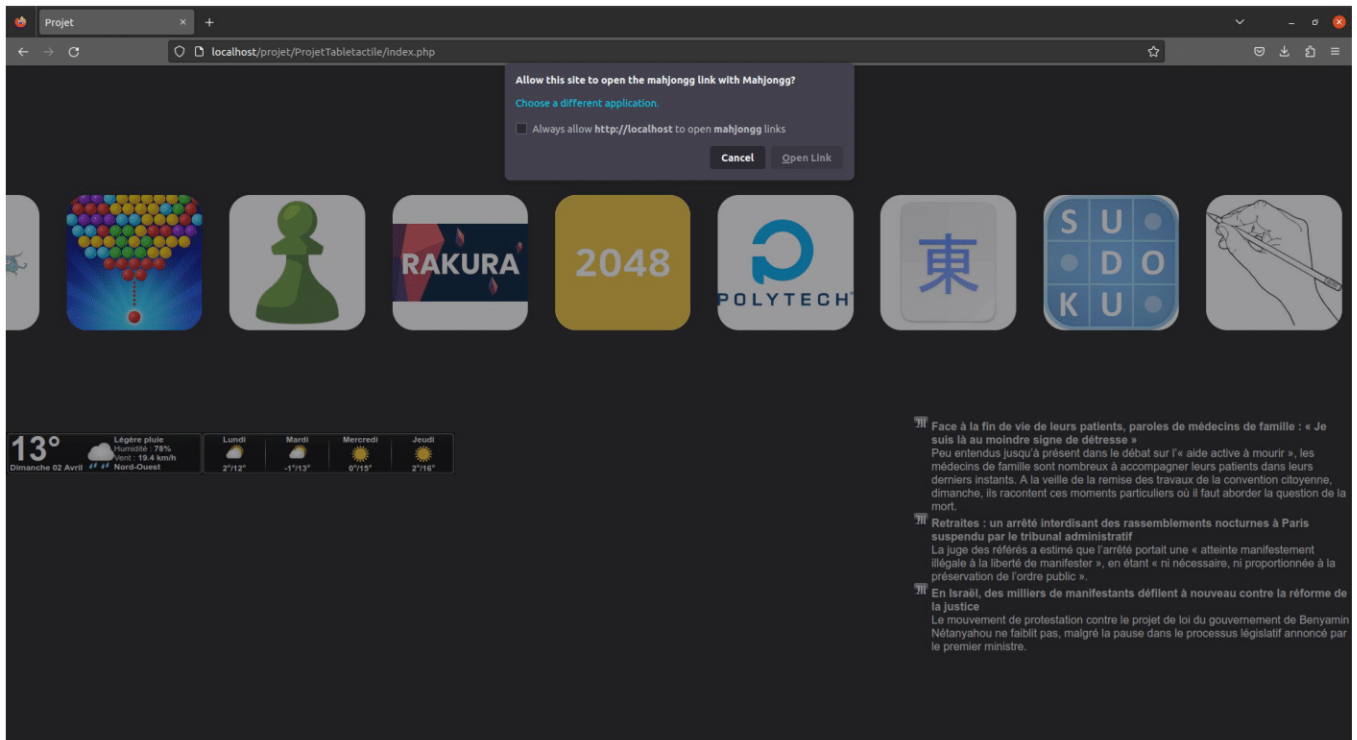


# Documentation : Open a local application from a web browser (firefox) :



## Implement the unique URI:

To open a page in a browser, you need a link to it, the same goes for a local application. It is then up to us to generate a link usable by the browser. To do this, under Ubuntu, we will modify the `.desktop` file (which manages the shortcut to display and open the application from the Ubuntu applications menu).

In the latter we will add a line: `MimeType=x-scheme-handler/<custom-protocol>` found in `/usr/share/applications/` (you have to open the file with `sudo` to modify it). So we modify and define a web handler (`x-scheme-handler`, a MIME type) to open the application from a URI.

Then we use `xdg-mime` to update the desktop environment (Gnome here) to make the application (first argument), the default application to open type files (2nd argument): `xdg-mime default <modified-application-name>.desktop x-scheme-handler/<custom-protocol>`

Finally, run the command: `sudo update-desktop-database /usr/share/applications`. The purpose of this command is to build a cached database of MIME types supported by applications (`.desktop` files) as well as a list of applications that support a certain MIME type.

To test that the unique URI has been created correctly, type in the URL bar of your browser: [custom-protocol]: then Enter. Your application should have launched over your browser. (Possibly after a pop-up asking you to confirm the opening)

## Small hiccup:

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Unfortunately, this technique is not directly applicable for applications installed from the Ubuntu store which are snaps. Indeed, their .desktop files are write-protected and we can't add the web handler.

But there is a way to *override* the file by creating a copy with the same name that must be placed in `~/.local/share/applications/`. In this one, we add the line as before, then we update the desktop environment and we don't forget to update the MIME types base.

Thus, thanks to this technique, it is possible to launch from our homepage any locally installable application with a .desktop file.