Installation | qqX

9–12 minutes

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qqX - Quickemu Virtual Machine Manager

qqX should run on the **vast majority of Linux distributions** without problems

- The installer can be used to *update, reinstall, uninstall or reconfigure.*

- Other virtual machine systems may be present on the host but they are not required

- Existing Quickemu/QuickGui installations are [fully compatible](#)

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qqX has its own BUILT IN INSTALLER AND UPDATER which will let you know if anything needs to done

- Users may need to install little more than qemu `spice-gtk` and `qqX`

- Some distro versions may need `curl 7z jq bc socat` and possibly `xrandr`

  Example dependency setups:

- Fedora 43 KDE (2025/11) `sudo dnf install xorriso qemu spice-gtk-tools`

- LinuxMint 22.3 Cinnamon (2026/01) `sudo apt install jq socat spice-client-gtk qemu-system-x86`

  The INSTALLER has a **further example sets**, along with help notes

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SHOULD WORK WITH ALL STANDARD LINUX DESKTOPS and window managers and with either X11 or Wayland
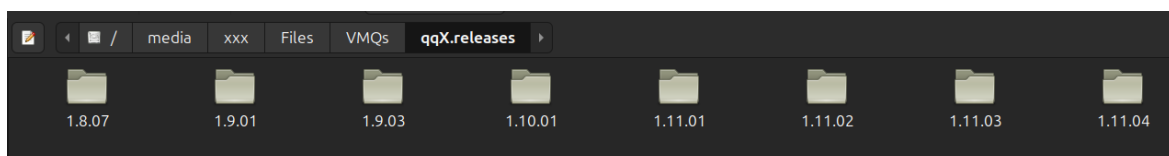
- All standard terminal emulators should be supported, along with recent display innovations

  An additional flatpak installer is currently under consideration:

- Immutable [atomic](#) systems and [non-standard](#) OS's such as NixOS may not allow installation

- Layout should conform to [Filesystem Hierarchy Standards](#) and have installation access to `/usr/bin` and `/usr/share`
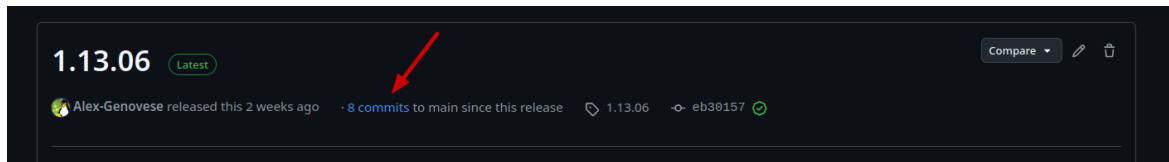

Downloading

The standard method is to download via the [latest qqX release](#) which will have been carefully tested

- Default Folders for the updater are ~/Downloads/qqX.releases and .../VMQs/qqX.releases but others may be used

From Jan 2026, you may now subscribe to series beta channels. These should be reasonably stable and offer early access to new features. The qqX interface will show muted alerts when beta pre-releases are available

Check the branch commits and the tags list before downloading

For branch downloads, select the required branch, click on the 'code' button and 'download zip'
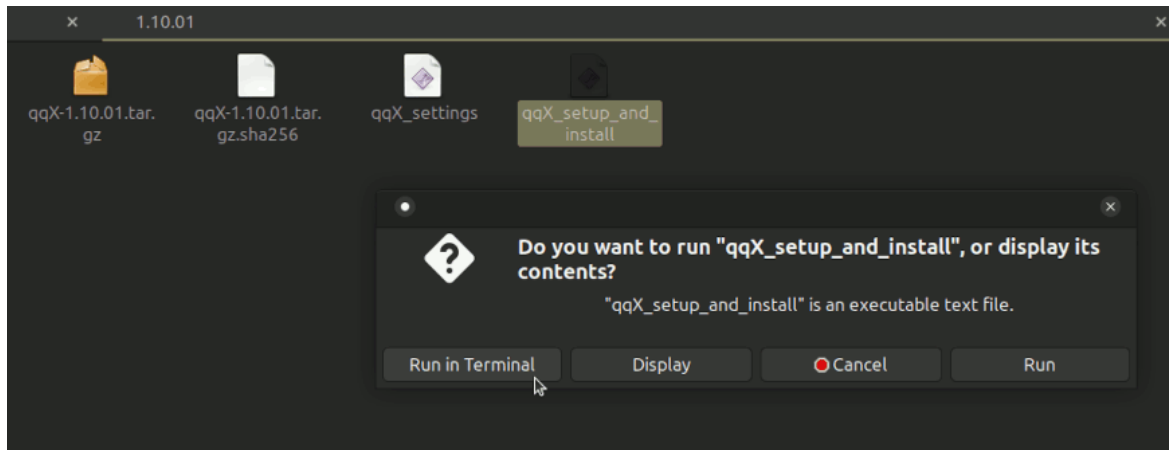
Unpacking the compressed file

