

## **Customizing your environment**

Your system isn't truly yours until you've customized the environment to work for you.

---

Let's change our wallpaper background to something non-standard.

1. Right click on a blank area of your desktop
2. Select **Change Desktop Background**

### **!!! Tip !!!**

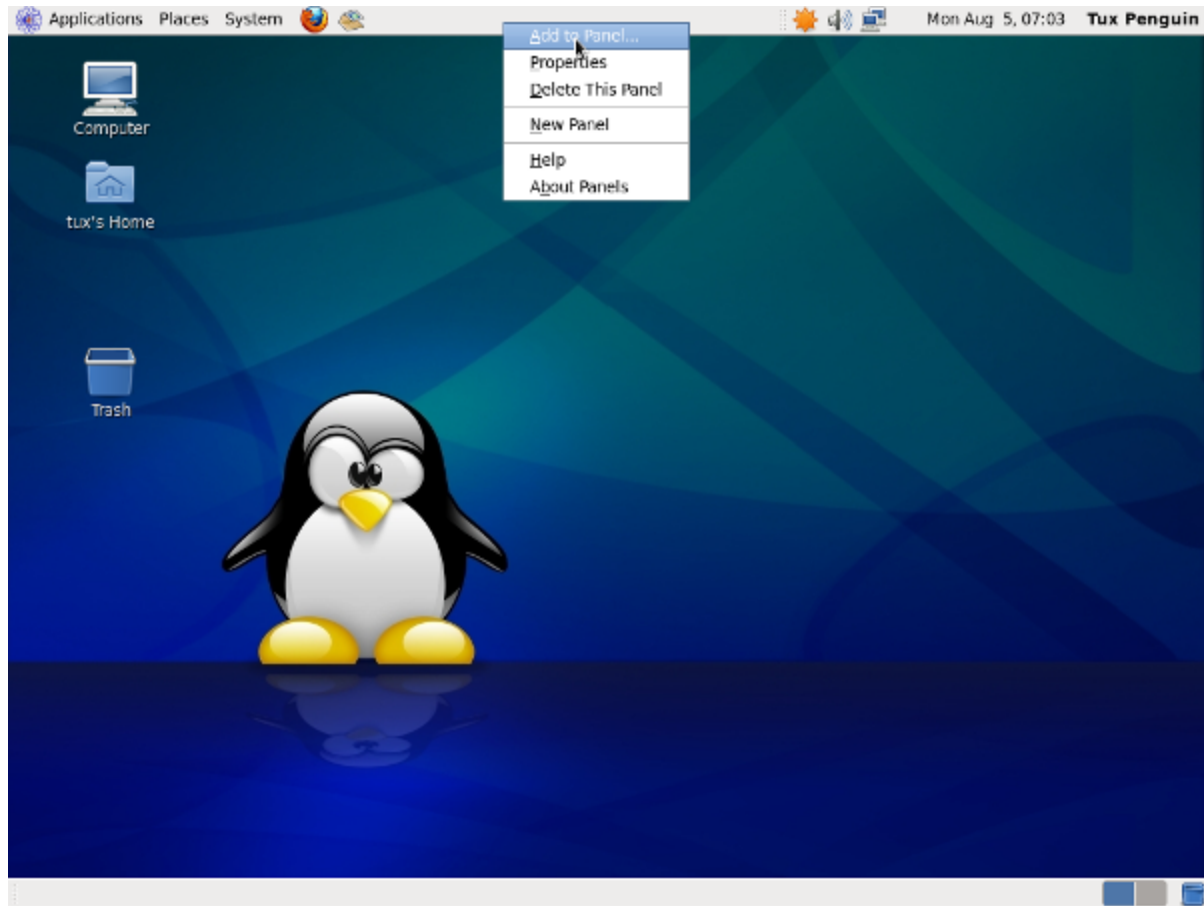
You can set any picture as your wallpaper background by opening the picture and then right clicking anywhere on the image followed by selecting **Set as desktop background**

