

By Oliver Meyer

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Displaying System Details On Your Desktop With Conky System Monitor On Ubuntu 7.04

Version 1.0

Author: Oliver Meyer <o [dot] meyer [at] projektfarm [dot] de>

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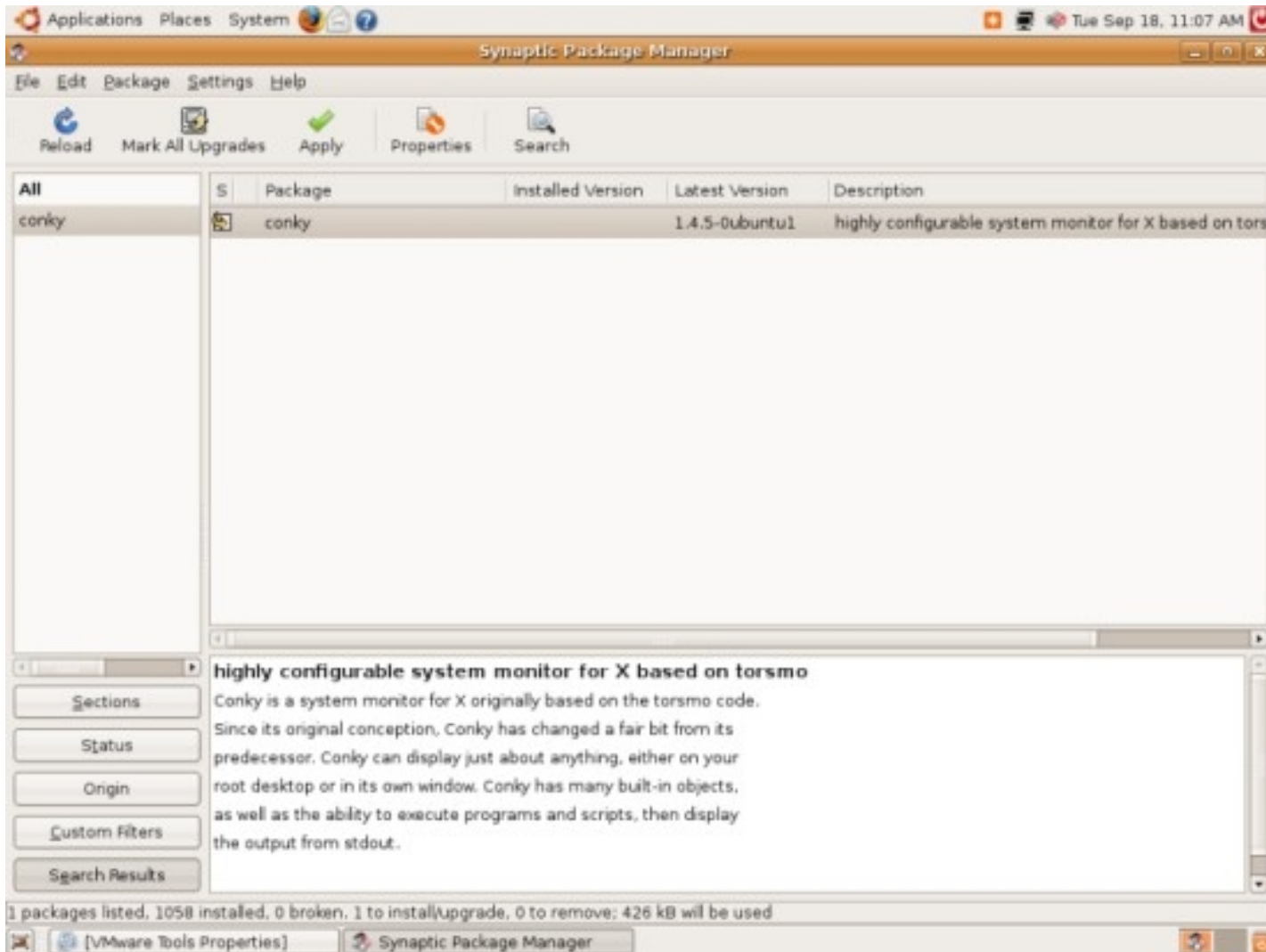
This document describes how to set up the light-weight Conky system monitor on Ubuntu 7.04. Conky is a desktop widget that is able to display most diverse information like CPU temperature, current used network-bandwidth or anything you want. You can customize the whole layout including colors and fonts.

