

# Adventures with LXQt

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24th July 2017

LXQt is the idea of some of the LXDE developers and the razor-qt developers. It is best seen as the Qt equivalent of Xfce rather than LXDE. On my laptop it uses 450MiB as opposed to the 760MiB used by Plasma 5.

On first login (Figure 1), it offers the opportunity to configure the power management and after that it is well worth going straight to Preferences▷LXQt settings (Figure 2) and configuring each of them separately.

## 1 Preferences

Those who are familiar with the different elements of openSUSE's YaST configuration program will recognise that many of its modules are individually listed in the Preferences and so can be accessed directly from within LXQt without having to open YaST first; this seems to me a major plus for LXQt.

Within the LXQt Configuration Center some screens look remarkably like their equivalents in KDE. Appearance offers half a dozen themes each of which have an associated wallpaper under Desktop; in practice I found the Dark theme with the Light wallpaper worked best for me. File Associations can be set but the preferred program is sometimes ignored. Keyboard and Mouse enables you to specify single click but this does not affect all programs; for example, single click requires setting separately in the PCManFM Preferences and does not appear to be picked up by LibreOffice. Keyboard and Mouse also appears to offer switchable keyboard layouts as in KDE but I have yet to get this to work. Openbox gives access to a variety of settings including the number of virtual desktops which is initially inherited from Plasma. Shortcuts Keys allows you to add or edit the Shortcut Keys. I edited Control+Alt+I to open ImageMagick (Figure 3).

If you happen to use the Folder view widget in KDE, you may see some redundant icons on the desktop (Figure 1), you can get rid of these in LXQt by moving them to a hidden folder in KDE and pointing the Folder view widget at the hidden folder.

In summary, if you are looking for a desktop with a limited number of configuration options, LXQt is not for you.

## 2 Panels

The height, position, length and elements in a panel can be configured by right clicking on the panel (Figure 4). The default panel contains an application launcher, desktop switcher,