FOR MOST USAGE CASES

- Simply right clicking in a file manager and selecting extract or extract with ....

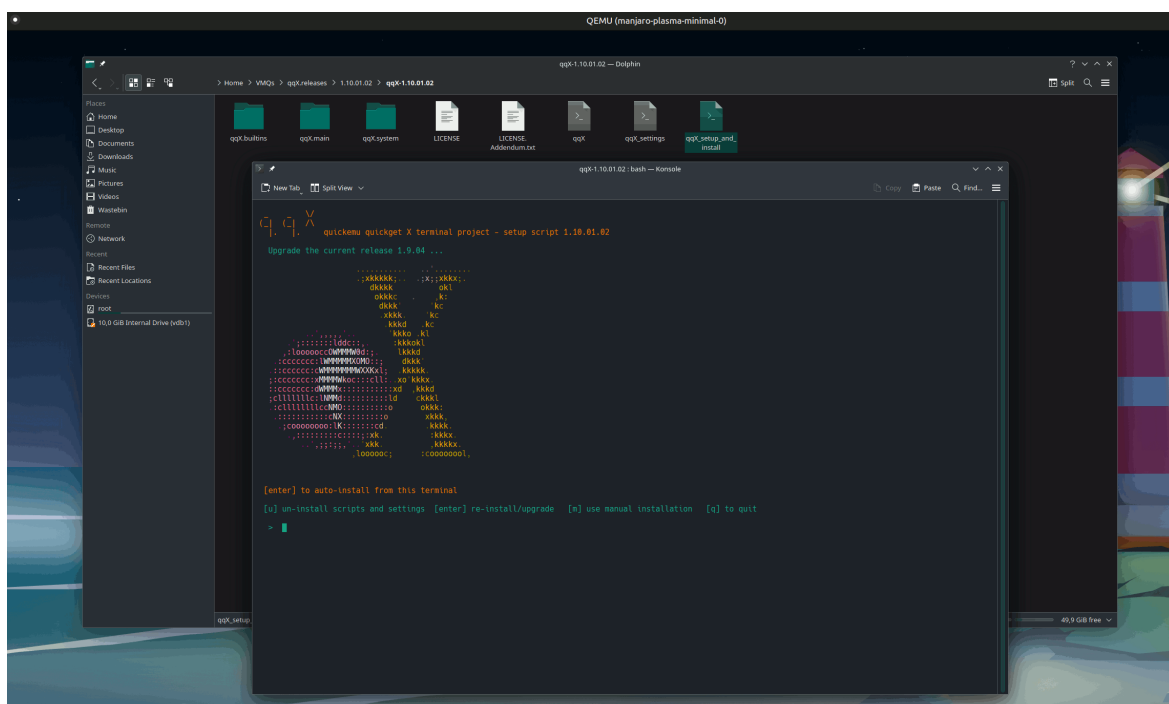 For the Cmd Line, see notes further on

Running the installer

In many file managers you can usually right click, then run as program, or similar

- With Cinnamon and Mate, double click and 'run in terminal'

