

# Tango Desktop Project

The **Tango Desktop Project** was an open-source initiative to create a set of design guidelines and to provide a consistent user experience for applications on desktop environments. The project created a set of icons known as the Tango Icon Library and that were described as a "proof of concept".<sup>[2]</sup> The Tango Desktop Project was a project of freedesktop.org, and was closely linked with other freedesktop.org guidelines, such as the Standard Icon Theming Specification.<sup>[3]</sup>

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## Objectives

The objective of the project was to allow software developers to easily integrate their software, in terms of appearance, with the desktop computer. The visual inconsistencies that arise from different desktop environments (KDE, GNOME, Xfce ...) and custom distributions make it hard for third parties to target Linux. Ideally, any project that follows the Tango guidelines will have a look and feel that matches well with other icons and applications that follow the guidelines.

The style did not aim to be visually unique to distinguish itself. Instead, a secondary aim of the project was to create a standard style that makes applications look appropriate running on operating systems common at that time, such that ISVs would find that their application did not look out of place on Windows XP, Mac OS X, KDE, GNOME, or Xfce.

Apart from the visual guidelines, the project aimed to provide a set of common metaphors for the icons. Tango followed the Freedesktop.org's Standard Icon Theming Specification and actively developed the Freedesktop.org's Standard Icon Naming Specification, defining names for the most common icons and the used metaphors.


Tango Desktop Project





Example of the Tango Icon Library

Developer(s)	Tango Project contributors ( <a href="https://web.archive.org/web/20160105115417/http://tango.freedesktop.org/The_People">https://web.archive.org/web/20160105115417/http://tango.freedesktop.org/The_People</a> )
Initial release	2005
Final release	v0.8.90 / February 25, 2009
Type	Computer icons
License	Icons: <u>CC-by-sa 2.5</u> Icons since v0.8.90: <u>Public domain</u> Icon Naming Utilities tool: <u>GPL</u>
Website	<a href="http://tango.freedesktop.org">http://tango.freedesktop.org</a>



The Tango Desktop Project's Color Palette<sup>[1]</sup>

Many free software projects, such as GIMP, Scribus, and GNOME, have started to follow the Tango style guidelines for their icons.<sup>[4]</sup> Also, ReactOS and Mozilla Firefox 3 uses Tango icons when it is unable to find the user's installed icon set, and also for icons not covered by said icon set.<sup>[5]</sup>

It is also possible for proprietary closed-source applications to use Tango Desktop Project icons. Examples highlighted by the Tango Showroom include VMware Workstation 6 and Medsphere OpenVista CIS.

## History

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The Tango icons were originally released under a copyleft Creative Commons license (Attribution-ShareAlike), but were released into the public domain in 2009 in order to make it easier to reuse them.

## Palette

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This is the hexadecimal color palette used by the Tango Desktop Project, organized by color group and brightness:<sup>[1]</sup>

<b>Butter</b>	fce94f	edd400	c4a000
<b>Orange</b>	fcaf3e	f57900	ce5c00
<b>Chocolate</b>	e9b96e	c17d11	8f5902
<b>Chameleon</b>	8ae234	73d216	4e9a06
<b>Sky Blue</b>	729fcf	3465a4	204a87
<b>Plum</b>	ad7fa8	75507b	5c3566
<b>Scarlet Red</b>	ef2929	cc0000	a40000
<b>Aluminium</b>	eeeeec	d3d7cf	babdb6
	888a85	555753	2e3436

## See also

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- Bluecurve – former default GPL icon set of Fedora, replaced by Echo (<https://fedoraproject.org/wiki/Artwork/EcholconTheme>)
- Crystal – LGPL icon set by Everaldo Coelho
- Icon (computing)
- Nuvola – LGPL icon set by David Vignoni
- Oxygen Project – LGPL icon set for KDE
- Palette (computing)
- Theme (computing)
- ReactOS – uses the Tango Icon Library

## References

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1. "Tango Icon Theme Guidelines" ([https://web.archive.org/web/20160202102503/http://tango.freedesktop.org/Tango\\_Icon\\_Theme\\_Guidelines](https://web.archive.org/web/20160202102503/http://tango.freedesktop.org/Tango_Icon_Theme_Guidelines)). *Tango Desktop Project*. 2013-10-03. Archived from the original ([http://tango.freedesktop.org/Tango\\_Icon\\_Theme\\_Guidelines](http://tango.freedesktop.org/Tango_Icon_Theme_Guidelines)) on 2016-02-02.
2. "Tango Icon Library – Tango Desktop Project" ([https://web.archive.org/web/20160120233412/http://tango.freedesktop.org/Tango\\_Icon\\_Library](https://web.archive.org/web/20160120233412/http://tango.freedesktop.org/Tango_Icon_Library)). 2010-08-11. Archived from the original (<http://ta>

- [ngo.freedesktop.org/Tango\\_Icon\\_Library](http://ngo.freedesktop.org/Tango_Icon_Library)) on 2016-01-20. Retrieved 2011-06-15.
3. "icon-theme-spec" (<http://freedesktop.org/wiki/Specifications/icon-theme-spec>). Freedesktop.org. Retrieved 2013-09-22.
  4. "Tango Showroom" ([https://web.archive.org/web/20150906111805/http://tango.freedesktop.org/Tango\\_Showroom](https://web.archive.org/web/20150906111805/http://tango.freedesktop.org/Tango_Showroom)). *Tango Desktop Project*. 2008-09-12. Archived from the original ([http://tango.freedesktop.org/Tango\\_Showroom](http://tango.freedesktop.org/Tango_Showroom)) on 2015-09-06.
  5. Faaborg, Alex (2007-11-13). "A first look at the Firefox 3 visual refresh for Linux" (<https://blog.mozilla.org/faaborg/2007/11/13/update-on-the-firefox-3-linux-theme/>). Retrieved 2008-07-11.

## External links

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- Official website (<http://tango-project.org/>) 
  - Tango Icon Library version 0.8.90 (<http://tango.freedesktop.org/releases/tango-icon-theme-0.8.90.tar.gz>) — in tar.gz archive format
  - *Tango project aims to clean up the desktop* (<http://archive09.linux.com/articles/50065>)
  - Standard Icon Theming Specification (<http://freedesktop.org/wiki/Standards/icon-theme-spec>)
  - Standard Icon Naming Specification (<https://specifications.freedesktop.org/icon-naming-spec/icon-naming-spec-latest.html>)
  - Tango Icon Replacement for Windows (<http://vertigosity.deviantart.com/art/Tango-Patcher-2600-8-06-27940418>)
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