Figure 1: First sight

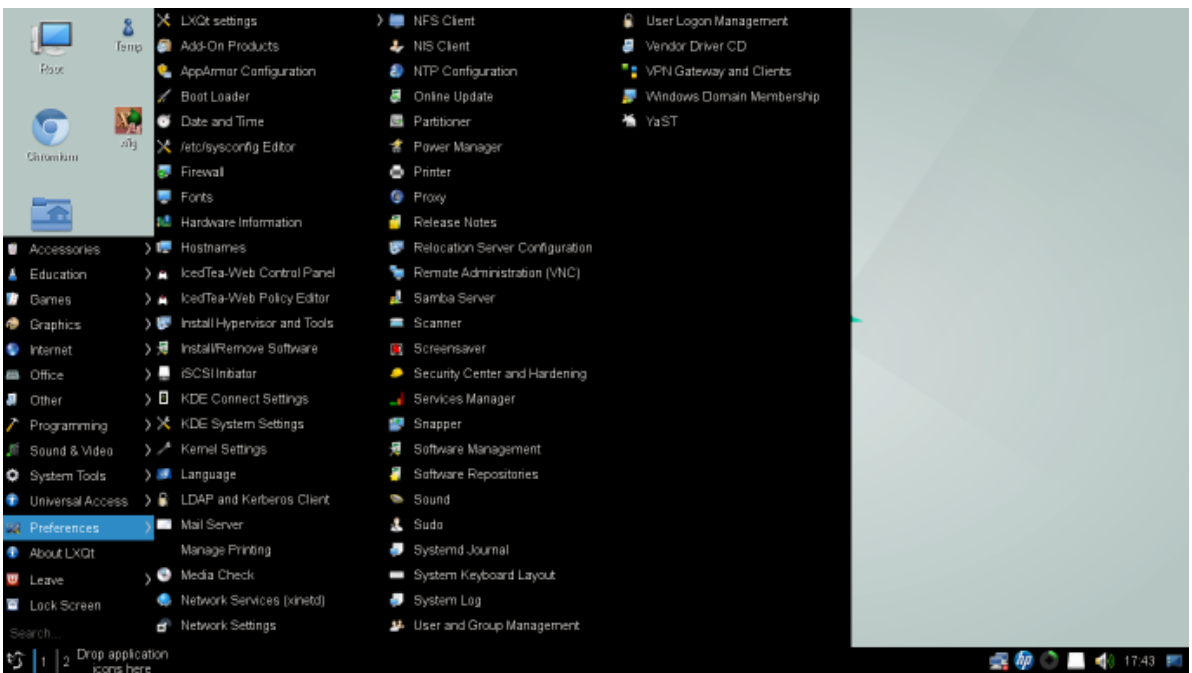


Figure 2: Preferences

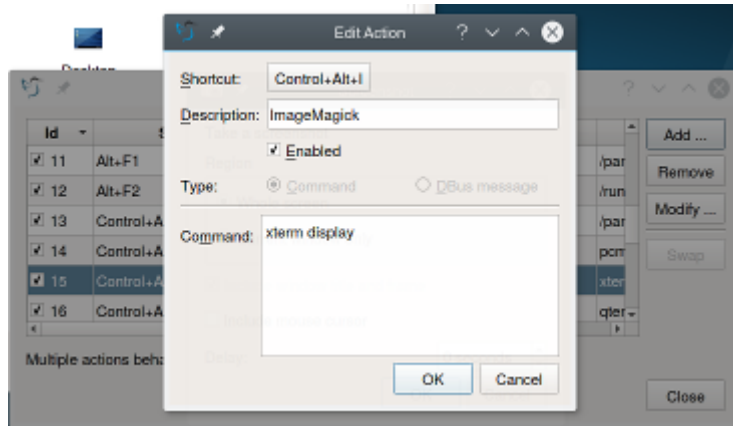


Figure 3: ImageMagick Shortcut Keys

quick launcher, task manager, network launcher, battery monitor (which also gives access to the power management configuration — which is rather good), removable devices manager, volume control and date and time applet.

All these work fine; strangely, the wi-fi is connected automatically on one user but on another I was offered the Gnome keyring in which to store the password and this user has to enter the keyring password for the very first connection made by the user but not for subsequent connections made by that user even where that connection is the initial one in a session. However, Network Manager does not wait for keyring to open and disables the connection; so, after opening the keyring, you have to connect the wi-fi manually. Connection management is the same as in Plasma. You may need to configure the volume control to ensure that it is controlling the analogue stereo rather than the HDMI output (Figure 5).

The main addition to this part of the panel which I have made is KDE's klipper clipboard application. This involved editing the line

```
OnlyShowIn=KDE;
```

in `/etc/xdg/autostart/klipper.desktop` to read

```
OnlyShowIn=KDE;LXQT; 1
```

I chose to add the applications which I commonly have in my KDE panel, a file manager, editor, email client, terminal and web browser, to the quick launcher but soon realised that starting frequently used applications from the application launcher could be tedious. So I chose the Add panel option to add a panel on the left hand side of the screen but with only one widget in it — the quick launcher (Figure 4: right hand image). Adding applications to the quick launcher involves dragging their icon in the application launcher to the quick launcher. Right clicking on them enables you to change the order in which they appear.

I also reduced the left panel's length so that it did not overlap the application launcher in the bottom panel — which caused the application launcher to become unavailable until another area of the bottom panel had been clicked to bring it forward.

<sup>1</sup>Thanks to wolfi on the [openSUSE forums](#) for this tip.