---

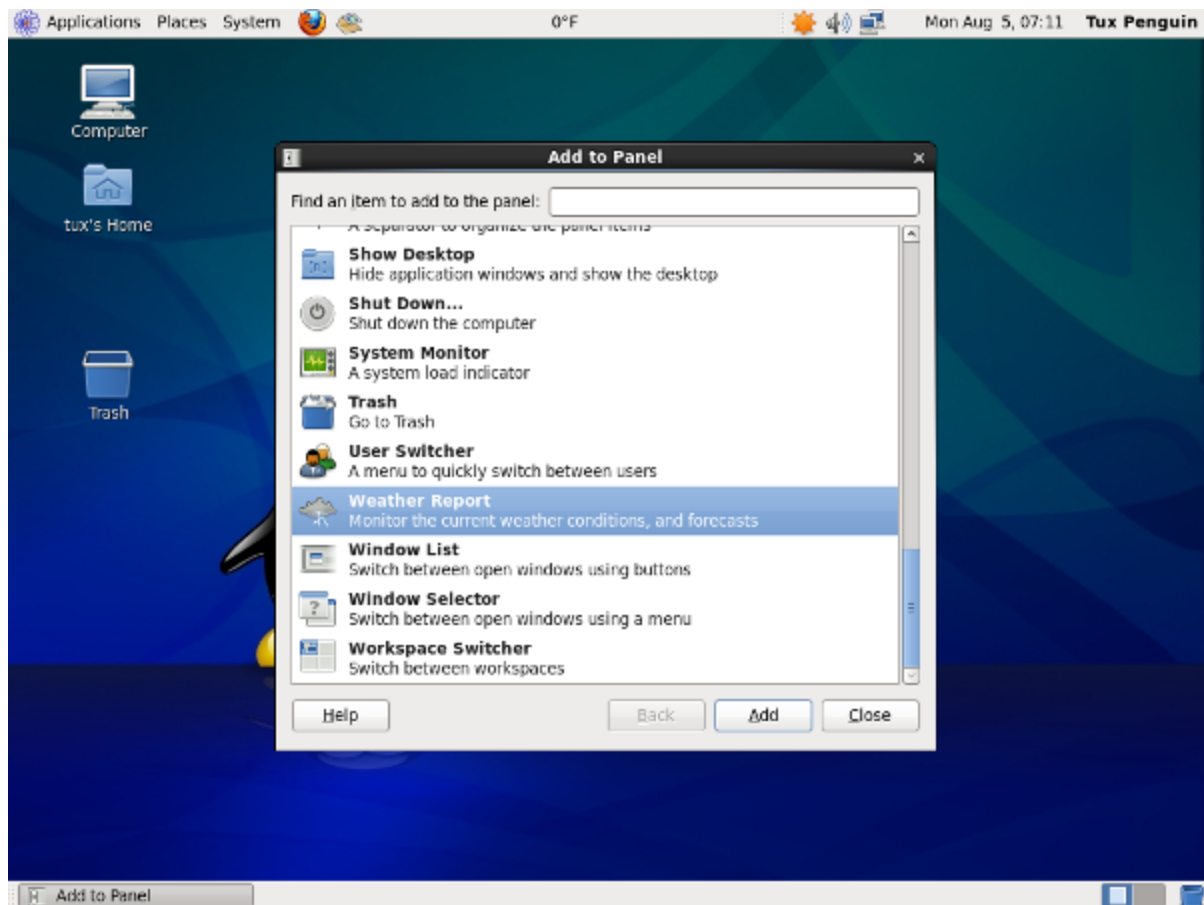
Something that we enjoy checking in on is the weather, which can be rather volatile at times so we will now show you how to add a weather checking applet to your system.

Your system may be customized with applets which are little applications which live on your menu bar. These menu bars are called panels and 2 are available by default - one at the top and another at the bottom.

