tinega
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Manually add an appimage software shortcut to application menu in linux

#linux   #ubuntu   #beginners   #opensource

I am going demonstrate how you can add an appimage application shortcut to linux desktop system's application menu and also how to customize its icon.But first lets get to understand what an appimage software is.
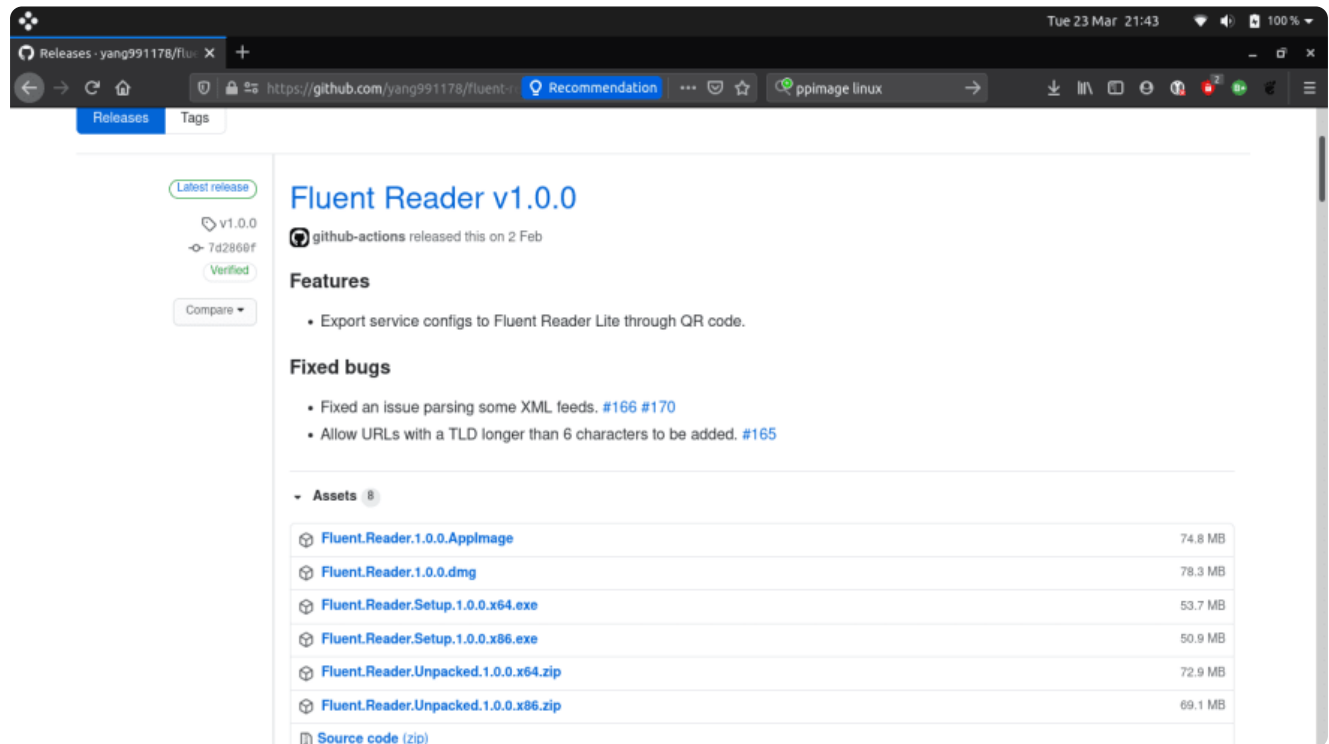
What is an appimage application and what are its benefits

