

**NAME**

`xdg-user-dirs-update` – Update XDG user dir configuration

**SYNOPSIS**

**`xdg-user-dirs-update`** [OPTION...] [`--set NAME PATH...`]

**DESCRIPTION**

**`xdg-user-dirs-update`** updates the current state of the users `user-dirs.dir`. If none existed before then one is created based on the system default values, or falling back to the old non-translated filenames if such directories exists. The list of old directories used are: `~/Desktop`, `~/Templates` and `~/Public`.

If an old configuration exists it is updated with any new default directories. Additionally, any configured directories that point to non-existing locations are reset by pointing them to the users home directory. This typically happens when the users removed the directory, so they likely don't want to use it anymore.

On the first run a `user-dirs.locale` file is created containing the locale that was used for the translation. This is used later by GUI tools like **`xdg-user-dirs-gtk-update`** to detect if the locale was changed, letting you to migrate from the old names.

**`xdg-user-dirs-update`** is normally run automatically at the start of a user session to update the XDG user dirs according to the users locale.

**OPTIONS**

The following options are understood:

**`--help`**

Print help output and exit.

**`--force`**

Update existing `user-dirs.dir`, but force a full reset. This means: Don't reset nonexisting directories to HOME, rather recreate the directory. Never use backwards compatible non-translated names. Always recreate `user-dirs.locale`.

**`--dummy-output PATH`**

Write the configuration to *PATH* instead of the default configuration file. Also, no directories are created.

**`--set NAME PATH`**

Sets the XDG user dir with the given name.

*NAME* should be one of the following:

DESKTOP  
DOWNLOAD  
TEMPLATES  
PUBLICSHARE  
DOCUMENTS  
MUSIC  
PICTURES  
VIDEOS

*PATH* must be an absolute path, e.g. `$HOME/Some/Directory`.

**FILES**

The XDG user dirs configuration is stored in the `user-dirs.dir` file in the location pointed to by the **`XDG_CONFIG_HOME`** environment variable.

**ENVIRONMENT**

The **`XDG_CONFIG_HOME`** environment variable determines where the `user-dirs.dirs` file is located.

**SEE ALSO**

**`xdg-user-dir`**(1), **`user-dirs.dirs`**(5), **`user-dirs.defaults`**(5), **`user-dirs.conf`**(5).