

KNOS

Secure Desktop



UserGuide

KNOS Secure Desktop, Version 10.1

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THIS IS A BETA PRE-RELEASE OF KNOS 10.1

In this guide, we'll offer details on how to make the most of KNOS along with several tricks to make it even more useful to you. KNOS Secure Desktop is not just a secure operating system, it's an entire computer system with many powerful applications all in one place, ready to use! KNOS will not interfere with your existing computer and its contents in ANY way whatsoever. It's safe.

System Requirements

KNOS will run on any 64 bit Intel or AMD-based system designed for Windows, Linux or Macintosh manufactured since 2007 provided that it has a minimum of 2 GB (gigabytes) of memory or more installed in the computer. KNOS contains system drivers for just about every kind of system hardware already installed, but please be advised that some manufacturers of WiFi and other peripherals have chosen not to provide technical information for their devices, and thus it's possible that some of these devices might not be detected by KNOS. We can assist in helping to locate alternate devices which can be plugged into one of your USB ports at extremely low cost if this is the case.

Please note that Bluetooth mice and keyboards are not supported on desktops at this time, you will need a wired keyboard and mouse in order to use KNOS. Certain bluetooth keyboards and mice can be supported by KNOS if it is installed on a USB stick or a hard drive. Please contact us for assistance if this is the case.

Booting up your KNOS Secure Desktop

For portability and universal convenience, KNOS is delivered as an ISO file designed to be burned to a DVD. Just about every computer (including Macintosh) is designed to boot from a DVD. However, DVD's are an extremely slow media device, as slow as old-fashioned floppy disks. As a result, booting KNOS Secure Desktop from a DVD drive can take an average of 6 minutes or more before it is ready to be used, and for most people, this is just too long a wait. DVD's are convenient, but they're painfully slow to load.

If you have a spare USB stick that's 8 GB or larger, once KNOS has booted from your DVD, you can then burn KNOS Secure Desktop to that USB stick and boot from that instead if your computer is able to boot from a USB device. If you have a 16 GB or larger USB stick to install KNOS Secure Desktop on, you gain an additional advantage of being able to save files to a "personal" area that KNOS will mount for you which will allow you to save your configuration, save files and have all of your data on a single, highly portable USB stick that you can take with you and use anywhere. KNOS Secure Desktop can also handle external USB hard disks as well and will work just like a USB stick if you desire.

Check your computer's owner's manual to see if it will boot from a USB device. Most recent computers provide this ability. If so, you can have KNOS Secure Desktop booted in less than 2 minutes since USB devices are typically almost as fast as if KNOS were started from the hard disk. KNOS is also far more responsive when booted from faster media since loading programs after it's up also depends on the speed of the media from which KNOS is run. If your computer is unable to boot from a USB stick, you can download our KNOSBOOT.ISO and then burn it to a CD or DVD. That will allow you to use this disc to start up your machine and it will automatically boot into your USB device and allow you to enjoy the speed of USB boot even if your machine doesn't support USB booting.

KNOS Secure Desktop can also replace your existing operating system and applications on your hard disk, but most people won't want to do this. If you actually wish to replace your existing operating system and place KNOS Secure Desktop on an existing computer, please contact our support people by email at support@knosproject.com and we'll be happy to tell you how to do this from your KNOS DVD. The only reason why we're not including these instructions in our guide here is to prevent accidental and unintentional destruction of your existing data on your hard disk. Feel free to contact us if you'd like to install KNOS as the ONLY operating system on your computer's hard drive. You can also opt to install KNOS on an external hard drive if one is available.

Because of KNOS' unique design, installing KNOS Secure Desktop to a USB stick or to your hard disk is almost as secure as running KNOS from a DVD. KNOS' unique "lockbox" design precludes viruses or malware from being able to modify any part of the KNOS Operating system. We'd like to call it 100% in either case, but nobody would believe it was real. It is!

Instructions on how to "Make bootable KNOS USB" sticks are described below in its own section.

The KNOS "Boot process"

KNOS Secure Desktop has to detect your system's hardware every time it starts. It also has to configure itself based on what hardware it finds. This process is similar to installing a brand new operating system on your computer though our hardware detection is much faster than other operating systems although this process may seem slow because it must happen every time KNOS is started. This is because KNOS knows nothing of the machine itself until it figures out what's there and how to talk to it, and it needs to do this every time it's booted. This also makes KNOS portable and useful on any other machines you may encounter.

KNOS will start a loader, then it will talk to your system's "BIOS" to find out where things are once it starts booting. You'll see lots of technical details fly by after it pauses for about a minute trying to talk to your hardware. You can ignore all this technical stuff, that's for our use if you encounter problems and provides us with diagnostics information about the machine should we need to assist you. We only show these messages you see on the screen as reassurance that KNOS is still loading as it figures out how to configure itself properly.

Once KNOS has configured itself, and loaded in all of its bits and pieces, it will then start the GUI (desktop) portion of its bootup configuration. At first, the screen will go black while it works with your video card and monitor to determine what modes it can use, then it will start up the mouse and keyboard at which time you'll see a gray "clock" icon that will change back and forth with a pointer. Then the KNOS Secure Desktop background graphic will appear while it loads the actual desktop and applications after installing everything into your computer's memory so that it doesn't need to touch your existing hard disk in order to keep you secure.

From a DVD, the text-based boot takes about 3 minutes in text mode and a little under 3 minutes more once it has switched into graphics mode so please be patient. If you're booting KNOS Secure Desktop from a USB stick or hard disk, the text bootup will take about a minute and a half and the graphical boot should take about 20 more seconds. Like we said, DVD's are painfully slow. Once done, you'll be presented with the actual KNOS Secure Desktop and all the toys that come with it, ready to use.

If you're trying to boot a KNOS USB stick from an older computer that cannot boot from USB, then you will want to download our special KNOSBOOT ISO which will allow you to build a bootable CD which can boot KNOS on older computers and as soon as the CD has booted, it will automatically boot your USB stick from there on machines that are unable to boot directly from a USB device.

Welcome to the KNOS Secure Desktop!

Your desktop will be ready to use once you see a black bar at the top of your screen with the KNOS "purple and blue" logo on the top left, and the date and time shown along with a few other icons on the top right side. You'll also see a "Trash" icon on the desktop itself. KNOS Secure Desktop is shipped with a clean desktop otherwise.

KNOS Secure Desktop ships with a modern "Dark" theme requested by customers of our earlier versions who felt that our earlier WinXP-like GUI was showing its age. You can change the theme if you wish to something more pleasing to your own esthetics by simply right-clicking your mouse anywhere on the desktop and then selecting "Change Desktop background" from the drop down menu.

KNOS ships with many different themes and backgrounds, and you can even customize the themes with a "customize" button to your liking and replace the "wallpaper" with one of your choice if you wish. The theme manager does take a bit of time however to fully load because there are a lot of options to choose from and they all have to be loaded in first. You can also save your settings to a USB stick as described later to make them permanent.

Up on the top left of your desktop, you'll see the words, "Applications, Places and System." This is where you'll access all the various applications which are part of KNOS. It's similar to the Microsoft "start" button except that it's up on top like a Macintosh. We also provided a service called "Cairo Dock" if you would rather make your KNOS Secure Desktop look **just** like a Mac instead of the default desktop design.

