

Automatic Login to Graphical Environment

Related articles

Display manager

Booting to a GUI without login is handy in certain situations. One such situation is on a [HTPC \(https://web.archive.org/web/20210401012210/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HTPC\)](https://web.archive.org/web/20210401012210/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HTPC). This article details a couple methods for accomplishing this task.

Using a display manager

- **autox** — Most-minimalistic, ~150 lines of C, logs in a specified user and runs xinit.

<https://github.com/jsumners/autox> || **autox** (<https://web.archive.org/web/20210401012210/https://github.com/void-linux/void-packages/tree/master/srcpkgs/autox>)

- **nodm** — Minimalistic display manager for automatic logins.

<https://github.com/spanezz/nodm> || **nodm** (<https://web.archive.org/web/20210401012210/https://github.com/void-linux/void-packages/tree/master/srcpkgs/nodm>)

Automatic Login On TTY1

Create a new autologin service:

```
cp -R /etc/sv/agetty-tty1 /etc/sv/agetty-autologin-tty1
```

Note: The name of the custom service file must end with `-tty1` (or another valid port). Otherwise the run-script will not work.

Edit `/etc/sv/agetty-autologin-tty1/conf`:

```
GETTY_ARGS="--autologin yourusernamehere --noclear"
BAUD_RATE=38400
TERM_NAME=linux
```

If you are logged in on `tty1` right now, logout, switch to `tty2` (with `CTRL+ALT+F2`) and re-login there.

Disable the regular `tty1` service and enable autologin:

```
rm /var/service/agetty-tty1
ln -s /etc/sv/agetty-autologin-tty1 /var/service
```

Now switch to `tty1` and you should already be logged in there automatically.

Autostart Graphical Environment on Login

Add the following to your shell's profile file to start X and lock the tty session:

```
# autologin on tty1
if [ -z "$DISPLAY" ] && [ "$(fgconsole)" -eq 1 ]; then
exec startx
fi
```

Notes:

- If after having exited the X session, you'd like to be logged into `tty1` without relaunching X, omit the `exec` command.
- If you're using `startx`, check if you have it installed (it's in `xinit`). `startx` will read your `.xinitrc`, you should put your desired desktop environment in there.
- You can replace `startx` with the name of a wayland compositor, that you have installed. For example `weston` or `sway`.

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