ  
GenericName=ImageJ  
X-GNOME-FullName=ImageJ  
Comment=Scientific Image Analysis  
Type=Application  
Categories=Education;Science;ImageProcessing;  
Exec=/home/vld/Documents/Programs/fiji-stable-linux64-jdk/Fiji.app/fiji-linux-x64 %F  
TryExec=/home/vld/Documents/Programs/fiji-stable-linux64-jdk/Fiji.app/fiji-linux-x64
```

```
Terminal=false
StartupNotify=true
MimeType=image/*;
Icon=/home/vld/Documents/Programs/fiji-stable-linux64-jdk/Fiji.app/images/icon.png
StartupWMClass=net-imagej-launcher-ClassLauncher
```

The important lines to change are the Exec and TryExec

5. Make it an executable icon on desktop

```
cp ~/.local/share/applications/fiji.desktop ~/Desktop/
```

It will create an icon (grey) right click it and “allow launching”

6. Make icons to be on top left

Settings-> Desktop -> Icons