

**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.

**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.

**SEE ALSO**

[xdg-mime\(1\)](#), [xdg-settings\(1\)](#), [MIME applications associations specification](#)<sup>[1]</sup>

**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.

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**NOTES**

1. MIME applications associations specification  
<http://www.freedesktop.org/wiki/Specifications/mime-apps-spec/>