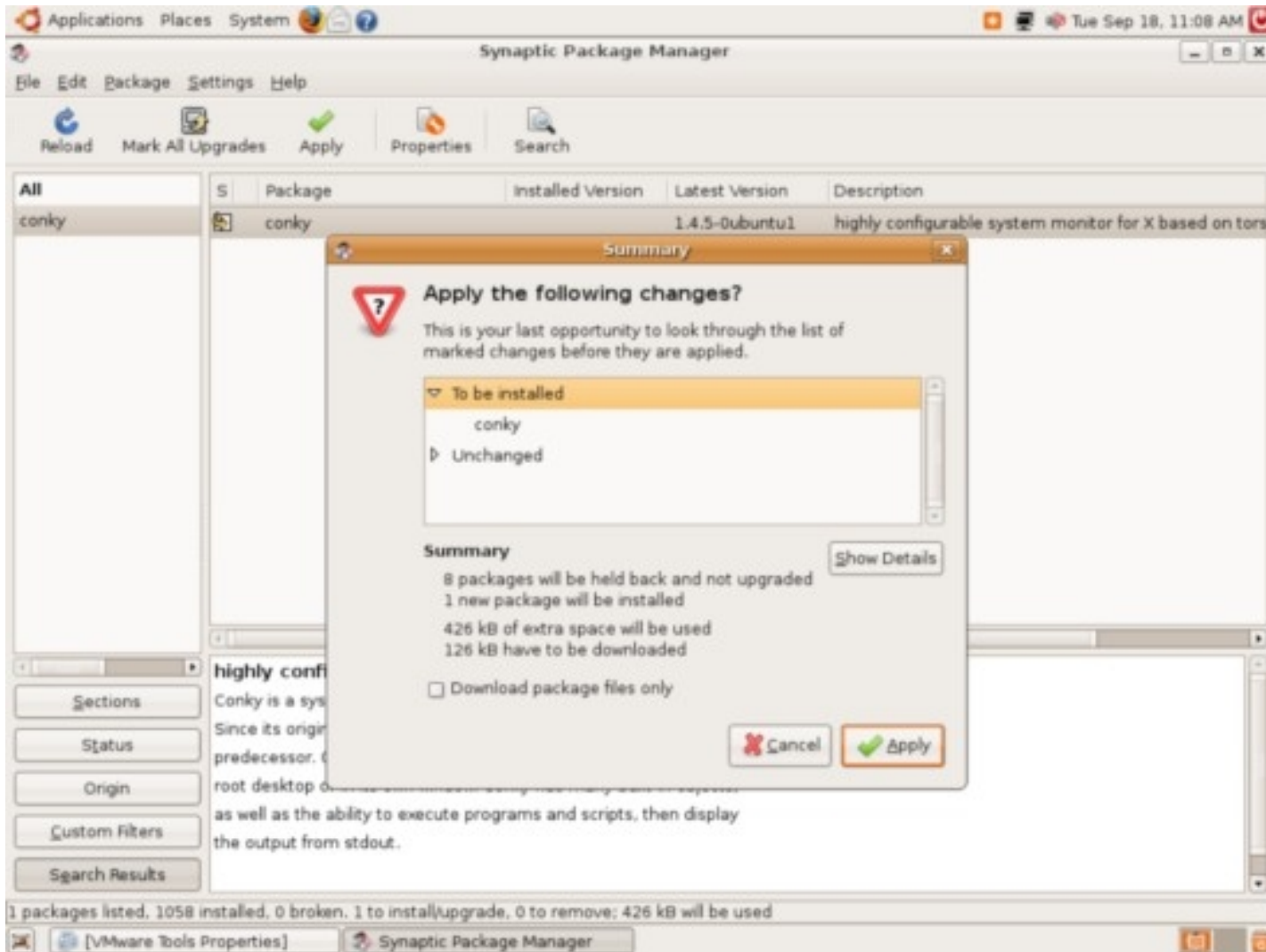
This howto is meant as a practical guide; it does not cover the theoretical backgrounds. They are treated in a lot of other documents in the web.