Let's go through the various things available to you up on the menu bar ...

On the Applications tab:

Each individual application provided with KNOS has its own help document which can be accessed either by hitting F1 while in the app, or look for the word "Help" on the top menu bar of each application. There's a clickable item marked "Contents (F1)" in each which will provide more than adequate details. From here, we'll enumerate what is included in KNOS Secure Desktop and offer a brief description from here. Those applications that do not provide a help file will be explained in more detail in each of their entries in this document.

Accessories grouping of apps:

Archive Manager

Our Archive Manager allows you to unpack or compress files in many archive formats ranging from ARC to ZIP formats. If you select the archive manager from here, it will allow you to choose and compress one or multiple files into a package of your choosing. When you encounter archive files, there is no need to select this, KNOS is smart enough to automatically open an archived file and run this for you.

Calculator

Our "Gcalc" calculator is similar to that in Windows, offering basic, advanced, financial and programming modes.

Character map

Similar to that provided in Windows, it allows you to view the contents of all of the fonts which ship with KNOS, adjust sizes and copy any character from there to paste into anything else.

HP Device Manager

This special utility is included for use with Hewlett Packard printers which require their own special unique software. It will automatically set up and communicate with most HP Printers, including combination scanner/printers and Wi-Fi networked printers.

Help

This is the full manual for the Gnome desktop upon which KNOS Secure Desktop is based. It's the complete manual for all included applications.

KeePassX

KeePassX is a complete password manager, designed for storage of passwords if you backup your KNOS settings to an external device.

Passwords and encryption keys

This is a similar manager, but is designed to work with PGP encryption keys and handling encryption. It uses the KNOS "gnome keyring" rather than the more convenient KeePassX. We highly recommend using KeePassX instead.

Search for files

This is similar to Macintosh's "spotlight" or the Windows "search" function. It allows you to search not only for files, but also allows you to look inside files to search for specific words, dates, times, etc.

Take screenshot

This allows you to capture a screenshot of the entire screen, a specific window or a specific area of the screen and save it as a PNG file. While an option for "save to clipboard" is available, KNOS' security doesn't allow a clipboard but if you leave this screen open and select that, you can paste it directly into another program AS LONG AS this window remains open. When closed, the "clip" is no longer available and erased from memory. You can also save your screenshot as a file.

Terminal

This opens a terminal console to permit special commands to be entered when required. KNOS' security prevents system access and this terminal can only be run from the keyboard. It cannot be accessed by any other externalities.

gedit Text editor

This is a text editor similar to "Notepad++" which allows multiple tabs of open text files plus the ability to copy, cut and paste between tabs within it. Gedit allows multiple sessions at once with tabs so you can copy and paste as well.

Games grouping of apps:

We've included the package of games which come with Gnome, including only those which actually work. Details on each of the games and how to play them can be found in their individual help documents included inside each. Feel free to play!

Each game has its own help file and rules, simply hit F1 for more or click on Help in each game.

Graphics grouping of apps:

Blender

Blender is a complete 3D modeling and rendering program, similar to Autodesk's Maya or 3D studio and can import from those and other 3D rendering formats. It can then output 3D visualizations and animations in numerous formats. It's extremely sophisticated.

GIMP Image Manipulation

GIMP is similar to Adobe AI, photoshop and similar high end graphics creation programs. It can convert between formats and is also extremely sophisticated but can also be used in simpler modes similar to MS Paint if desired.

Image viewer

Image viewer allows you to open any graphical file format, expand it to full screen, pan, zoom with smoothing. If you click on a graphics file, Image Viewer will automatically open it and present it to you.

Inkscape Vector Graphics Editor

Inkscape is a drawing program for 3D fixed graphics and font creation. It reads and outputs "SVG" graphics as well as "GL" graphics based on vector drawing rather than pixmap drawing.

LibreOffice Draw

This is part of the LibreOffice package. It permits you to create basic drawings similar to what can be done in Microsoft Office's "Powerpoint."

Scan Image

This item allows you to capture images from a flatbed or similar TWAIN scanner. This feature was written by the KNOS team and requires that you have your scanner hooked up before clicking it. Scan your image and save it to your desktop or an external disk. You can then import it into your choice of graphics program to manipulate it if desired. Only TWAIN type scanners are supported.

Scribus Publisher

Scribus Publisher is a fully-featured Desktop Publishing application which permits you to create brochures, business cards, posters and other documents with handy premade templates plus the ability to design your own professional-looking layouts.

Shotwell photo manager

Shotwell is an image program which will allow you to look at your digital photos from cameras or other devices (best to leave the original photos on your camera or other device because images eat a lot of memory) and then adjust, crop, remove redevye and then upload your images to facebook or other sites once they've been adjusted to your approval.

Internet grouping of apps:

Avahi SSH Server Browser

This tool allows you to connect to a remote SSH server. See the help file inside the program for details on how to set it up.

Avahi VNC Server Browser

This tool allows you to connect to a remote VNC-based server. See the help file inside the program for details on how to set it up.

Chromium browser

Similar to Google's "Chrome" browser, it shares a good portion of the Chrome code base without the "Google" part which is considered a privacy problem by many. Works just like "Chrome" however. Do be mindful though that since KNOS Secure Desktop runs in memory and not from hard drive, opening too many tabs can cause it to crash severely if you let it get too "piggy." It's also a good idea to close it after a period of surfing just to get that wasted memory back. It's fast, it's wonderful, but like Firefox, it can be a memory hog.

Ekiga VOIP

This is a telephony application which supports Cisco's "SIP" telephony protocol. It should be compatible with corporate VOIP services based on Cisco, Avaya and Executone VOIP services and Ekiga will provide a Skype-like account for free with other "SIP" protocol people using Ekiga. Ekiga hasn't been maintained very well over the past few years and thus we recommend the Linphone app instead. Ekiga has been kept in the KNOS distribution however because of its compatibility with older VOIP protocols.

Epiphany Web Bookmarks

Epiphany Web Bookmarks is the separate bookmark manager for the Epiphany Web Browser. This application has always been separate from the primary browser and allows you to edit and manage bookmarks for Epiphany.

Epiphany Web Browser

The Epiphany Web Browser returns to KNOS after a three year hiatus because the original Epiphany Web Browser was no longer maintained by the Gnome Desktop maintainers and was never compatible with 64 bit operating systems. Thanks to a small, dedicated team of KNOS coders, it has been updated for KNOS once again.

Epiphany traces its roots back to the Konquerer browser, which was the origin of Apple's "Safari" browser. It's based on Webkit and contains improvements from the most recent versions of Webkit and still maintains the look and feel of Safari. Please be advised however that Epiphany is still lacking in the polish of more modern browsers, but if the look and feel of Safari is what you like, Epiphany will do the trick. Bookmarks must be managed with its companion Web Bookmarks.