Right click on a blank space on either panel and select **Add to panel**

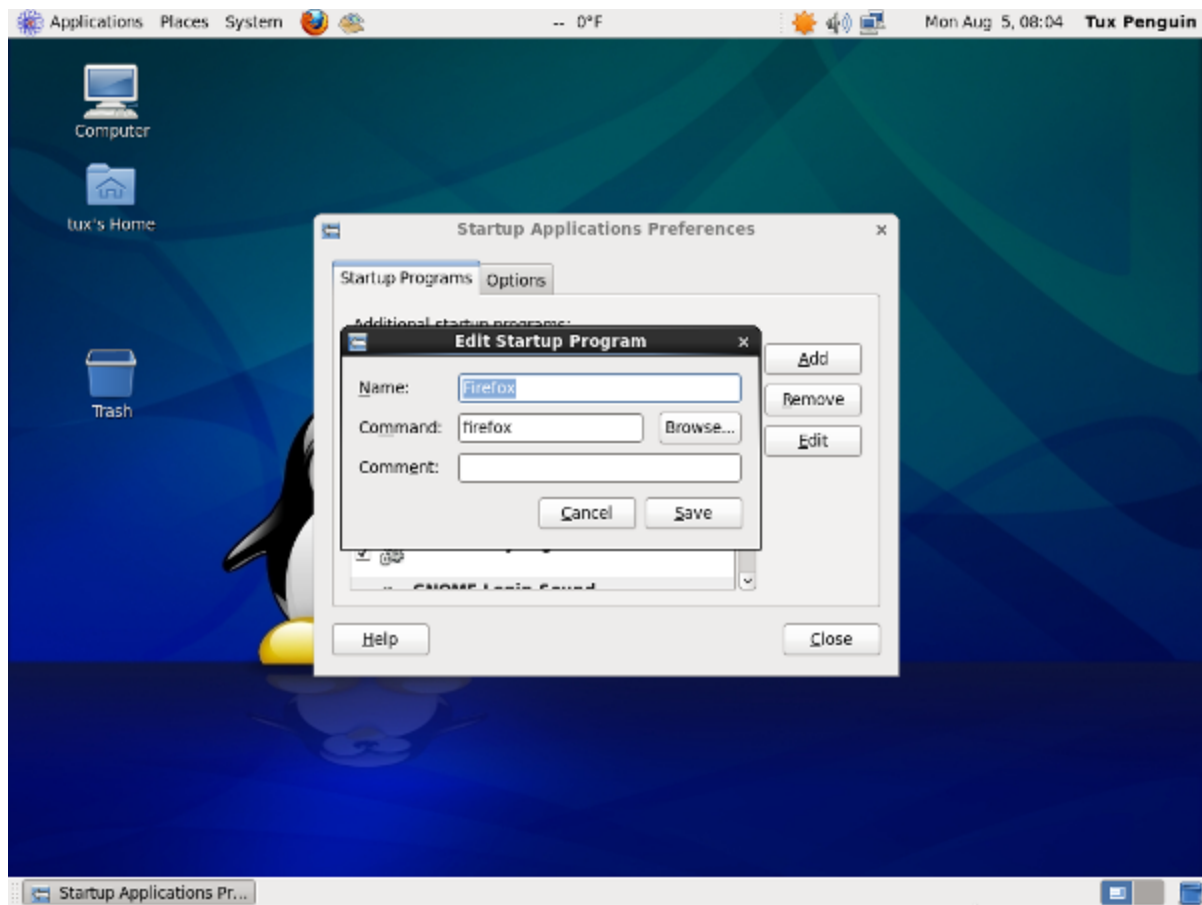


What you will see next is a list of applets which may be added to your panel. Let's scroll through the list and select **Weather Report**



What if you wanted Firefox started automatically taking you to the URL <http://www.nytimes.com/technology> as well as Thunderbird.

Well there's tool to define which applications startup automatically. Click **SYSTEM > PREFERENCES > STARTUP APPLICATIONS**



It's important to give the **Name** and **Command** for your program to startup automatically, the **Comment** is optional.