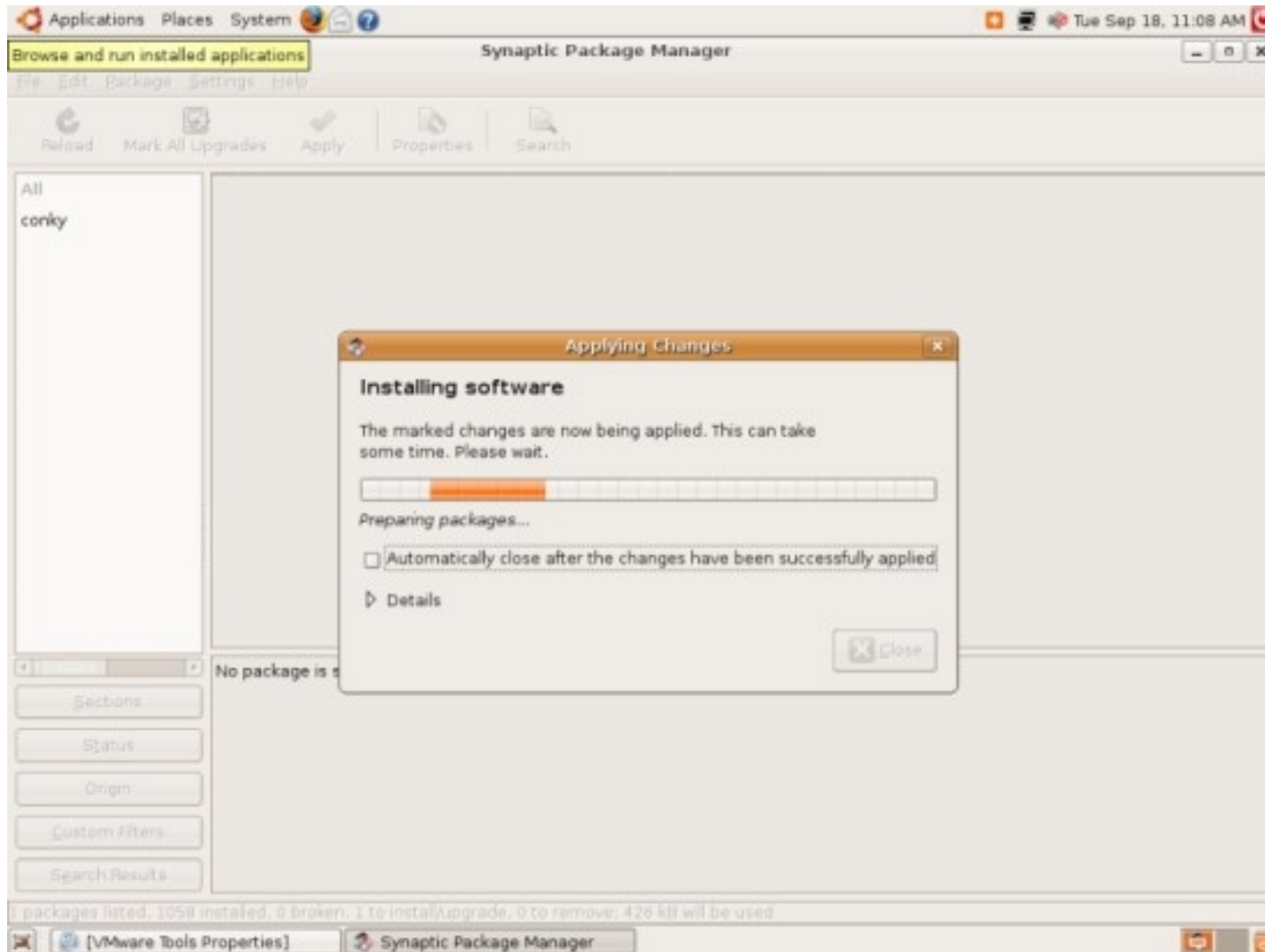
This document comes without warranty of any kind! I want to say that this is not the only way of setting up such a system. There are many ways of achieving this goal but this is the way I take. I do not issue any guarantee that this will work for you!

1. Install Conky

Install Conky with the Synaptic package manager:







2. Configuration

There are a great many configuration options and predefined variables to customize Conky that I can't list and explain all here. A good documentation,

In some cases Conky has a problem with flickering. If you have this problem on your machine you should take a look at the [FAQ](#) - there are solutions to solve this problem.

Use the default configuraion:

Or use my configuration:

```
# Conky sample configuration
#
# the list of variables has been removed from this file in favour
# of keeping the documentation more maintainable.
# Check http://conky.sf.net for an up-to-date-list.
# set to yes if you want Conky to be forked in the background
background no
# X font when Xft is disabled, you can pick one with program xfontsel
#font 5x7
#font 6x10
#font 7x13
#font 8x13
#font 9x15
#font *mintsmild.se*
#font *_*_*_*_*_*_*_34_*_*_*_*_*_*_*_*
font arial
```

```
# Use Xft?
use_xft no

# Xft font when Xft is enabled
xftfont Bitstream Vera Sans Mono:size=8

# Text alpha when using Xft
xftalpha 0.8

# Print everything to stdout?
# out_to_console no

# MPD host/port
# mpd_host localhost
# mpd_port 6600
# mpd_password tinker_bell

# Print everything to console?
# out_to_console no

# mail spool
mail_spool $MAIL

# Update interval in seconds
update_interval 5.0

# This is the number of times Conky will update before quitting.
# Set to zero to run forever.
total_run_times 0

# Create own window instead of using desktop (required in nautilus)
own_window yes

# If own_window is yes, you may use type normal, desktop or override
own_window_type override

# Use pseudo transparency with own_window?
own_window_transparent yes

# If own_window_transparent is set to no, you can set the background colour here
own_window_colour hotpink

# If own_window is yes, these window manager hints may be used
#own_window_hints undecorated,below,sticky,skip_taskbar,skip_pager
own_window_hints undecorated,below,sticky

# Use double buffering (reduces flicker, may not work for everyone)
```

```
double_buffer yes
# Minimum size of text area
minimum_size 280 5
# Draw shades?
draw_shades no
# Draw outlines?
draw_outline no
# Draw borders around text
draw_borders no
# Draw borders around graphs
draw_graph_borders yes
# Stippled borders?
stippled_borders 8
# border margins
border_margin 4
# border width
border_width 1
# Default colors and also border colors
default_color black
default_shade_color black
default_outline_color black
# Text alignment, other possible values are commented
#alignment top_left
alignment top_right
#alignment bottom_left
#alignment bottom_right
#alignment none
# Gap between borders of screen and text
# same thing as passing -x at command line
gap_x 12
gap_y 35
# Subtract file system buffers from used memory?
no_buffers yes
```

```
# set to yes if you want all text to be in uppercase
uppercase no

# number of cpu samples to average
# set to 1 to disable averaging
cpu_avg_samples 2

# number of net samples to average
# set to 1 to disable averaging
net_avg_samples 2

# Force UTF8? note that UTF8 support required XFT
override_utf8_locale no

# Add spaces to keep things from moving about? This only affects certain objects.
use_spacer no

# Allow each port monitor to track at most this many connections (if 0 or not set, default is 256)
#max_port_monitor_connections 256

# Maximum number of special things, e.g. fonts, offsets, aligns, etc.
#max_specials 512

# Maximum size of buffer for user text, i.e. below TEXT line.
#max_user_text 16384

# variable is given either in format $variable or in ${variable}. Latter
# allows characters right after the variable and must be used in network
# stuff because of an argument
# stuff after 'TEXT' will be formatted on screen
TEXT
$color $nodename - $sysname $kernel on $machine

$hr

Uptime:${color #606060} $uptime $color - Load:${color #606060} $loadavg
$color CPU Usage:${color #606060} $cpu% ${cpubar}
${color #606060} ${cpugraph 0000ff 00ec00}
$color RAM Usage:${color #606060} $mem/$memmax - $memperc% ${membar}
$color Swap Usage:${color #606060} $swap/$swapmax - $swapperc% ${swapbar}
$color Processes:${color #606060} $processes $color Running:${color #606060} $running_processes
```



```
$color$hr
```

```
Networking:
```

```
Down:${color #606060} ${downspeed eth0} k/s$color ${offset 80}Up:${color #606060}  ${upspeed eth0} k/s
${color #606060}${downspeedgraph eth0 32,150 ff0000 0000ec} ${upspeedgraph eth0  32,150 0000ff ec0000}
$color File systems: / ${color #606060}${fs_used /}/${fs_size /} ${fs_bar /}
```

```
$color Name PID CPU% MEM%
```

```
${color #ec0000} ${top name 1} ${top pid 1} ${top cpu 1} ${top mem 1}
${color #606060} ${top name 2} ${top pid 2} ${top cpu 2} ${top mem 2}
${top name 3} ${top pid 3} ${top cpu 3} ${top mem 3}
${top name 4} ${top pid 4} ${top cpu 4} ${top mem 4}
```

```
$color Mem usage
```

```
${color #ec0000} ${top_mem name 1} ${top_mem pid 1} ${top_mem cpu 1} ${top_mem  mem 1}
${color #606060} ${top_mem name 2} ${top_mem pid 2} ${top_mem cpu 2} ${top_mem  mem 2}
${top_mem name 3} ${top_mem pid 3} ${top_mem cpu 3} ${top_mem mem 3}
```

```
$color$hr
```

```
Connections in:${color #606060} ${tcp_portmon 1 32767 count}$color Connections  out:${color #606060} ${tcp_portmon 32768 61000 count}$color Total:${color #606060}  ${tcp_portmon 1 65535 count}
```

```
$color Inbound Connection ${alignr} Local Service/Port
```

```
${color #606060} ${tcp_portmon 1 32767 rhost 0} ${alignr} ${tcp_portmon 1 32767  lservice 0}
${tcp_portmon 1 32767 rhost 1} ${alignr} ${tcp_portmon 1 32767 lservice 1}
${tcp_portmon 1 32767 rhost 2} ${alignr} ${tcp_portmon 1 32767 lservice 2}
${tcp_portmon 1 32767 rhost 3} ${alignr} ${tcp_portmon 1 32767 lservice 3}
${tcp_portmon 1 32767 rhost 4} ${alignr} ${tcp_portmon 1 32767 lservice 4}
${tcp_portmon 1 32767 rhost 5} ${alignr} ${tcp_portmon 1 32767 lservice 5}
```