Firefox Web Browser

Firefox has been customized for KNOS with additional security features built in. Please note that the default privacy settings, based on customer requests, will automatically clear history, caches and other surfing data but most people want their cookies saved when Firefox is closed. No information (nor cookies) will be saved across KNOS reboots, but if you're backing up your app settings for faster restarts of KNOS, then those cookies will be saved for convenience. If you wish to modify these settings, go up top in Firefox, hit Edit, then preferences, then Privacy settings and you can modify them any way you wish if you're planning to save your settings onto media from KNOS.

Please note that the included Firefox version is set for the last really good version of Firefox, Version 33. Later versions of Firefox introduced a number of changes which were not well-received and behaviors which changed the nature of Firefox. We have included all of the security updates to Firefox since Version 33, but have maintained the core code at Version 33 in order to maintain the functionality that people knew and loved with any required security updates included.

Linphone

Linphone is a free, open source video, audio and chat VOIP telephony program. It provides features similar to Skype, iMessage and Facetime but is compatible only with other Linphone users. The Linphone software is available on every computer and smartphone platform as a free download ranging from iOS to Windows 10. You can sign up for a free account and call other Linphone users anywhere in the world at no charge whatsoever. The video, audio and telephony quality is extremely good. We highly recommend Linphone and were one of the first adopters when we released KNOS 10.0 last year.

Midori Browser

Midori is one of the finest new web browsers introduced in the past year. We regard it as so good, that we recommend it as your everyday browser. It's light, it's secure, and has numerous privacy protection features built in. It also comes with a number of very useful, built-in extensions which are currently turned off. You might want to explore them and choose the features you want. We HIGHLY recommend Midori as your every day browser out of all the browsers that come with KNOS.

Midori Private Browsing

Provided as a separate option, Midori's Private Browsing allows you to browse anywhere without absolutely any possible privacy intrusions by sites you visit. Whilst the primary Midori browser provides excellent security and privacy options, the Private browsing version of Midori doesn't contain any possible functions that can give away any details on who you are.

Pidgin Instant Messenger

Pidgin supports all major "chats" from AIM to Zephyr. Fully customizable.

Remote Desktop Viewer

Supports SSH and VNC connections to remote desktops. This also permits screen sharing and remote operation with other KNOS machines if you go into the System tab on top, select Preferences and then Remote Desktop there. To connect to other KNOS machines once that's been turned on by the other user(s) you establish a VNC connection, enter their IP address and you can connect and control another KNOS Desktop remotely.

Thunderbird

Mozilla's email and newsgroups reader. Please be advised however that if you want to use the Thunderbird email client, you absolutely need to have KNOS running on a large USB stick or an external hard disk because storage of emails uses a lot of space and a lot of memory. You need a minimum of 2GB of memory in order to keep a minimal amount of email stored locally.

For most users, we highly recommend using webmail through a browser if you handle a lot of mail, but if you can keep your mailboxes thin, then feel free to use Thunderbird for your email. But please be mindful of how much storage doing so requires. Email can fill up your system rather quickly. Try to keep your folders empty.

Transmission bittorrent client

Transmission is a full service torrent client similar to bittorrent, Vuze and similar file-sharing programs. Fully compatible and supports magnets.

If you decide to use Transmission, you **MUST** use an external USB stick or device to store your downloads and must configure Transmission from its default of saving to the local "downloads" folder or you will quickly run out of memory.

Vidalia

Vidalia is a graphical front end to the TOR anonymity network (and access to the so-called "deep web") primarily designed for use by political dissidents and those subjected to censoring by masking your connection amidst thousands of other computers across the globe. Please refer to our separate information on "how to set up TOR" as it's easy to get it all wrong and not get the privacy you were expecting. If you're planning on using TOR, we recommend using Firefox because we've already built "FoxyProxy" into it which will allow you to quickly switch from the normal "default" mode to the "TOR/Privoxy" mode without having to install anything else. You will see the FoxyProxy icon next to the address bar on top with a red circle around it indicating that it's in "default" (normal surfing) mode. Simply click it to choose TOR mode after you've started "Vidalia."

Be mindful that safely using TOR requires that you go into Firefox' settings (Tools, start private browsing) in order to avoid being tracked. Java, javascript and cookies in normal browsing mode could significantly reduce your privacy expectations when using TOR. On the KNOS home page, look for the TOR onion among the icons on the bottom. If you click this, you can verify that your TOR is setup and working properly. There's additional hints and documentation on the TOR site as to how to make the most use of TOR.

Wifi Networks Manager

This program allows you to select and connect to wireless networks. It allows you to set access passwords and check for connectivity. If KNOS is unable to work with your wireless hardware, then you will receive a message that says "no wifi interface was found on this machine" meaning that wifi isn't available for whatever reason. Either there's no wifi card or the one in your machine is unfortunately not supported for KNOS by the manufacturer of your WiFi device.

Please note: As of KNOS 10.1, we have a new networking icon on the top right of your panel. The features in there as well as the configuration options are far superior to our WiFi Networks Manager, but we have retained it in this version because of its familiarity and ease of setup. You might want to explore the new panel icon as well before deciding on how you wish to interact with your networking as the new icon allows you to manage ALL network options.

Office grouping of apps:

Dictionary

A full service dictionary lookup from various sources.

Edit E-book

This is a new feature which is part of the Calibre book reader software. It will allow you to edit not only eBooks, but will also allow you to import and manage PDF documents and other reading material so long as it is not encoded with Digital Rights Management which may prevent any editing. It's great for fixing formatting errors and other issues with any electronic books or publications.

Evolution Mail and Calendar

Designed to be similar to Microsoft Outlook, this application is very memory intensive but is workable on systems with 4GB of memory or more. Basic functions can be carried out on many machines with less memory but it is important to set up your mail and calendars to point to an external storage device or stick when configuring your accounts.

GnuCash

Similar to, and compatible with Quicken Finance and Microsoft Money, this application allows you to do finance and record-keeping tasks. Like all other potentially large memory footprint applications, please set this up to save documents and data to an external storage device in order to not run out of memory.

LibreOffice

LibreOffice was formerly known as "OpenOffice" prior to Sun being acquired by Oracle. It is similar to, and compatible with Microsoft Office and includes all of the various components expected of an office program. "Base" is database access, "Calc" is similar to "Excel", "Draw" permits drawing of course, "Impress" is similar to "Powerpoint", "Math" permits creating and editing equations, and "Writer" is similar to "Word."

pyBitmessage

pyBitmessage is a P2P communications protocol used to send encrypted messages to another person or to many subscribers. It is decentralized and trustless, meaning that you need-not inherently trust any entities like root certificate authorities. It uses strong authentication which means that the sender of a message cannot be spoofed, and it aims to hide "non-content" data, like the sender and receiver of messages, from passive eavesdroppers. Please check the help file within the software for further details on how it works and how to use it.

Reading grouping of apps:

Document viewer

Document viewer is our own PDF and DOC viewer with protection against rogue scripts, viruses and hijackings. It allows you to read PDF and DOC documents on screen as well as "save a copy." It also works as a browser plugin to display these document formats in the browser SAFELY when you surf.

E-book Viewer

Allows you to open and read any non-DRM epub format book except for the SONY LRF format which is covered by our separate reader below.

