



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'xdg-open.1'

\$ man xdg-open.1

XDG-OPEN(1)

xdg-open Manual

XDG-OPEN(1)

NAME

xdg-open - opens a file or URL in the user's preferred application

SYNOPSIS

xdg-open {file | URL}

xdg-open {--help | --manual | --version}

DESCRIPTION

xdg-open opens a file or URL in the user's preferred application. If a URL is provided the URL will be opened in the user's preferred web browser. If a file is provided the file will be opened in the preferred application for files of that type. xdg-open supports file, ftp, http and https URLs.

xdg-open is for use inside a desktop session only. It is not recommended to use xdg-open as root.

As xdg-open can not handle arguments that begin with a ?-? it is recommended to pass filepaths in one of the following ways:

- ? Pass absolute paths, i.e. by using realpath as a preprocessor.
- ? Prefix known relative filepaths with a ?./?. For example using sed -E 's|^[^/]|./|'.
- ? Pass a file URL.

OPTIONS

--help

Show command synopsis.

--manual

Show this manual page.

--version

Show the xdg-utils version information.

EXIT CODES

An exit code of 0 indicates success while a non-zero exit code indicates failure. The following failure codes can be returned:

1

Error in command line syntax.

2

One of the files passed on the command line did not exist.

3

A required tool could not be found.

4

The action failed.

In case of success the process launched from the .desktop file will not be forked off and therefore may result in xdg-open running for a very long time. This behaviour intentionally differs from most desktop specific openers to allow terminal based applications to run using the same terminal xdg-open was called from.

REPORTING ISSUES

Please keep in mind xdg-open inherits most of the flaws of its configuration and the underlying opener.

In case the command `xdg-mime query default "$(xdg-mime query filetype path/to/troublesome_file)"` names the program responsible for any unexpected behaviour you can fix that by setting a different handler. (If the program is broken let the developers know)

Also see the security note on `xdg-mime(1)` for the default subcommand.

If a flaw is reproducible using the desktop specific opener (and isn't a configuration issue): Please report to whoever is responsible for that first (reporting to xdg-utils is better than not reporting at all, but since the xdg-utils are maintained in very little spare time a fix will take much longer)

In case an issue specific to xdg-open please report it to

<https://gitlab.freedesktop.org/xdg/xdg-utils/-/issues> .

SEE ALSO

`xdg-mime(1)`, `xdg-settings(1)`, MIME applications associations specification[1]

EXAMPLES

```
xdg-open 'http://www.freedesktop.org/'
```

Opens the freedesktop.org website in the user's default browser.

```
xdg-open /tmp/foobar.png
```

Opens the PNG image file /tmp/foobar.png in the user's default image viewing application.

AUTHORS

Kevin Krammer

Author.

Jeremy White

Author.

COPYRIGHT

Copyright ? 2006

NOTES

1. MIME applications associations specification

<http://www.freedesktop.org/wiki/Specifications/mime-apps-spec/>

xdg-utils 1.0

12/06/2025

XDG-OPEN(1)