- In KDE/Dolphin, use 'run in konsole' or double click and execute

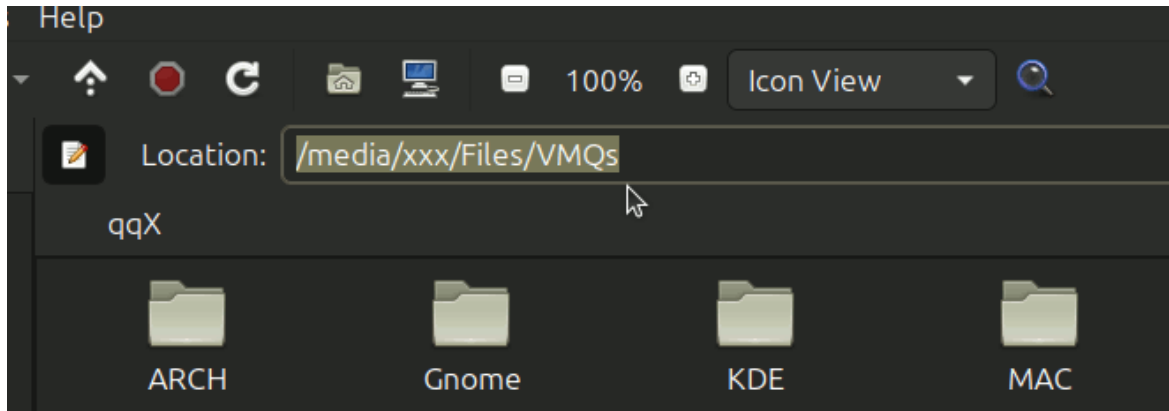- Also with Thunar, if the run scripts preference has been set

In other environments it may be necessary to start the installer script by opening a terminal first

- In the file-manager folder > right click > open in terminal > type `./qqX_setup_and_install` (note prefix `./`)

Default VM folder

- If you have existing *quickemu* virtual machines, start qqX and edit the settings file to point to where they are

- 'VMQs' is the standard default, in your Home folder, next to Downloads & Videos

- Moving or renaming the default folder can be easily done using your file manager. Start qqX and edit the settings to point to it.

First Machines

If everything appears to be working correctly, you can start exploring ...

- Installing a basic or familiar Linux distro will help tell you if Qemu and the sub-structure is working

Updates

An auto-detector will tell you if new a qqX release is available

- The qqX installer can be used to *update, reinstall, uninstall or reconfigure*

Other Notes

Cmd Line

For non-gui installation, create a `qqX.releases` folder and a subfolder numbered as per the release. Move the tar.gz file into the subfolder and extract as so:

```
mkdir -p "$HOME/Downloads/qqX.releases/1.11.04"

mv qqX-1.11.04.tar.* "$HOME/Downloads/qqX.releases/1.11.04/"

cd "$HOME/Downloads/qqX.releases/1.11.04"

sha256sum -c qqX-1.11.04.tar.gz.sha256
qqX-1.11.04.tar.gz: OK

tar xvfz qqX-1.11.04.tar.gz
```

Adjusting the terminal

qqX will test and setup most standard desktop associated terminals without problem.

- Distros will normally support several terminals being installled.

To MANUALLY SPECIFY a terminal name:

- Open the installer start script in a standard text editor and check near the beginning for the line 'UserTerm'

- A 'CustomTerminalProfile' is stored in the qqX settings folder and will be auto-read when carrying out updates.

- The (hidden) file '$HOME/.qqX/qqX_term.conf' may also be edited.

  If changing the desktop terminal command, MAKE SURE to SELECT option `[r] reconfigure desktop launcher` during installation.

  Profile options

  It is quite common for different distros to rename or tweak a standard terminal. Typing the terminal name, followed by '--help' should give you a list of the parameters that you can use. Note that options can vary slightly and can also be subject to theming or desktop environment overrides.

  For actual 'XTERM' itself, also edit the installer script's 'CustomTerminalProfile'

- eg xterm -geometry 145x50 -fa truetype -fs 12

  For CUSTOM PROFILES, only one profile line is required and the actual sizes are best stated. Auto-updating size variable lines are difficult to set, due to 'escaping' routines, but may be initially be copied, if wished. Size variables will eventually become overwritten as numerics.