LRF Viewer

Similar book reader for the SONY LRF format.

calibre

Full featured ebook reader, manager and format converter for E-books

Sound & Video grouping of apps:

Audacity Audio Editor

Full featured professional quality audio studio and editor with full effects and ability to record and modify audio files in every possible way.

Brasero Disc Burner

Brasero is a full-featured CD/DVD disk burner which allows you to burn CD's or DVD's if your computer has a writeable disk drive. It contains a fully featured composer for data or media projects and can burn to disc.

CD Player

CD Player allows you to play as well as rip audio compact discs.

Cheese photo booth

Cheese provides the ability to use your webcam (if supported) to take photos and provides some effects as well to make them interesting. When you snap a photo, the saved file will appear on your desktop to be moved wherever you wish. Although Cheese supports video recording as well, we've found it to be of poor to mediocre quality and thus might not work as expected. The authors of Cheese have long since abandoned this project. For better results when attempting to record video, we recommend trying the KDenlive video editor instead.

DVD Styler

DVD Styler is a full-featured DVD authoring and production package which allows you to create a full DVD with menus and artwork, ready to burn as a finished media presentation.

Imagination Slideshow

Provides the ability to take still photos and generate videos with sound track and the ability to title, pan, zoom and numerous other video effects and then upload to Youtube or burn to a DVD. An amazing little video production editor for still photos to make a stunning video presentation from them.

KDElive Video Editor

Full featured professional quality video and audio editor software. Can take video and stills from any format and output professionally done studio quality video. Full effects and up to 32 video sources, 64 audio sources with ability to transcode as well. Intended for use by professionals, but easily used by non-professionals as well.

KNOS Media Server

KNOS Media Server allows you to select any folder containing audio or video media and stream it over your local network to any DLNA-compatible "Smart TV" or any other computer, smartphone or other device which has VLC installed, or any other DLNA-compliant software on any device. You can use KNOS as your own home media server. Simply select the folder you wish to stream from, give your KNOS Media server a name, and anyone can watch whatever you stream from KNOS! If your internet provider and your ISP's router permit you to stream outside of your own network, you can even stream to the internet.

When you no longer wish to stream media, simply run it again and click the Cancel button on the folder selector and this will shut down the KNOS Media Server. You can also opt to change folders and keep your Media Server running by simply selecting another folder and pass through the "name the server" screen and the newly selected folder will be made available for streaming. You can also put together a folder and create links in other folders and then copy the links to your new primary media server folder to allow access to other folders.

Movie Player

Movie Player allows you to watch video files, and in full screen if you desire. Hit the F11 key on your computer to watch movies or videos or play audio with our own image virtualizer for visual effects. Movie Player contains all of the codecs you need to watch or listen to pretty much anything you desire.

Openshot Video Editor

A simpler video editor similar to "iMovie" with an easier to use interface and fewer features, designed for non-professionals to crank out videos.

Sound recorder

Simple audio recording input for Microphone or line input on computer. Similar to Microsoft's sound recorder.

Swfdec Flash player

Designed to view Flash animations, non-video.

VLC Media Player

View and stream video, provided to also view video files and play commercial DVD's. Includes streaming and transcoding engine as well. You can watch DLNA media from a KNOS or other DLNA server by simply selecting "View" on the top menu bar, then select "Playlists" and then "Universal Plug and Play." In the playlists option, we even include thousands of streaming radio stations to enjoy, as well as podcasts and the ability to play any media located elsewhere on your network or the internet.

VLC is provided by its distributor with a full complement of "CODECs" and there is no need to download or install any external CODECs in order to play any media.

System Tools grouping of apps:

Backup App Settings

This feature allows you to save your modifications and setting for KNOS to an external drive so that they can be reapplied automatically the next time you boot up KNOS Secure Desktop. If you've used a USB stick to boot KNOS that's 16GB or larger, or an external hard drive, this would be the ideal place to save your settings. Optionally, you can save to any other USB device. Whatever device you choose to save your settings to however **MUST** be plugged in and ready when you boot KNOS in order for the data to get read back into KNOS.

CD/DVD Creator

This utility allows you to make fast backups to CD's or DVD's from your KNOS system. Simply drag any files you want to burn to here and then burn it!

Cairo-Dock

Allows you to replace the top and bottom menu panels a dock bar that looks like the Macintosh OSX dock. It is shipped only partially configured, but can be set up to replace the standard Gnome panels with this as a replacement. Configuration options are available if you right click on the first icon and follow the instructions within. Then you can turn off the top and bottom menu panels if you so desire. You will need to back up your app settings to store any configurations you make for subsequent bootups.

Configuration Editor

This is comparable to the Windows "registry" and contains all of the settings for the Gnome desktop. Be **VERY** careful if you make any changes in here. It is provided solely for expert modification of how various components of the Gnome desktop functions. KNOS Support might ask you to make some changes in here in certain custom situations.

DOSBOX

DOSBOX is an MS-DOS emulator. It allows you to run ANY retro MSDOS software going back to MSDOS 1.0 and everything since in 8 bit or 16 bit mode. DOSBOX is a virtual machine that emulates an old 8088 or 286-based computer. It runs classic MSDOS games as well as old MSDOS utilities very well. It also supports extended memory options and special setups required to run the latest games prior to the death of MSDOS as well.

Disk Usage Analyzer

This utility will show sizes of files and folders on disk, however because KNOS actually runs in memory rather than with a disk, information provided in this utility will not be accurate. It is however useful for external disks and USB sticks to a degree.

File Browser

The file browser allows you to navigate through drivers, folders and files. This is automatically run when you open any mounted drive as well.

Ghex2 Hex Editor

This is a special tool for geeks which allows you to examine and edit the content of raw executable files. It allows you to search through the code and hack changes to it where required. This is a standard tool for programmers and others who need to examine the contents of files for forensics or verification purposes.

KNOS-diagnostics

This utility will generate a text file called "diags" and place it on your desktop, collecting data about your hardware and will provide technical support at KNOS all of the necessary technical details to allow us to determine the cause if you encounter problems with KNOS Secure Desktop. All this feature does is gather the data and provide a file that you can email to us if we request diagnostics to help solve any problems. This file is in plain text and you can read it before sending.

Log file viewer

This utility will let you examine technical data and is a portion of what technical data is collected by the KNOS-diagnostics utility. This utility only displays portions of that data.

Make bootable KNOS USB

This utility allows you to install KNOS to a USB stick in order to have a much faster bootup than is possible from a DVD. All you need is a USB memory stick that's 8 gigabytes or larger in size and KNOS will make you a bootable stick automatically. If your USB device is larger than 8 GB, then KNOS will also provide "personal" space as a virtual disk which will permit you to store data, back up your applications and provide everything you need on a single USB stick. Any space larger than 8GB is available to you for storage! This extra storage space on 8GB or larger devices will allow you to keep data and app backups on the same stick that you boot from.

A terminal will appear when you click this. Simply follow the instructions on your screen. If this is your first install of KNOS Secure Desktop onto a stick or other storage device, choose "sh knos2usb" as instructed. If you already have KNOS 10.1 or newer on the device and it has existing data already on it, then you will want to instead select "sh upgrade" which will preserve your existing data and upgrade the KNOS OS already on the device.