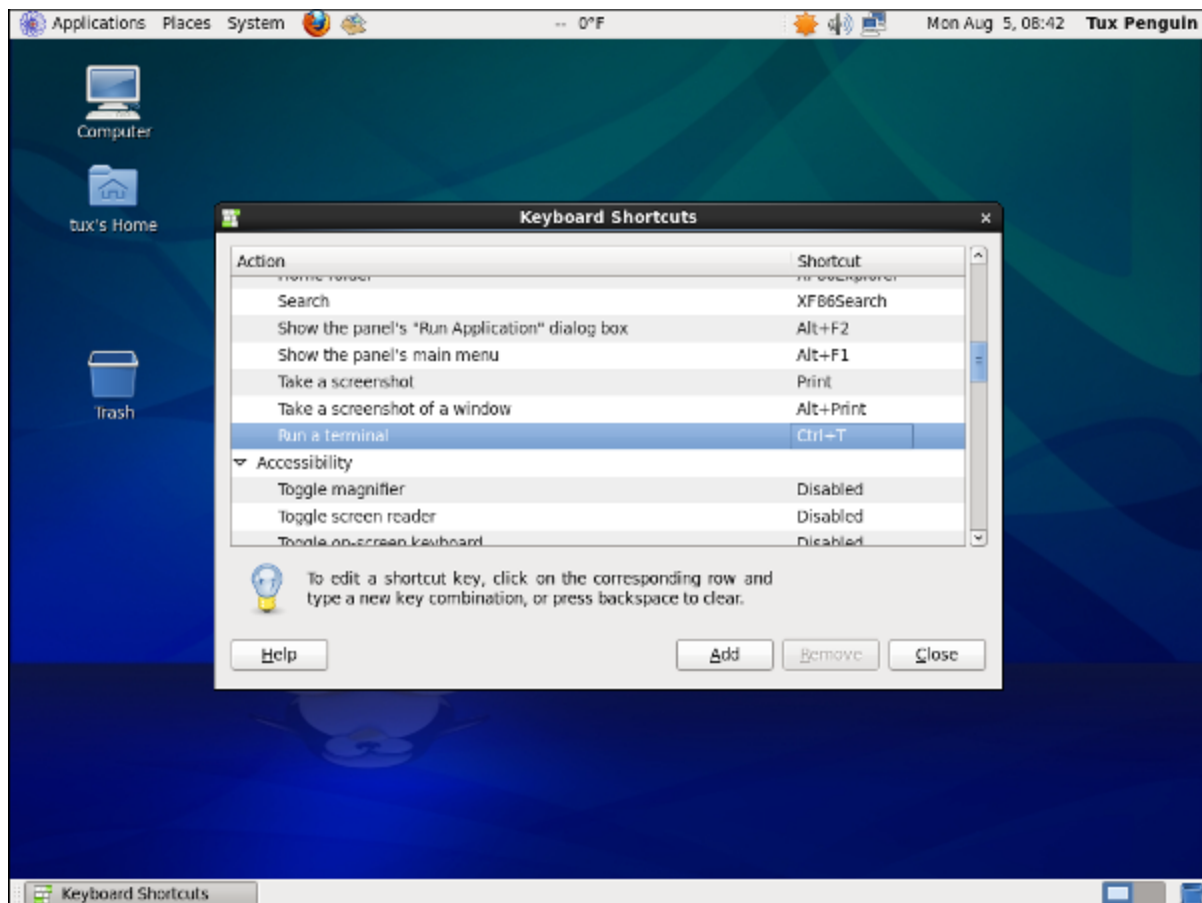
---

Another useful trick is to apply keybindings to your favorite applications. I use the terminal often so applying a key binding like CTRL + T would be useful to opening a terminal.

Click **SYSTEM > PREFERENCES > KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS**

Now what you're able to do is select an instruction we'd like to simplify with a binding and if desired, change the keyboard shortcut associated.

In our case, we're going to set the binding to open a terminal by clicking on the word **Disabled** and then issuing the binding we want which is **CTRL + T**