- eg. CustomTerminalProfile=" --geometry=145x50 --hide-menubar --title=qqX "

  Remember that width and height are normally column/row units which are based on the size of your terminal font and that the window size will alter when the font size is changed.

- CUSTOM terminal sizes & profile may be *initially* set just after the initial system checking lines, at around line 290 in the target script "./qqX_system_install" in the qqX.system folder. See notes in the target script.

- OR may be adjusted in the qqX config file following initial setup, which is possibly easier.

  Tips

  If you you are finding the interface a bit cramped, re-run the installer. Make sure to **run the desktop part** which will allow you to adjust the terminal size.

  Multiple folders can help organise your distros. After adding a new group folder, make sure that it's present in the general settings file.

  Virtual machines can be easily moved around. Use the move and rename tool [mv] to make things even easier. Make sure that they have their .conf file next to them and make sure the *config internals* point correctly.

  You can edit which VMs to show first in the general settings.

  Uninstalling

- Re-run the installer and select to remove ...

- To downgrade, use the installer from an earlier release, which will normally work without needing to uninstall first.

  Manual de-installation notes are displayed when the installer script is first loaded

- If the taskbar icon failed to remove, re-install and remove it first, before re-running the un-installer

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Other Software

- 7z is sometimes listed as 7zip or p7zip-full and xrandr may sometimes be found as part of x11-xserver-utils

- Zsync is not present on **Fedora** but this is non-critical as Quickget will switch to using Curl

Qemu

Qemu may be listed with various names:

- **Arch** users should install 'qemu-desktop' not qemu-base.

- **Debian** based distros may need several separate components to create the packages

  Some users may see Qemu listed by architecture as in `qemu-system-x86_64` and `qemu-system-aarch64`

- Only 'x86_64' is needed unless you wish to emulate Arm etc …

Spice

Spice gtk may be listed as `spice-client-gtk`

Newer Ubuntu releases may need `qemu-system-modules-spice`

mkisofs

A lot of distros will already have `mkisofs` already installed as a dependency to other software. Ubuntu installs this with the `genisoimage` package. Arch users will usually need to add `cdrtools`. Fedora Gnome should have this already but Fedora KDE will require `xorriso`. Others may require `cdrkit`.

This is *currently* only needed to assemble the Spice `unattended` Iso, used for setting up Windows VMs.

TPM

This is needed for Ubuntu Server and for installing WINDOWS GUESTS

Ubuntu 24.04 LTS at 01/2025 is three versions behind for `swtpm`

- This PPA may be used: https://launchpad.net/~stefanberger/+archive/ubuntu/swtpm-noble

  There is an on-going `swtpm / apparmor` problem too. Your mileage may vary.

- One way to fix this is to change swtpm settings from 'enforce' mode to 'complain'. See these apparmor notes.

  Also see the Windows Walk-thru guide for notes on Secure Boot

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Distro specifics

Solus

- On **Solus**, *quickemu* won't currently run in UEFI mode, so no Windows 11 for now. See this Solus issue.

OpenSuse

Support for SDL with **OpenSUSE** is patchy at best:

- Grabbing https://software.opensuse.org/package/SDL3 and https://software.opensuse.org/package/qemu-ui-sdl *might work* with certain versions > Select the file and open in Yast, then search sdl with the files option selected …

Windows and Mac HOSTS

- Running qqX on **Windows** hosts has been partly implemented already via the Windows Linux Subsystem. This target will hopefully be possible when the new and even more capable Azure 3

WSL becomes mainstream. It should be noted that Microsoft, who not only host GitHub, have been Platinum members of the Linux Foundation for several years and that Linux now runs on the majority their Azure cloud servers. Early work with pre-release versions, in Windows Insider, has shown good promise.

- Basic support is available via Quickemu on **MacOS** hosts. However, for qqX, unless Mac change their stance towards Linux, this would need impossible code compromises.

Older or LTS distros

Some distros can be a long way behind the curve and older QEMU versions may show occasional error messages.

- Ubuntu 22.04 can show `gui-module ui-ui` errors but tests seem to show these can be ignored.

Finally

By using this software you become a valued member of the community and can help make this software better for others.

Please report any difficulties or any unnoticed errors you may have encountered.