It typically takes about 20 to 40 minutes to make the bootable KNOS Secure Desktop on a stick, and while the stick is being made, KNOS will be slowed down from time to time since making a stick will keep the CPU quite busy. Stalls may also occur during heavy copying, so don't let this surprise you. Once it's done, you can reboot to your new "KNOS on a stick." It will contain the entire system, so no more need for that DVD.

NOTE: If you are upgrading from an earlier version of KNOS, and already have any personal data stored on your bootable KNOS USB stick or hard drive, **DO NOT** install the new KNOS Secure Desktop 10.1 version onto it unless you have already backed up your personal data to another backup device. KNOS 10.1 is larger than previous versions and requires more space for the operating system and any personal data area **WILL** be destroyed as part of the install process for KNOS 10.1!

We have deliberately allocated more space than necessary for the OS portion of the device you install to this time in order that you can upgrade future versions without this risk. But for KNOS 10.1 installs, any personal data storage area on your existing device WILL be lost, so please back it up first before writing out KNOS Secure Desktop version 10.1 to that device. You can then write it back to your newly formatted device. The "upgrade" option should only be used by those who have already been running version 10.1 and in the future when upgrades are made available.

Please ALSO note that KNOS generates your stick with a unique file system known as "UFS." This format will be completely unreadable and unreachable by other computers normally. So don't be surprised when you plug your KNOS device into another computer when it says that it either cannot read it, or the disk is not formatted, would you like to format it now? NO! You can always boot your KNOS stick, but you won't be able to read it on another Operating system. All part of the safety of KNOS.

If you need to exchange data between KNOS and another operating system, please use a regular USB stick formatted in the generic "FAT32" format to be able to copy back and forth from KNOS to other computers. This behavior is by deliberate design. KNOS will happily mount the additional USB device without argument for you.

Manage printing

This will open Firefox with configuration screens which will allow you to connect your printer and use it with KNOS. Most popular printer models are included along with their drivers. If it happens that your specific printer isn't listed, it will allow you to use your manufacturer's "PPD file" which you may need to obtain from your printer maker. Follow the instructions on the pages as you are lead through the process.

You can also access the CUPS print manager from the home page on the KNOS Secure Desktop site by clicking the printer icon. If you are unable to obtain a printer PPD file if your printer is not already in the selector in CUPS, then try similar models from the same manufacturer. Many of them are pretty much the same. Contact your printer manufacturer for a PPD file if none of these alternatives work, they're the sole source of these drivers.

Midnight Commander

MC is a special utility which has been part of KNOS for a long time. It is a KNOS-compatible version of the classic MSDOS utility known as "Norton Commander" which was a part of the old Norton Utilities package and works on a similar manner in accessing the KNOS file system. It includes viewing, sector editing and other adjustments primarily for computer security personnel to be able to access externally-mounted file systems on infected machines for forensics purposes.

Network Tools

Network Tools contains utilities for examining and testing networks. It provides ping, Netstat, Traceroute, Port scan, Lookup, Finger and direct Whois lookups to determine network operability. Please note that the configuration options will produce an error if used because KNOS has additional protection of network connectivity which will not permit the adjustment of your networking hardware, You will need to handle any configuration options through our other tools under the System menu bar item. This utility is provided solely for checking network information outside of KNOS itself.

Oracle VM VirtualBox

A few words of caution here. While the primary KNOS distribution includes the VirtualBox Virtual Machine software, being able to use it requires that KNOS be either installed onto an external hard disk, or you need a USB stick with a MINIMUM of 50 GB of storage space available on it, as well as special support from the KNOS team in order to actually use it. Many of our military and institutional customers do indeed use it and so it is part of the KNOS system.

VirtualBox allows you to install and operate other operating systems under KNOS, protected by KNOS' security. Many of our users run Windows, OS X, Linux, Solaris and other operating systems using VB on KNOS. It does require special setup which our support team is happy to provide, but it requires external storage space for any "guest" operating systems you choose to install on it. If you try to install any operating systems under VB in KNOS, running only in memory, it will almost immediately run you out of memory and crash hard.

VirtualBox does require special handling, but works fabulously in KNOS.

Power statistics

This utility is designed to follow battery charge cycles on laptops. It's fairly useless though unless you're regularly backing up your app settings so that a long enough history of battery charge/discharge cycles is able to accurately predict your battery status. This utility of course does nothing on a desktop machine.

SQLite Browser

The SQLite Browser allows you to access, edit and view any SQLite database, see its internal contents, query them and change the contents of SQLite databases as needed. SQLite databases are widely used in numerous programs and scenarios ranging from Firefox' own databases to full database systems on servers.

System monitor

One of the most useful applications in our system utilities. This will allow you to watch your resources, file and memory use and most importantly will show you running processes. If an application should "hang" you simply need to go to the "processes" tab, locate the offending application and kill it in order to regain control. This is similar to the ctrl-alt-del "task manager" utility in Windows or "Force Quit" in OS X and is much more powerful. In KNOS Secure Desktop, ctrl+alt+del keys together will force a shutdown, so this is where you want to go if you have a misbehaving application instead of rebooting. Normally, KNOS will automatically stop a misbehaving application automatically all by itself.

Please note that if you are running KNOS Secure Desktop on a machine with limited memory, you might want to right click on the top panel of your desktop, select "Add to panel" and choose the "Force quit" feature in there. Then you can click that instead, click on the window of the offending program and stop it that way instead of having to go here. We don't automatically enable this "Force quit" solely to cut down on memory hogging applications under normal conditions.

Wifi networks manager

Same as available in the "Internet" grouping on the menu.

Universal Access grouping of apps:

These features are provided for persons with disabilities. Some of them are unfortunately buggy as delivered by the "Gnome Desktop team." KNOS support will try to assist with workarounds should you encounter difficulties using them as we've included additional code in KNOS Secure Desktop to work around many of these bugs depending upon individual needs of the user.

KNOS Secure Desktop also ships with speech synthesizers, readers and other capabilities where required. We can assist in configuring these however, they will require that KNOS Secure Desktop be booted from a USB stick or hard disk in order to retain the configurations. Special large icons and themes with high contrast are also shipped in the theme settings of KNOS.

Dasher

This is a human device input system which allows use of KNOS without a keyboard.

On-Screen keyboard

This is another input system which allows the use of mice and other devices in order to replace a keyboard, providing an on-screen keyboard to register these alternate devices visually

Orca screen reader and magnifier

Orca interfaces with speech synthesis and most sound cards to provide text to speech as well as the ability to manually magnify the screen for the visually impaired.

On the Places tab:

The places tab on the top groups drives, network locations, as well as keeping track of where you've been during your session. When you open a drive or network location, you can also "bookmark" specific places and they will be included here. If you back up your app settings, then KNOS will remember any locations that you bookmark as well. Newly mounted drives will also appear here.

KNOS' Home

This is your "home directory." Clicking on this will open the file browser and show you the contents of your home directory. Please note that any file browser container may also hold "hidden files" for configurations. Should you wish to see these, go up to the top in the file browser, select the "View" tab, and check the box marked "show hidden files" to make them appear.

Space in here is limited based on how much RAM memory your system has installed. Many programs will want to save your data in this location. Small files and of course your settings are no problem, but if you're downloading files it is a VERY BAD idea to allow your programs to store those here.