For starters,there are many ways an application can be installed in a linux system i.e deb packages,snaps,flatpaks and appimages.Our focus today is appimages. An Appimage application is a single portable and executable software that can be run on linux without installation.
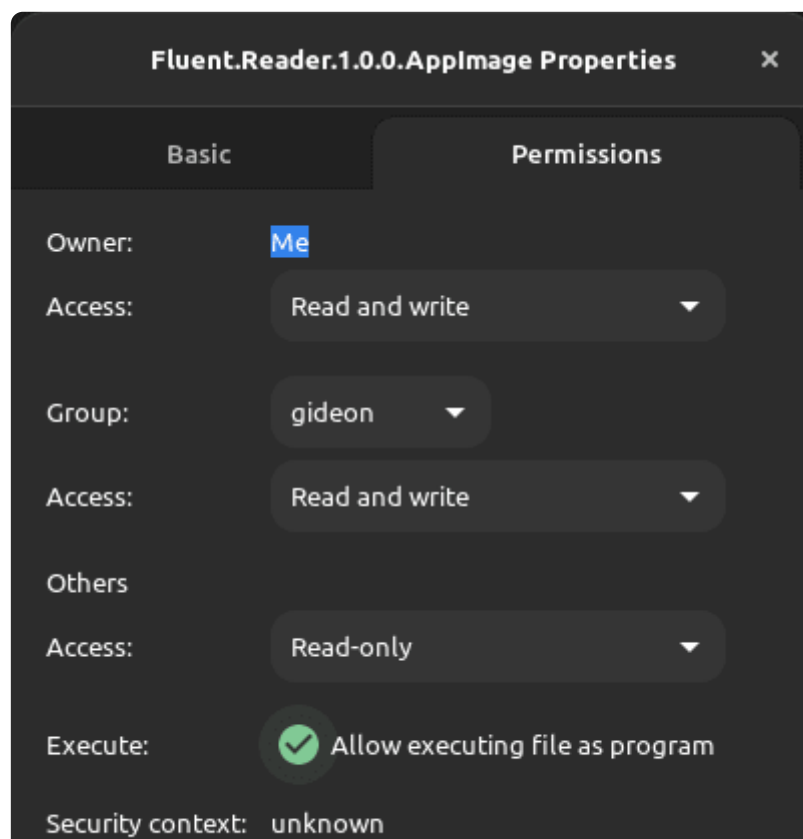
Benefits of using appimages

- Compatibility with most linux distributions.
- Simple to run i.e download,make it executable and run.since it is not installed no system libraries are altered.
- Download and use trusted software directly from the original author(s).
- Uninstalling is as simple as just deleting the file.

Running an app image

Lets download the fluent reader software(it is a modern rss reader) as an example.

Once download is completed,navigate to the downloads folder and right-click on the downloaded appimage file,click on Properties thereafter,Click on the permissions tab and check the execute option.

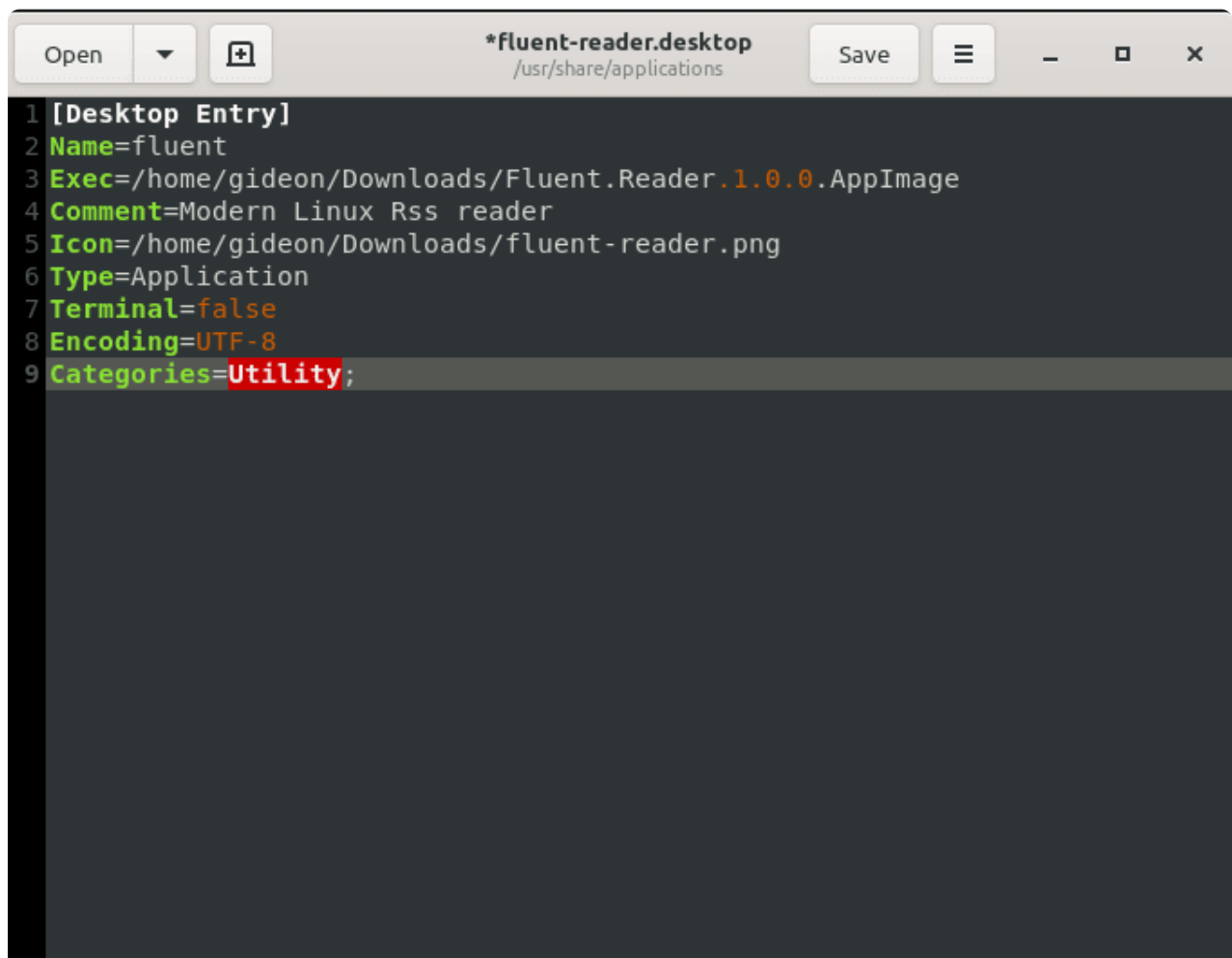The software should be running by now without any problems.