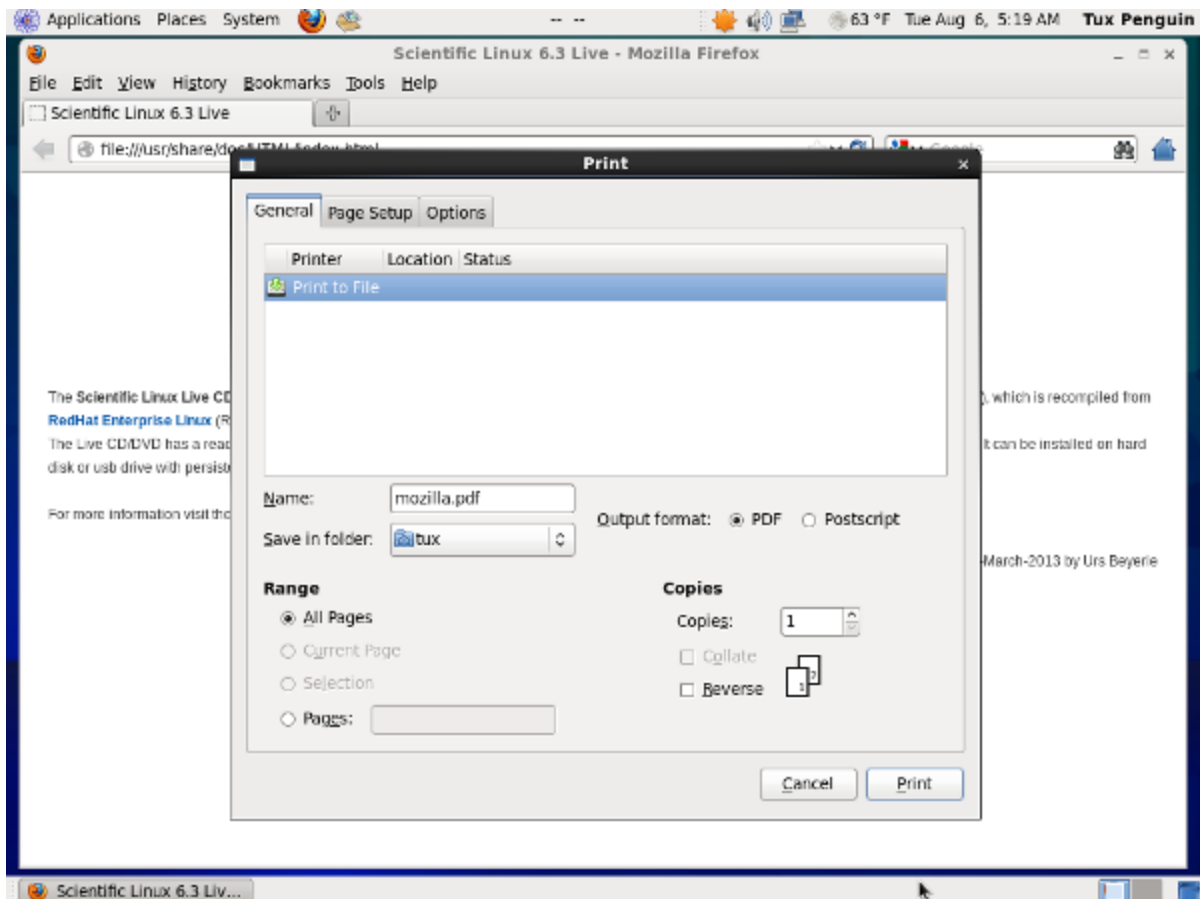


The one thing most of us have are phones and most phones have Bluetooth. If your laptop computer has a bluetooth adapter we can set your computer to automatically lock when you're outside of the bluetooth range and then when you return, automatically unlock your computer. You'll need to get BlueProximity which can be officially obtained at <http://blueproximity.sourceforge.net>

Unfortunately this software isn't endorsed by the Enterprise Linux vendors so you'll need some more training to install it but we really like it.

---

If you come from a Microsoft Windows environment, you have probably used 3rd party software to print items to a PDF instead of to paper. This feature is incredibly handy and you'll be pleased to know that your Linux system does not require 3rd party software to do this. Simply print as normal by clicking **FILE > PRINT** and select **PRINT TO FILE**



There are many more tips and tricks when it comes to customizing your environment but this short lesson serves to introduce you to some of them. Persevere and keep experimenting!

## Activities

- Create an additional panel and customize it to look like the top most panel.
- Set the program **pidgin** to automatically start on login\
- Allocate the keyboard shortcut **CTRL + SHIFT + 0** to take a screenshot
- Create a shortcut to Thunderbird on your desktop
- Now take a screenshot of your modified desktop