If you wish to download files, we strongly urge you to use a USB stick or external drive to download to rather than saving your files here or you're likely to run out of memory quickly.

Desktop

This will open the file browser and show you the files that are on your desktop. This is provided in order to allow you to manipulate, copy or modify any of those files.

Computer

This will show you the KNOS virtual file system and its internal contents. Be mindful that these are all "read-only" files and cannot be modified. Some locations will allow you to modify some files, but they will never be retained across reboots because of KNOS' security. However, it will let you explore the system if you wish.

Additional drives

Additional mounted drives such as external hard disks, network locations, USB sticks and other devices will appear beneath "Computer" in this section for access as desired. Each enumerated device, when clicked on, will open a File browser to let you at the contents within. If you have enough room on your USB stick, or external hard disk, the first additional drive that you can expect to see is your "Personal" space. This is where your persistent files should be stored and how the directory structures are set up are entirely up to you.

Network

This is similar to "Network Neighborhood" in Windows and will let you browse your local network including shared drives, printers and other devices on your local network.

Connect to server

This item will allow you to connect to remote servers. A help button is provided in the popup window which will walk you through all of the possible options available.

Search for files

This item will let you look for specific files locally or on any attached devices and also provides the option for a lengthy search based on keywords within the files, dates, etc.

Recent Documents

This will show you up to 12 recently opened files so that you can return to them if desired. At the bottom of the list is "Clear recent documents" which will completely erase any history stored there. This information is NEVER kept across reboots of the KNOS Secure Desktop or if you clear them. When preparing to do a backup of your personal settings, you might want to delete what's in this list or it will be saved to that backup.

On the System tab:

This area provides configuration options for expert users which will be stored for future bootups if you choose to save app settings to an external device. Please be mindful that changing the default configuration provided by KNOS Secure Desktop can cause you many problems, so be careful changing anything in the "Preferences" or "Administration" tabs.

We STRONGLY recommend that you get familiar with running KNOS Secure Desktop for a few sessions before you consider changing anything in these two areas. Before explaining these two areas, we'd like to first familiarize you with the other items in this tab which you will want to use normally.

Preferences

Selecting this will open a separate pop-up menu which will allow you to change preferences and your configuration of KNOS. Please be advised that any changes you choose to make will require backing up your app settings in the Applications > System Tools > Backup App Settings in order to make them replace the KNOS defaults. Be SURE that any changes that you make work as expected before doing that however since any saved settings will be reloaded any time you run KNOS unless you want to risk losing all your settings by deleting that backup file.

Help

Clicking here will send you to the full Gnome desktop help file which contains all of the other help files and information about the Gnome desktop on which KNOS is based.

About Gnome

Credits for the code for Gnome desktop.

Lock screen

This item will force KNOS to instantly time out and go to a black screen. When KNOS' screensaver kicks in, it will stay in this mode for about 5 minutes before it goes into its next mode where it causes the monitor to go into sleep mode. To return to your KNOS session, simply move your mouse, or hit the enter key on your keyboard.

You will then be given a password entry screen. There is no password required for the "KNOS user" ... just hit the unlock button or hit your enter key and you'll be back to your KNOS Secure Desktop.

Log Out KNOS

This item will reset KNOS and start the GUI all over again. It's a useful way to restart KNOS Secure Desktop after a major configuration change such as changing your language or keyboard layout settings. KNOS Secure Desktop will return after a GUI restart in your selected settings. Be sure to back up your app settings if you want these new settings to "stick" and come up with each subsequent bootup. We strongly recommend doing this after making any configuration changes just to see what will happen on your next bootup of KNOS. If you are satisfied with the way things are working, then you can backup these settings so that KNOS will automatically boot up as you did each time.

Shut Down

THIS is the preferred way to shut down KNOS *if* you are running from other than a DVD. It will shut down your system cleanly. Be sure to manually unmount any USB sticks or other devices which show icons on the top panel. You can click those to "unmount" them first, and then once they're unmounted, click Shut Down here and KNOS will shut down.

If you are running KNOS from a DVD and do not have any devices plugged in at all, then you can just cut power to shut off KNOS Secure Desktop instantly without any potential data loss so long as no external file storage is attached.

Preferences grouping of apps:

The Preferences section controls how the desktop functions. There are many superfluous and unnecessary settings included in here which allow changes to how the Gnome desktop works along with some features that do nothing. We've included them at the request of customers who are technically savvy who wanted these features to remain available in our retail version. Any changes made should be checked out first by logging out of KNOS in the main System menu to be sure that things work as expected. If they do, then feel free to "Backup App Settings" so that KNOS will remember your changes in the future.

PLEASE BE CAREFUL HERE!

About me

This feature is designed to work ONLY with the Evolution email program (similar to MS Outlook) and allows you to set your personal information for calendar, sharing and email. Be mindful that if you're going to use Evolution email and calendar, you really want to configure it to store ALL files on an external storage device rather than on KNOS because it will eat up your memory in no time. It will however, put your choice of photo or icon on the password screen. That's about all it does.

Adobe Flash Player

This feature has been removed in KNOS 10 and later. Adobe now does this in their later flash players and this Adobe application is pitifully incomplete. Better management of Adobe Flash player is available if you bookmark this link in your browser and use THIS instead:

http://www.macromedia.com/support/documentation/en/flashplayer/help/settings_manager03.html

Appearance

This item will bring up the KNOS/Gnome theme manager, same as right clicking on the KNOS Secure Desktop itself. It will allow you to change your wallpaper, desktop theme, fonts, mouse pointers and even customize themes using elements from all the various themes to generate your own unique appearance for the desktop.

Assistive technologies

This item allows you to configure the "Universal access" applications. Settings made here will be saved if you "backup app settings" for future reboots.

Authorizations

This item permits changes (to a HIGHLY limited degree) to user security settings in KNOS. Most of the settings will not be permitted to be changed as a result of KNOS' security and thus the majority of items in here are disabled.

Encryption and Keyrings

This is designed to work with the built-in Seahorse/Gnome keyring application and is designed to manage your PGP keys and other keyrings if you decide to use them. Please refer to the help file within for details.

File Management

This allows you to adjust how the KNOS Secure Desktop file browser displays files. You can also access this menu directly inside any open file folder window on the desktop by clicking on "Preferences" there.

IcedTea Web Control Panel

This item is the Java manager for the IcedTea plugin for your web browser. It allows you to control all settings for Java. KNOS Secure Desktop does not use the Sun/Oracle Java system owing to security issues and instead uses OpenJava. This allows you to configure it.

IcedTea Web Policies Editor

This item will allow you to change the default settings for running any Java based programs on your system. Please be aware that KNOS has already selected the safest defaults and that OpenJava used by KNOS is NOT Oracle's Java. You'll be quite safe leaving things as they are, IcedTea does not have the issues that Oracle's Java has because it is quite limited in its capabilities by design.

KNOS Audio Selector

KNOS selects the default audio input and output devices based on what YOUR computer tells KNOS is the primary audio system. In the event that you do not have sound when you run KNOS, it will be because your computer did not provide proper information as to where sound should exist. This happens most often with computers which have an HDMI output for video and audio to connect to a television. Many computers will insist on setting up sound for HDMI instead of your internal speakers.