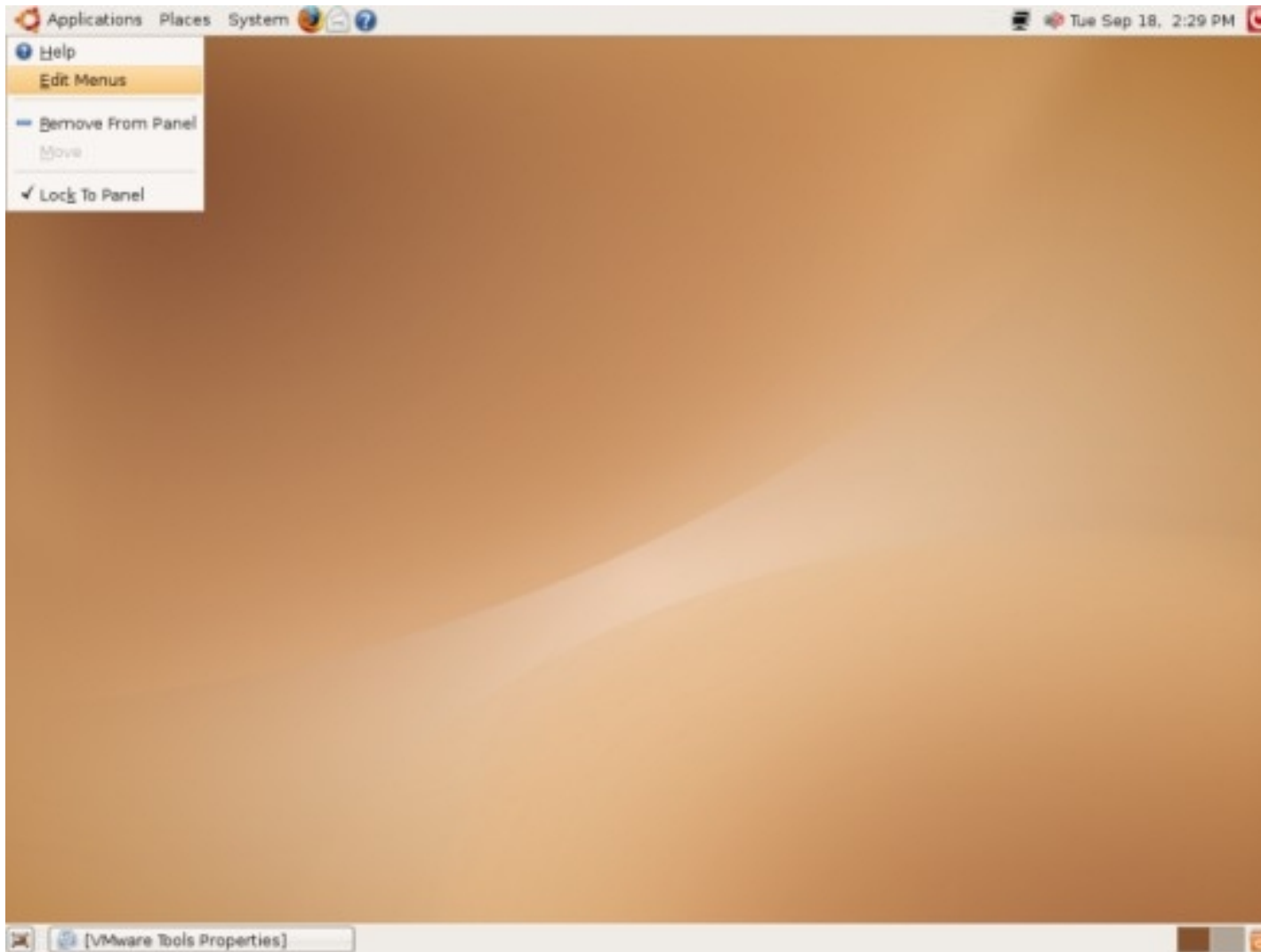
```
$color Outbound Connection ${alignr} Remote Service/Port$color
```

```
${color #606060} ${tcp_portmon 32768 61000 rhost 0} ${alignr} ${tcp_portmon  32768 61000 rservice 0}
${tcp_portmon 32768 61000 rhost 1} ${alignr} ${tcp_portmon 32768 61000 rservice  1}
```