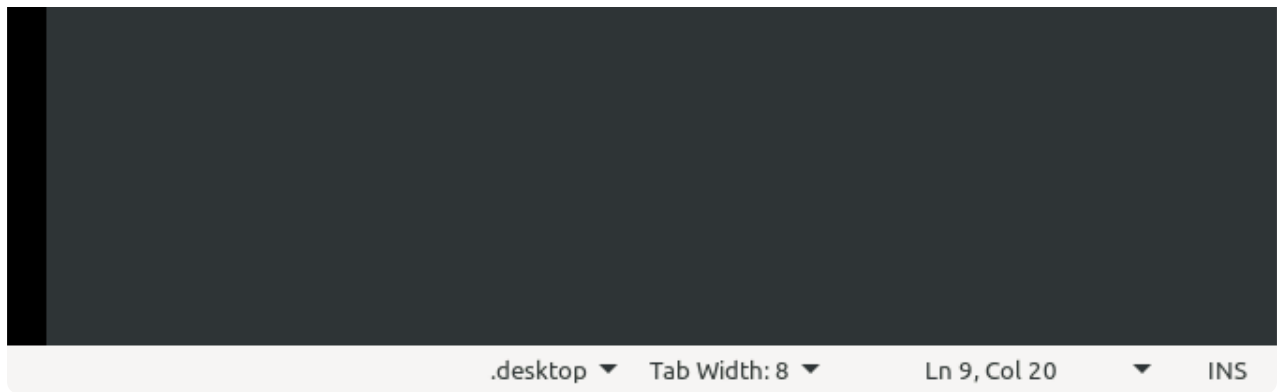## Adding a shortcut with custom icon to the linux application menu

Note: super user permission is required for this process.

- Open the terminal
- Navigare to the /usr/share/applications directory.
- Create a new file with a .desktop extension in the applications directory.
- Open the file with gedit

```
~$ cd /usr/share/applications
/usr/share/applications$ sudo touch fluent-reader.desktop
ord for gideon:
/usr/share/applications$ sudo gedit fluent-reader.desktop
```

- Add the following template text to your empty file and replace with the location of your exec(i.e appimage location) and icon of your choice.eg

```
[Desktop Entry]
Name=fluent
Exec=/home/gideon/Downloads/Fluent.Reader.1.0.0.AppImage
Comment=Modern Linux Rss reader
Icon=/home/gideon/Downloads/fluent-reader.png
Type=Application
Terminal=false
Encoding=UTF-8
Categories=Utility;
```

| .desktop ▼ | Tab Width: 8 ▼ | Ln 9, Col 20 | ▼ | INS |

- Save your file and exit the terminal.

You should be able to see your software shortcut in the menu and it should run when clicked if you followed the steps above correctly.

Thanks and have fun 😋

Discussion (4)

Naufan Rusyda Faikar • Mar 23 '21

Great! I tend to put an app desktop shortcut at `~/.local/share /applications/` when it comes to a user-level app; instead of having it at `/usr/share/applications`. Or we might consider to put the `.AppImage` file at `/opt` or `/usr/bin`.

tinega 🏅 • Mar 24 '21

Thanks a bunch for this! Guys here is more options on how to do it

Lucas S Nogueira • Dec 27 '21

Man, your post is really easy to follow. Thx!

Mohammad hosein Saghatforoush • Dec 14 '21

thanks man

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