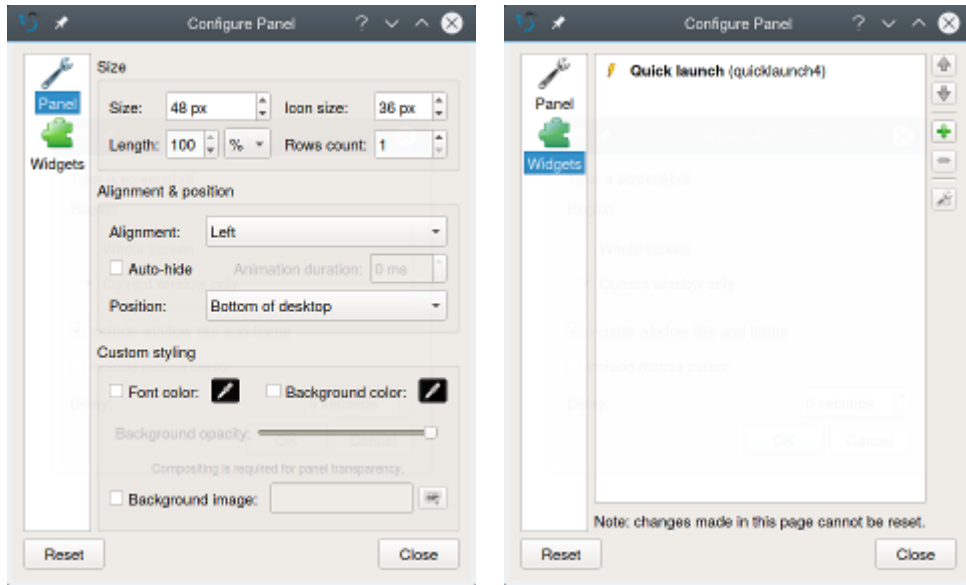


Figure 4: Configure panel

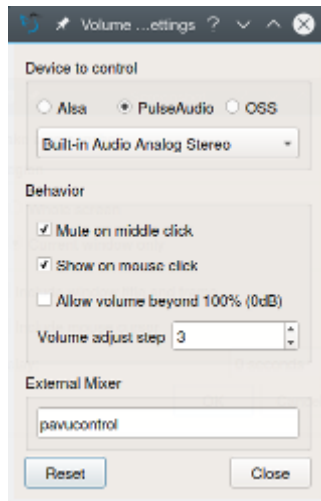


Figure 5: Volume control configuration

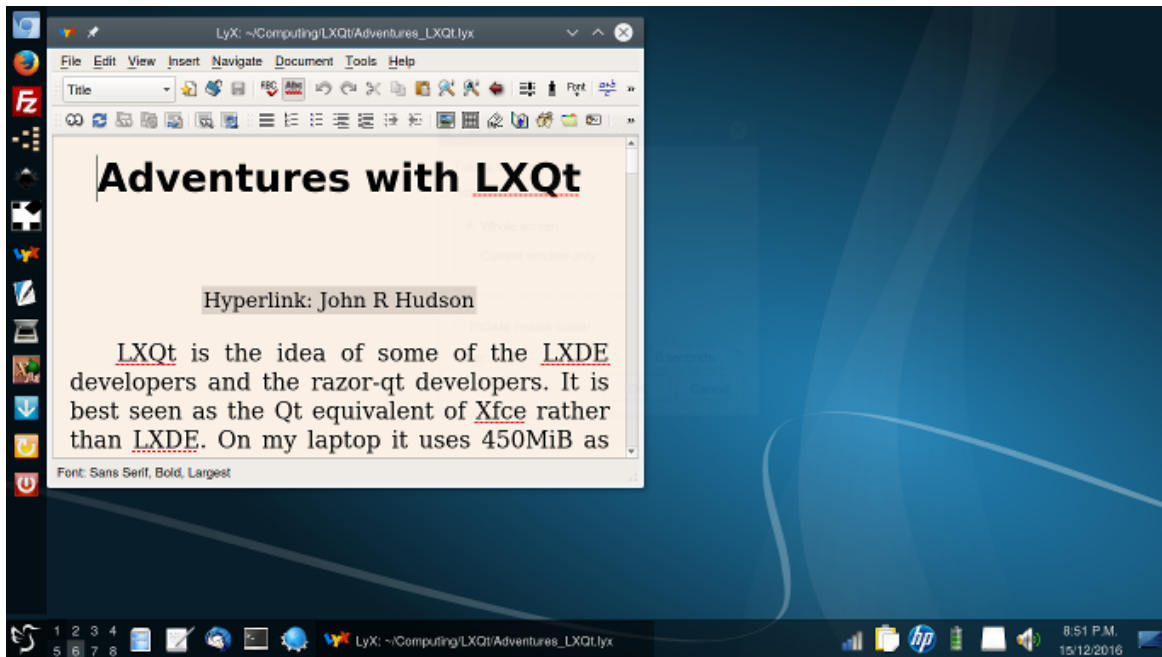


Figure 6: Desktop as modified

### 3 Applications

All the KDE applications which I have tried work seamlessly with LXQt; DigiKam, which originally gave problems, has worked since LXQt moved to KDE Frameworks 5. None of the few Gnome applications which I use appear to have any problems

#### 3.1 PCManFM

PCManFM is a competent file manager which, however, lacks the more sophisticated selection, copying and moving features of the KDE applications. Using it for these types of operations reminds me of Krusader, which was the KDE file manager before Konqueror.