If you find that you have no sound when playing media, open this utility. Once you see the menu, look through the listing of devices found, and click on the box next to where you see "Analog (Play/Rec)". That is most likely to be the proper connection and KNOS will adjust to it for you.

Next, you will want to look for the volume control up on the top menu bar on the right near the clock. Right click there and select "Sound preferences." You will then see a screen with some tabs across the top over the volume control. Click on the "Output" tab and select the same device there. Once you have, then go back to the first "Sound Effects" tab. Change the "Sound theme" from "No sounds" to "Default" and click on one of the sounds to be sure that you now have sound.

Once you've confirmed that you have sound, you will want to set that back to "no sounds" as some of those default sounds can get annoying. You only want to do this to ensure that sound is working. Once you have that resolved, you will want to "Backup app settisn" in Applications > System Tools > Backup app settings to allow KNOS to remember where you want your sound to be sent to.

Finally, after making these changes, you may need to quit and restart any applications which produce sound so that they can pick up the changes you made here. This should resolve any "No sound" problem you may encounter.

KNOS Network Selector

This utility allows you to configure your networking equipment including ethernet and WiFi. It's intended as a replacement for our original WiFi Manager and allows far greater configuration options. It is also accessible by clicking on the networking icon on the top right of the system panel next to the clock. Depending on whether you're using a WiFi connection or an ethernet connection, the icon will show one or the other type of networking. Click on it and select "Configure Networking" to access this as well as from here.

Keyboard

This item should NOT be used any longer, but remains included in case a temporary change to keyboard international settings is desired. You should instead use the "Language/Keyboard settings" feature described below. Once you've changed the keyboard setting here, you will need to Log Out KNOS on the System tab and your changes will appear then.

Keyboard shortcuts

This item will allow you to assign keyboard keys to a different function. There is a help button in this item which will explain how to change these. Any settings here can be backed up with app settings to an external storage device such as a USB stick to be made permanent.

Language/Keyboard settings

This item was new as of KNOS 9. It allows you to first select the language that you wish the desktop to operate in. Once you have selected this, you will then be given a second screen after a slight delay to select the keyboard layout you wish to use. These settings will be stored and can be backed up with app settings to an external storage device such as a USB stick to be made permanent.

If you wish to do this on a temporary basis for one session only, then Log Out KNOS on the System tab and your changes will appear then. Once you are done using a different language and keyboard on a temporary basis, be SURE to run this again once you're finished and hit CANCEL on the language select screen to revert KNOS Secure Desktop to the default USA settings.

Please also be careful not to accidentally select a language that you do not understand as all menus and desktop information will come up in that language thereafter and it may be difficult which item to select to get you back to this function where you can hit CANCEL on the first screen to revert the settings to the USA English default.

Main Menu

This allows you to completely customize the top menu bar contents, to remove or add applications or icons to them, and to move things around to your liking in the "Applications" menu as well as the "System" menu. The "Places" menu is dynamically generated and cannot be changed.

There is a help button in this screen which has additional details.

Some additional software such as Compiz for 3D features along with the necessary Emerald manager (which draws the menu buttons for Compiz) can be enabled if you have a good graphics card and more than 3GB of memory on your computer for dazzling effects. There are also a few other features which you can enable in there if you have a newer computer with more power than older ones.

Messaging and VOIP accounts

This item is for the Empathy chat program which is not included in KNOS. Empathy IS however available if desired, but it must be manually started from a terminal as we found it to be too buggy and inadequate for inclusion formally in our product.

Monitors

This item allows you to configure your monitors for orientation and resolution settings. The popup will be automatically populated with valid screen modes if your monitor is detected. You can change resolution among safe limits if it is not detected.

Mouse

This allows you to configure your system mouse, including sensitivity, speed, or even swap buttons.

Nvidia Settings

If your computer has an Nvidia graphics card, this feature allows you to control settings for everything related to how graphics displays on your computer. If you make any changes here, you will also want to backup your app settings so that KNOS will remember them on your next boot.

If your video card is from any other vendor than Nvidia, then you will receive an error warning that you do not have an Nvidia card. Nvidia video devices required special coding in KNOS to handle them, and this configurator was provided by Nvidia to KNOS in order to allow their video devices work to their fullest.

Network Proxy

This item allows you to configure networking to use a proxy service. Given that we provide TOR and other proxying services, we strongly advise that instead of using this feature, that you follow our advice (especially with TOR) to configure proxy settings inside the web browser instead. However if your situation requires configuring a proxy, this is where you would do it.

Personal file sharing

This will allow you to set KNOS Secure Desktop to allow access to local files. It is extremely limited in what it will allow however. Under most circumstances, selections made will fail because they might be a security risk. It is recommended that if you need to share files between KNOS Secure Desktop and other computers that you set up THOSE computers to act as a host and let KNOS Secure Desktop act as a client and connect to those rather than the other way around.

We can build special, custom versions of KNOS to remove these restrictions present in this retail version but don't be disappointed if we won't allow you to share files with KNOS Secure Desktop acting as a server.

Power Management

This item allows you to modify the default settings in KNOS for power saving for your monitor and system. KNOS *cannot* go into "sleep" mode because "sleep" or "standby" mode requires writing out memory to a hard drive as is normal in most operating systems. Since KNOS cannot write to a hard disk, there is no way to go into "Standby" mode because writing is impossible and KNOS resides in memory. Once memory is shut down, KNOS dies.

Preferred Applications

This allows you to configure which application should be automatically run for Web browser, email, opening multimedia, terminal emulation and accessibility.

Remote Desktop

This feature allows others to connect to, and even control your KNOS Desktop from another KNOS machine. It is normally completely turned off. If you choose to share your desktop, run this and make note of the IP address which appears in the box. You can select how others can connect and can limit what they can do, even requiring a password to connect and you can also require approval before they can.

Others will need to run "Remote Desktop Viewer" from the Internet options under Applications, and must choose a secure VNC connection and then put in your specific IP address to connect to your machine. An icon will appear on the upper panel which will allow you to disconnect them any time you wish. You will be notified of ANY connections regardless of your settings, and the "someone else is connected" icon will appear up there no matter what for the duration of their screen sharing. You can allow sharing and deny their ability to control your desktop if you so desire in the options when turning this feature on.

Screensaver

By default, KNOS will blank out with a gentle fade to black if there is inactivity. This item will allow you to choose from many interesting "screensavers" to display instead of a black screen. Feel free to play!

Sound

This item will allow you to adjust your audio settings. It allows you to choose system sounds, and in particular allows you to set input and output configuration and volume settings. KNOS should detect your audio settings automatically, but we have seen situations where HDMI or other sound device indicates that it is the active sound source instead of your speakers.

If you need to select a different audio device using “KNOS Audio Selector” then you will want to make sure to go to the output tab here and select the same device selected there to ensure that the volume control on the top panel will actually control the sound for you. Any software that uses audio might need to be restarted if this is changed.

