ask ubuntu

What is the "Templates" folder in the home directory for?

Asked 9 years, 8 months ago   Active 7 years, 4 months ago   Viewed 44k times

▲

116

▼

🔖

37

🕓

For as long as I can remember, every time I install Ubuntu there is a folder in the home directory called "Templates." I've always just deleted it, but I'm curious: what's it supposed to be used for, and why is it in the default install?

nautilus   xdg

Share Edit Follow

edited Apr 13 '14 at 20:58
Braiam
63k ● 29 ● 165 ● 255

asked Jan 11 '12 at 22:39
Nathan Dyer
1,797 ● 3 ● 14 ● 15

3   Great question. I've always done the same thing, deleting the folder after installing. I think @fossfreedom just made our lives a little bit easier. – Tom Brossman Jan 12 '12 at 17:20
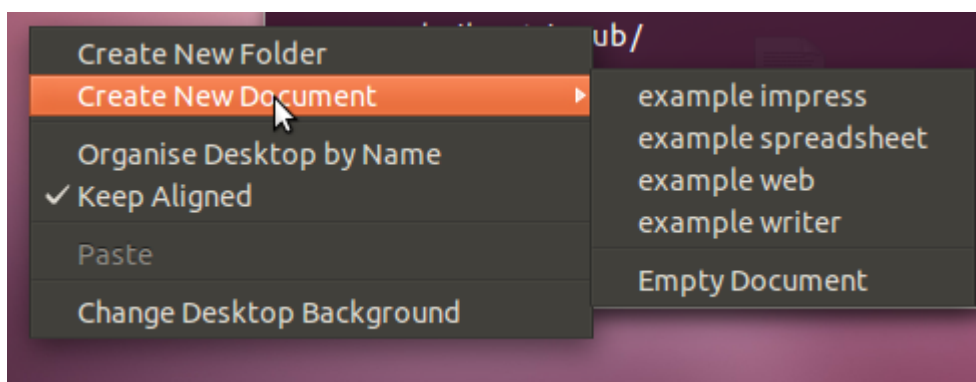
1 Answer

Active | Oldest | **Votes**

▲

172

▼

✓

🕓

If you drop any files in this folder, for example

then when you right-click and create a new document, you can select any of these files as a basis for the new file - i.e. a template.

For as long as I remember, this has always been a standard feature on many desktops such as Gnome.

If you have deleted the folder and need to restore this functionality:

```
gedit ~/.config/user-dirs.dirs
```

Check that there is a line containing the following - if not, add this line.

```
XDG_TEMPLATES_DIR="$HOME/Templates"
```

Share Edit Follow

edited Jan 26 '12 at 20:36

answered Jan 11 '12 at 22:51

fossfreedom ♦
165k ● 45 ● 364 ● 399

---

18 You just answered hours of questions. – BenjaminRH Apr 18 '12 at 17:00

So does this play well with OpenDocument templates, eg .ott files and the like? – jdpipe Jun 7 '16 at 12:52

Does freedesktop specify the list of "well known" directories and what they should do somewhere, or is the `xdg-user-dir` implementation all we get? freedesktop.org/wiki/Software/xdg-user-dirs – Ciro Santilli 新疆再教育营六四事件法轮功郝海东 Dec 10 '16 at 12:11

Thanks, This works great on `ext4` mounts but on filesystem types `fuse` or `cifs` mounts *(i.e. network drives and local ntfs drives)* the **executable flag** gets set automatically upon creation of the file. How can I inhibit this? – Pau Coma Ramirez Jan 28 at 10:06

@Mark, your link doesn't work. I point here to your other answer askubuntu.com/a/652664/15943 – alfC Jul 22 at 3:10 ✎