Exercise 1 – Just for Fun

Objective

To become familiar with a typical Linux desktop

To experiment with customising a desktop

1. Review questions
2. What is the fundamental purpose of the operating system?

The operating system is a fundamental for software applications to be able to talk to computer code/Hardware. The OS manages computer resources, establishes a UI and can execute and provide services for software.

1. What is a common element of all Linux distributions?

Every Linux distribution runs off one kernel, which is how the bottom layer of the OSI talks to binary code.

1. What is unique about Linux licensing, as opposite to other versions of UNIX?

Linux is perfectly acceptable as a desktop OS, whereas UNIX are commonly used on platforms as server OS. Linux is also free!

1. Imagine a scenario whereby the graphics card failed on your computer, which is running Linux. What consequence would this have to the effectiveness of the operating system?

Only the UI would be affected. As Linux is a command line based OS, the GUI is not vital for using a Linux system. Windows on the other hand requires a graphical user interface in order to run.

1. Login into the Linux workstation provided for you

For this first logon will use a default GUI (Graphical User Interface) login screen.   
Your instructor will tell you what user name and password should be used. Please ask your instructor if unsure!

* 1. Type in the user name and password as provided by your instructor.

1. Explore the desktop environment and available applications

Main Linux system facilities are accessible via the dropdown menus on the top toolbar: Applications, Places (sometimes also: System).

Please remember that Linux supports variety of desktop managers, and their derivatives. For that reason, just about every single distribution has its own look and feel…

1. Spend a couple of minutes exploring various tools and utilities. Have a look at the system configuration tools.
2. Identify and run the **Settings** > **Details** menu item.
3. Switch between the workspaces to confirm all applications are still present and available…
4. Open an application for terminal session

There are (usually) two methods of opening a terminal session in a Linux GUI environment. One is to find it amongst the menus (somewhere under Applications). The other method is to right-click on your desktop and select “Open in Terminal”.

1. Open a new terminal window by selecting the Files icon on the left-hand pane Go into the Documents folder, right-click and choose “Open in Terminal”.
   * 1. Now, start a new terminal session, by right-clicking on your desktop.
     2. Compare the two sessions. Can you see the difference? At this point, don’t worry about the meaning of the difference, just notice it.

If time allows

1. Familiarisation with the GNU GPL
2. It is rather important that everybody using Linux has at least a passing familiarity with the text and the meaning of the General Public License.

One good source of information about it is:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNU_General_Public_License>

Please spend a few minutes browsing through it, not necessarily just now, though...