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Configure single-application mode

Single-application mode is a modified GNOME Shell which configures the Shell as an interactive kiosk. The administrator locks down some behavior to make the standard desktop more restrictive for users, letting them focus on selected features.

Set up single-application mode for a wide range of functions in a number of fields (from communication to entertainment or education), and use it as a self-serve machine, event manager, registration point, and so on.

Set up single-application mode

1. Lock down settings to prevent printing, terminal access, and so on.

- [Disable command-line access](#)
- [Disable printing](#)
- [Disable file saving](#)
- [Disable repartitioning](#)

2. Configure automatic login in the `/etc/gdm/custom.conf` file for the user.

See [Configure automatic login](#) for more information.

3. Create a new user with a name, which follows typical naming conventions (no space or special characters, do not start with a digit or a dash). Also, make sure the user name matches with the related names, such as when referring to a session. A good example is *kiosk-user*.
4. Create a session with a name matching the user name (for example, for the *kiosk-user* mentioned above, *kiosk* is a good match). To do so, create a `/usr/share/xsessions/kiosk.desktop` file and set the `Exec` line as follows:

```
Exec=gnome-session --session kiosk
```

5. Set the default session for *kiosk-user* by adding the following line to the `/var/lib/AccountsService/users/kiosk-user` file:

```
XSession=kiosk
```

6. Define the *kiosk* session by writing a custom session definition, containing the following line:

```
RequiredComponents=kiosk-app;gnome-settings-daemon;kiosk-shell;
```

This creates a session that runs three programs: *kiosk-app* (a sample application), *gnome-settings-daemon* (a standard component in the GNOME session), and *kiosk-shell* (which is a customized version of GNOME Shell).

7. Create a desktop file for *kiosk-shell* in `/usr/share/applications/kiosk-shell.desktop`, containing the following lines:

```
[Desktop Entry]
Exec=gnome-shell --mode=kiosk
```

8. Create a mode definition `/usr/share/gnome-shell/modes/kiosk.json`. This is a simple json file defining the available gnome-shell user interface.

As the starting point, look at `/usr/share/gnome-shell/modes/classic.json` and `/usr/share/gnome-shell/modes/initial-setup.json` for examples.

More Information

[Lock down settings](#)

[Session](#)

See Also

[Configure a user default session](#) — Specify the default session for a user.

[Configure automatic login](#) — Log in automatically into a user account on startup.

[Create a custom session](#) — Create a custom session by installing a desktop session file.

[Disable command-line access](#) — Prevent users from accessing the command-line.

[Disable file saving](#) — Prevent the user from saving files to disk.

[Disable printing](#) — Prevent the user from printing documents.

[Disable repartitioning](#) — Prevent the user from changing disk partitions.

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