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?

To make the computer usable to humans. To interact with the hardware and the other software.

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

The Main Kernel

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

It is open source and royalty free. It can be freely distributed.

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?

It would operate as previous but wouldn’t be able to see the terminal with a monitor. Instead I would login via SSH or VNC to connect to the computer to utilize it. If this was a Raspberry PI it would not boot at all.

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...