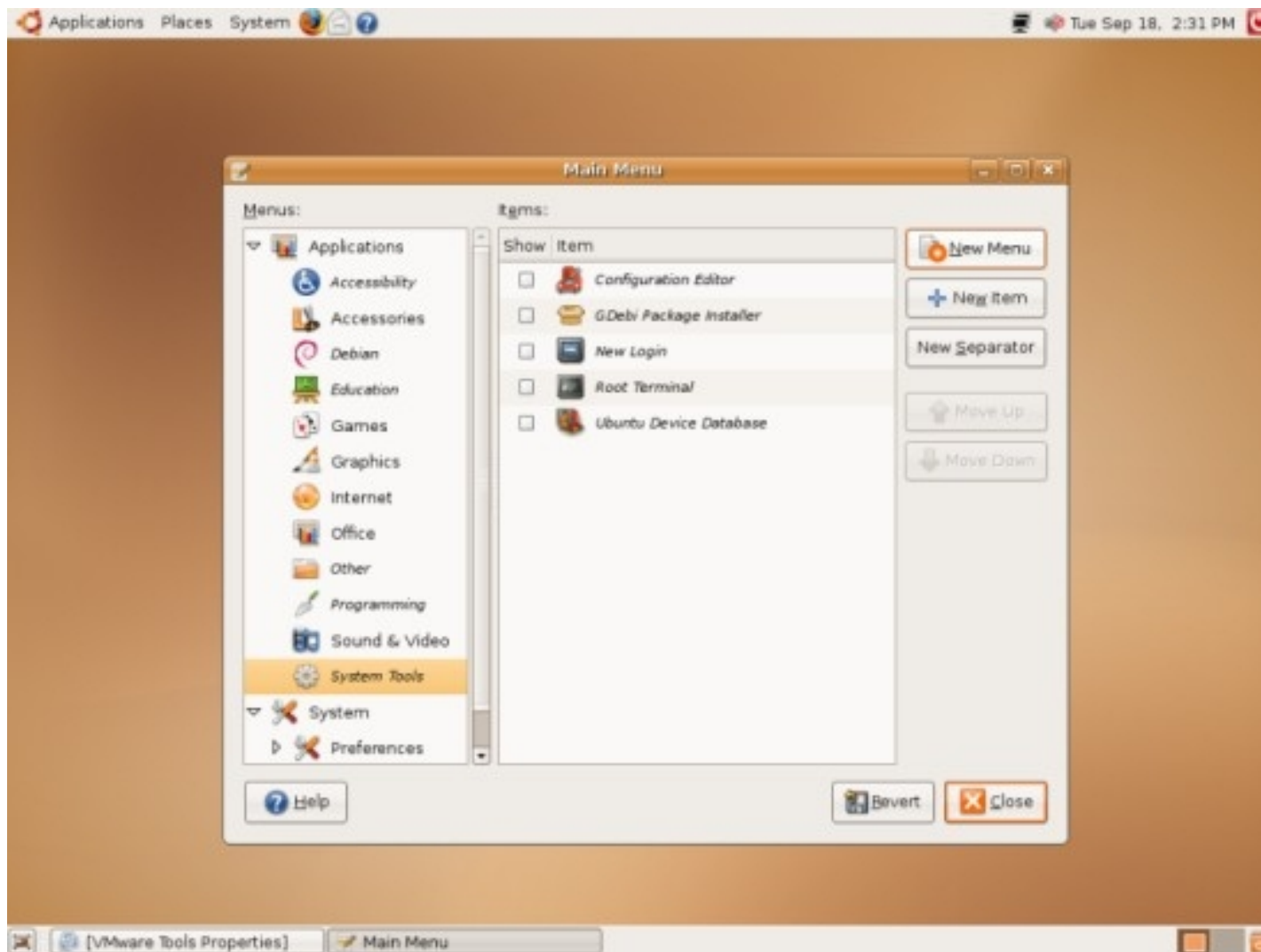
```
 ${tcp_portmon 32768 61000 rhost 2} ${alignr} ${tcp_portmon 32768 61000 rservice 2}  
 ${tcp_portmon 32768 61000 rhost 3} ${alignr} ${tcp_portmon 32768 61000 rservice 3}  
 ${tcp_portmon 32768 61000 rhost 4} ${alignr} ${tcp_portmon 32768 61000 rservice 4}  
 ${tcp_portmon 32768 61000 rhost 5} ${alignr} ${tcp_portmon 32768 61000 rservice 5}  
  
 $color$hr
```

3. Menulauncher

To make Conky accessible from the Applications menu, we create a launcher. First right click on the menubar and select *Edit Menus*:



Select *System Tools* in the new pop-up on the left side:



Click on *New Item* on the right side to create a new launcher. Insert/select the following:

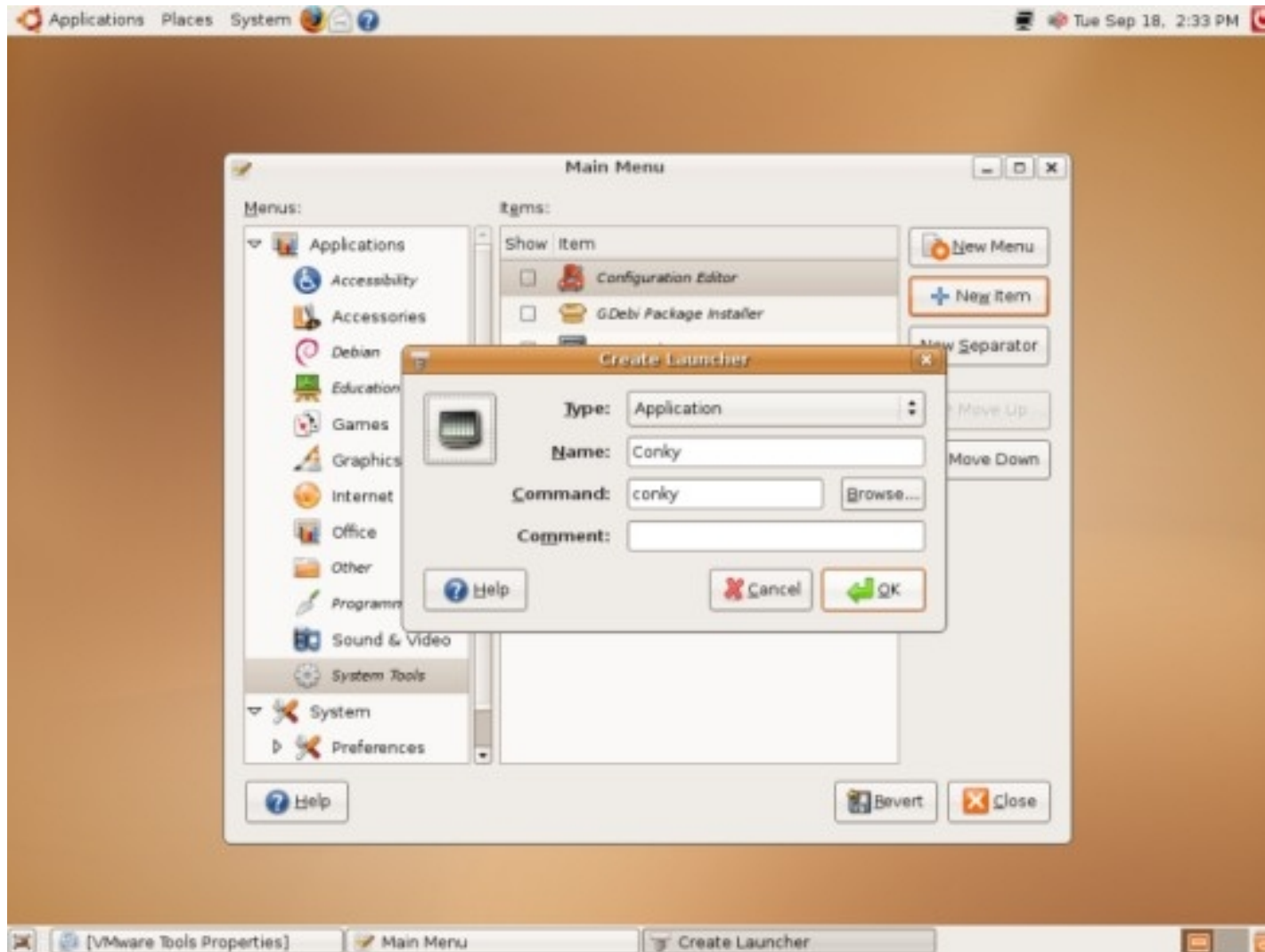
Type: *Application*

Name: *Conky*

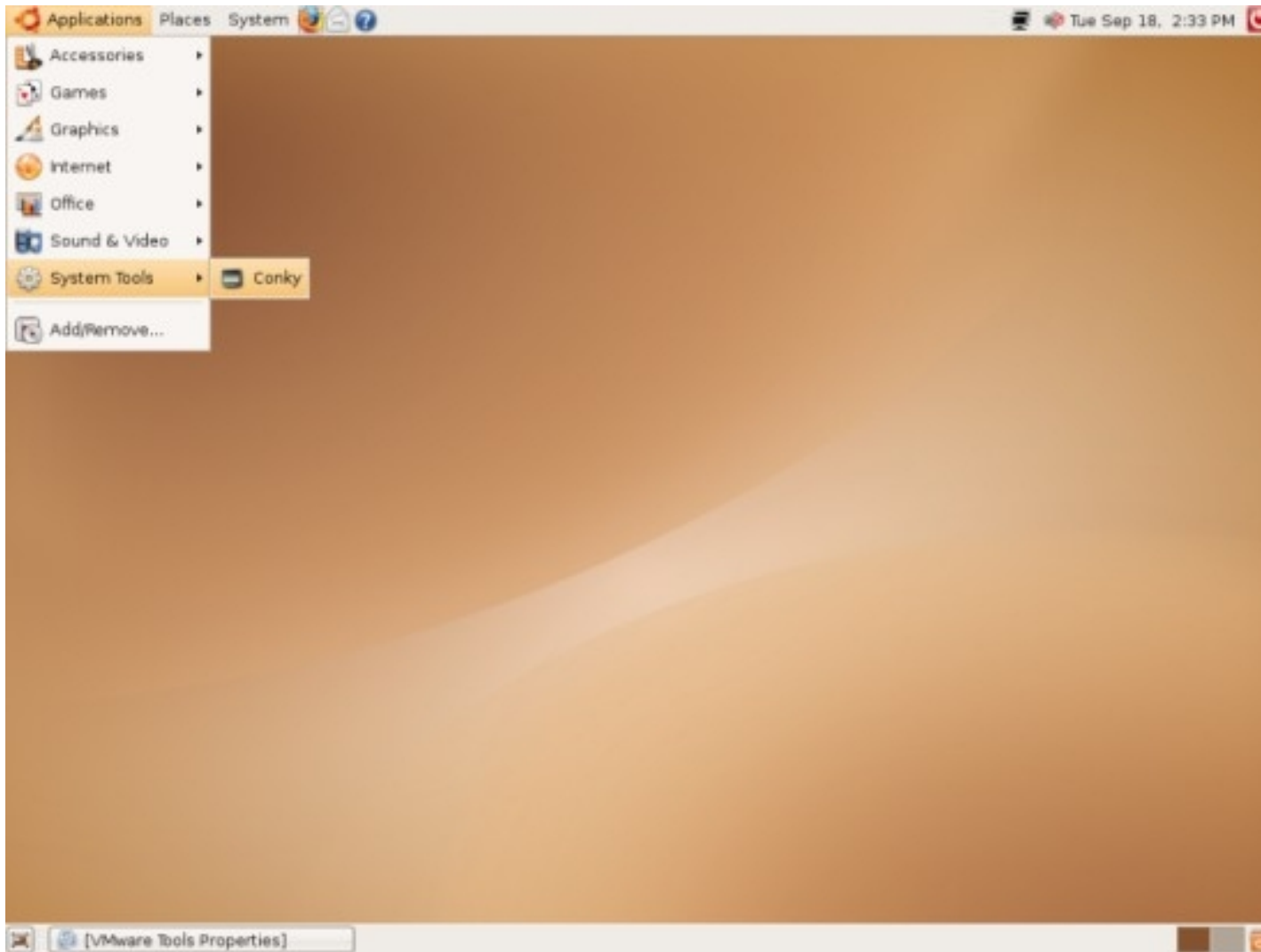
Command: *conky*

Comment: insert a comment if you want.

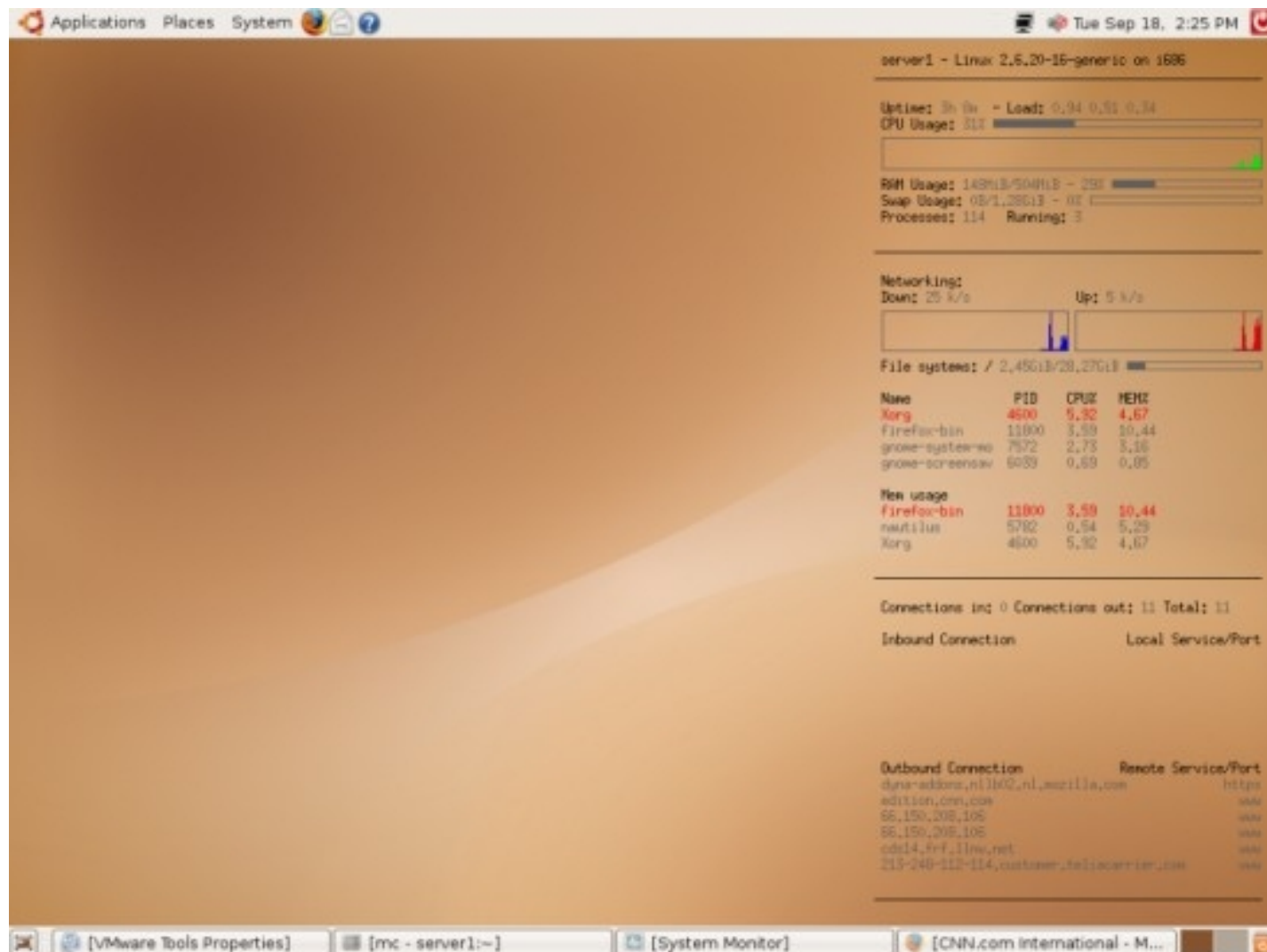
Icon: select one if you want.



Now you can start Conky via the Applications menu:



If you chose my configuration at step 2 it should look like this:



4 Links

- Conky: <http://conky.sourceforge.net/>

- Ubuntu: <http://www.ubuntu.com/>