However, PCManFM wins hands down in the way it displays files and thumbnails in icon view, including SVG and EPS files — something which appears to have evaded the Plasma developers. It also has a rather clearer progress dialogue when copying or moving than the ones in KDE.

#### 3.2 Qterminal

This Qt application is similar to Konsole but you need to go to File>Preferences>Behavior and change the Emulation to Linux. Otherwise, it only saves the entries in the first terminal to `.bash_history`.

#### 3.3 LXImage

LXImage offers a more than adequate screenshot and image viewer program. All the shots in this paper have been taken with it. However, it lacks the image setting options for printing

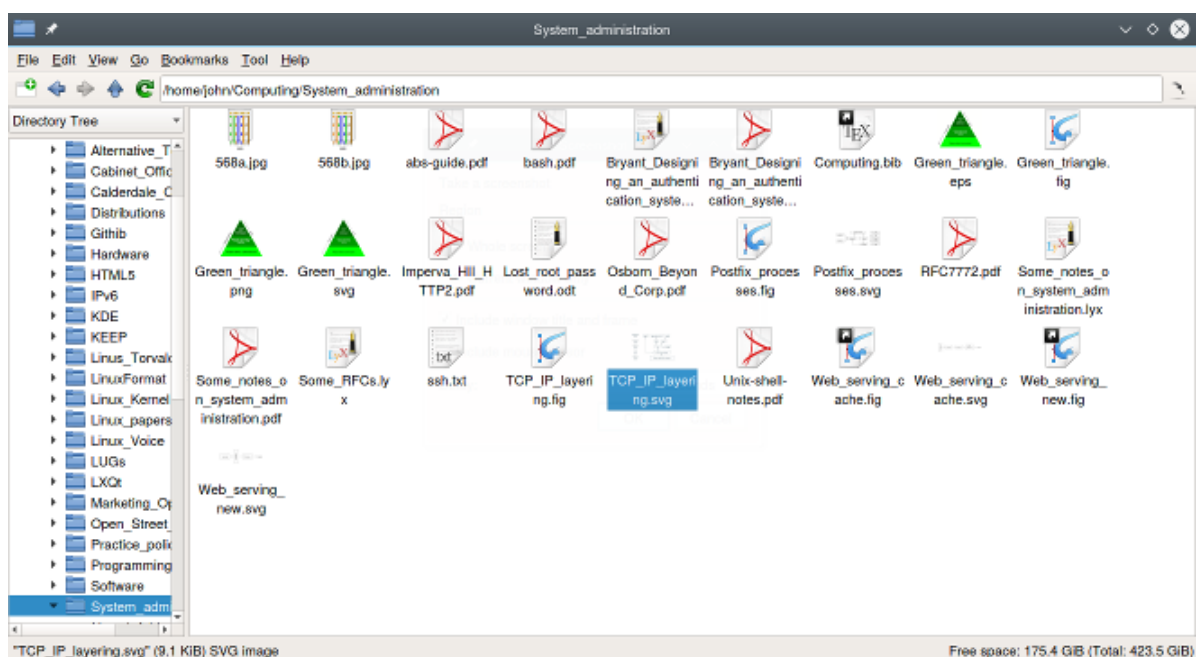


Figure 7: PCManFM

available in KDE.

## 4 Conclusions

So far I have only found a few downsides to using LXQt:

- initially you have to re-enter all chromium passwords — but it then remembers them
- the lack of launch feedback can be disconcerting; sometimes you just have to wait and hope
- I have yet to get the keyboard layout switcher to work
- LXQt does not always respect its own file association settings.

Plus points are:

- the Preferences menu giving access to individual configuration modules
- most settings working seamlessly between KDE and LXQt
- its overall stability — only one website has crashed in the first three weeks — a huge improvement on Plasma 5
- overall usability; I very quickly found I could do all the regular things I do in KDE as easily if not more easily in LXQt.

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