Startup Applications

This item allows you to select which applications are started with KNOS Secure Desktop. PLEASE BE CAREFUL in turning off any items you are not familiar with. Feel free to ask us at support if you're in doubt. You can ADD startup applications however if you wish.

Switch window buttons

By default, since most KNOS users came to us from Windows, the “close, resize and minimize” buttons on the top of KNOS windows are defaulted to the normal Windows positions on the top right of the open window. If you prefer that your buttons be placed on the upper LEFT as is common on Macintoshes, you can click here and force those buttons to either the left or right side as you wish with the normal KNOS themes. Be sure to save the settings by “Backup app settings” in the main system settings in the Applications menu if you wish to make these permanent. You can always change back if you desire.

If you decide to enable Compiz and Emerald for 3D effects in KNOS, then you will need to make these choices within the Emerald configuration settings instead.

Windows

This item allows you to control how you and the desktop interact with Windows with your mouse.

Administration grouping of apps:

Please note that this particular grouping no longer appears in KNOS by default since there is very little that is actually useful here. This listing is only being included in the manual in the rare event that you actually wish to enable these by editing the "Main Menu" options to enable "Administration" settings. We discourage this however because few of them actually function properly owing to our security design, but they are there if you really wish to use them.

Shared folders

This allows you to select and modify any folders you wish to share. As explained earlier, there are extreme security limitations in KNOS' retail version as far as sharing goes, the preferred method is to use KNOS as a client to other machines acting as servers rather than using KNOS as the "share" that other computers connect to. For completeness though, this is included in this menu.

Date and Time

This item allows you to set date and time which is displayed in the upper right corner of the top panel.

About the top panel

The top panel of KNOS is similar in design to Macintosh, but it's a little different.

On the left top, you'll see "Applications, Places, System." This is how you access various features in KNOS. They work similarly to Windows' start menu. Applications are available in groupings as described above. Places allows you to connect to various devices, folders and networks. System is for configuration options.

We have pre-loaded other features across the top panel.

The yellow icon is a feature called "Sticky notes." You can write notes which will stay on the screen to remind you of something to do at a later time. They are NOT saved with your app settings backups, they are intended only as a quick note for yourself.

Next to those, heading towards the right are whatever disks or network locations that have been mounted into KNOS. Most often, these will represent your "Personal" drive if you installed one, as well as any other volumes or folders that you have access to such as networked drives that you have connected to.

It is IMPORTANT that before you shut down your system, or that you remove any mounted drive, that you CLICK on the drive and EJECT or UNMOUNT it so as to prevent any possibility of data loss on that device. ALWAYS eject or unmount the drive unless you are shutting KNOS down using the System option and "shut down" or you risk losing data. We cannot stress how important this is!

Further across, you will see a white icon with two 'z's above it. This icon allows you to click on it to prevent KNOS from automatically sleeping after 5 minutes of inactivity. This is particularly useful if you're watching a video or movie to stop KNOS from fading to dark whilst you're watching it full screen.

To the right of there, you should see the networking icon which will either display the WiFi symbol if you're connected to WiFi, or two monitors if you have an ethernet connection. You can hover over this for your network status, or click on it to change your networking configuration.

Continuing to the right, there is a red circle with the letter 'f' in it. This is your Adobe Flash reset icon. Adobe Flash has a habit of crashing, halting the computer or running up your fans on a laptop as it misbehaves. If you click here, you can reset Flash and clean it up which resolve any such potential issues instantly.

Further right is the volume control which will allow you to adjust your volume. Unlike other systems, if you have a scroll wheel on your mouse, you don't even have to click it. Just over over it and your mousewheel can raise, lower or mute your audio without any additional effort.

Next to the right, if you're running on a laptop, you will see the battery indicator. This will let you know if you're on AC or battery and will alert you if AC power should be disconnected. It will also show your battery state in percentage and you can click on it for more detailed information.

Finally, all the way over to the right is the KNOS clock. IT is designed to show the time in UTC (Greenwich Mean Time) unless you click on it and EDIT the configuration to show your local time.

On the popup which appears when you click it, look for "Locations" and click on it. You will then see an "Edit" button on the right. When you click it, put in your nearest city in your time zone and ADD. Once you do, you can also set up KNOS to give you the local weather information for where you are and set up what you want for the display there.

Once you close that, your location should appear on the bottom there. If you hover your mouse over to the right side there, click on SET and after a few seconds, you should see not only your local time displayed, but also your local weather all there on the clock portion of your top panel. If you hover over the weather, it will even provide a detailed forecast for you once connected!

Finally, there are many other options. If you right click on the top panel, you can move the items around, you can add additional treats from our trove of additional applets up there, and you can even change the background, make the bar disappear unless you move the mouse up there to make it reappear, make it transparent, many other options. The same adjustments are available on the bottom bar as well and you can also move them elsewhere if you prefer.

KNOS is eminently customizable, just be sure to back up your settings once you decide on what you prefer and KNOS will automatically start up the same way each time!

In case of difficulties

The most likely issue that you might run into involves WiFi not working and the inability to connect. As a workaround, KNOS will work just fine with a direct ethernet connection, and we do have a recommended USB WiFi device that is both inexpensive and functional.

Two of the most popular third party vendors of WiFi devices are Broadcom and Qualcomm/Atheros and because of arrangements with several high volume manufacturers, access to technical information as well as drivers for these devices is considered "proprietary". These two suppliers have not cooperated with either The KNOS Project nor the FreeBSD Foundation whose FreeBSD software KNOS is based upon.

Should your computer contain WiFi devices made by these two vendors, it's quite likely that we do not have a driver in KNOS which will detect and work with these devices.

The GOOD NEWS is that we have located a very high quality, low cost, low profile device that you can purchase for under US\$10.00 from a number of sources that plugs into a spare USB port on your computer and can even run through a USB hub device if you are short on USB ports to connect to.

If your WiFi is not detected by KNOS, search eBay or Amazon and look for a device called "Realtek RTL8188CUS" which is a very small USB device. There are a large number of suppliers for this device and it can be shipped to you within a few days. We highly recommend this device as a simple and inexpensive solution should your existing WiFi card fail to be detected because there is no driver.

The other possible likely issue you might encounter is "no audio" from your computer when playing media in KNOS. To resolve this readily, please refer to our "KNOS Network Selector" information on Page 40, which explains how to locate and configure the proper settings for your sound card. Once the proper output source has been selected, you should have great sound.

Please feel free to contact support@knosproject.com if you encounter any other issues, that's what we're here for.

Support

This document will be revised from time to time and will include FAQs and other helpful hints after the release of this version of KNOS Secure Desktop. Updated documents can be saved to your desktop to replace this one if you're backing up your app settings. Look for the icon with the KNOS logo on a book shape just like the image on our title page here. It can be read online and you can opt to "keep a copy" from the document reader if you wish.

Support for your purchase is cheerfully supplied by emailing us at support@knosproject.com. We also have a forum which may already have the answer you're seeking already there waiting for you. Look for the [pb] icon on our home page to take you there. Custom versions of KNOS can be built to your exacting specifications, particularly for institutional or corporate internal distribution. Please feel free to contact sales@knosproject.com for more information on custom builds.

Thanks once again for purchasing KNOS Secure Desktop!