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Chapter 5

Ubuntu and Games

OBJECTIVES

- Find and install games on Ubuntu
- Play some of the more popular Ubuntu games
- Configure other games

5.1 Installing Games on Ubuntu

Note:

The default installation package of Ubuntu 8.04 LTS comes with 17 Ubuntu games, including Aisleriot, Solitaire, Gnometriz and Mines. In addition, you can install many games from other repositories.

Enabling a repository is a one-time task. You do not have to enable the repositories every time before installing software.

5.1.1 Installing a Game from a Repository

Add/Remove Applications and **Synaptic Package Manager** are the Graphical User Interfaces (GUI) that enables you to install applications from the Ubuntu repositories. However, using **Add/Remove Applications** is the easiest way to install a game on your computer.

1. On the **Applications** menu, select **Add/Remove**.



Figure 5.1: Launching Add/Remove

2. In the **Add/Remove Applications** window, select **Games** from the left pane of the window to display a list of games in the top section of the right pane, along with the popularity of each game among users. The bottom section in the right pane displays a brief description of the game selected.



Figure 5.2: Add/Remove Applications window

- The right pane, by default, displays the games supported by Canonical Limited. To change the list of games, click **Supported Applications** and select the appropriate option from the drop-down list.



Figure 5.3: Changing List Option

- You can navigate through the list of games or search a game by its name. To initiate a search, type the name of the game in the **Search** box and press Enter. The top section of the right pane displays the search results. Select the check box next to the game to mark it for installation and click **Apply Changes**. A dialogue box opens, which requires confirmation to proceed with the installation.



Figure 5.4: Searching a Game

NOTE:

The search result is dependent on the display mode selected in the previous step. To widen the scope of search, select **All Available Applications** in the **Show** drop-down list.

Nice to Know:

To remove a game from your computer, clear the check box next to that game and click **Apply Changes**.

5. In the confirmation dialogue box, click **Apply** to proceed with the installation or click **Cancel** to return to the **Add/Remove Applications** window.



Figure 5.5: Confirming Changes

6. After the installation is complete, a dialogue box confirms the installation and provides the option to start the installed game, return to the **Add/Remove Applications** window or close it. Select the appropriate option in the dialogue box.



Figure 5.6: Dialogue Box Confirming Installation

7. To launch the installed game from the desktop, point to **Games** on the **Applications** menu and click the name of the game.

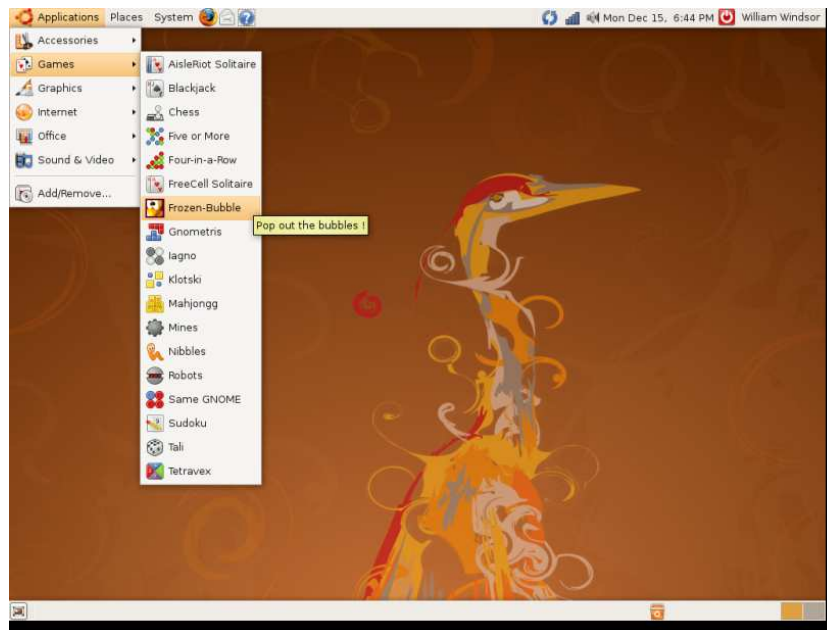


Figure 5.7: Launching a Game

Let's play!

5.2 Playing Ubuntu Games

Note:

Playing a game on Ubuntu is no different than playing it on any other Graphical User Interface (GUI)-based operating system. There are no pre-requisites to play these games and the real fun is in exploring these games yourself.

Ensure that you have hardware-accelerated 3D drivers installed for your video card.

5.2.1 Playing Frozen-Bubble

Note:

In Frozen-Bubble, you attempt to shoot bubbles into groups of the same colour to cause them to pop. Frozen-Bubble is a clone of the popular Puzzle Bobble game and features 100 single-player levels, two-player mode, music and striking graphics. You can

play this game with another player on your Local Area Network (LAN) or invite a player on the Internet to play. Frozen-Bubble is not in the list of default games so you should install it from the Universe repository.

This game does not have the option to turn off the sound. Therefore, if you are playing this game at your workplace and do not want other people to know, ensure that the speakers are turned off before launching this game.

1. On the **Applications** menu, point to **Games** and click **Frozen-Bubble** to launch the game.



Figure 5.8: Launching Frozen-Bubble

2. The **Frozen-Bubble 2** window lists options to select the playing mode, customise the levels, change the resolution of the graphics, specify the keys on your keyboard with which you want to play this game or view the high scores list.



Figure 5.9: Frozen-Bubble Main Menu

3. To start playing the game in single player mode, select **START 1P GAME** and press **Enter** to display the **Start 1- player game menu**. Select **PLAY DEFAULT LEVEL SeT** and press **Enter** to launch Level 1 of the game.



Figure 5.10: Single Player Game Menu

NOTE:

Use the up or down arrow keys to navigate through the options.

4. The aim of the game is to prevent the bubbles from reaching the penguin next to the igloo. At the start of the game, you will see an arrangement of coloured bubbles on the window, a bubble gun that contains a bubble, and a pointer. Use the left and right arrow keys to change the direction of the pointer and the space bar to fire the bubble. To pop the bubbles, you should hit at least three bubbles of the same colour. If the fired bubble hits a bubble of a different colour, it sticks to that bubble and is added to the arrangement.



Figure 5.11: Playing Window

5. You have to fire the bubble from the bubble gun within seven seconds of firing the previous one; otherwise, a **Hurry** warning flashes three times and the bubble gun fires the bubble automatically. The bubble appearing in the igloo window is the next bubble to appear in the gun.



Figure 5.12: Flashing Hurry Warning

To add to the plight of the poor penguin, FB-01 and FB-02 keep pushing the plank towards the penguin, reducing the area for the bubble arrangement.

6. If you succeed in popping all the bubbles, you win! You can then press any key to proceed to the next level.



Figure 5.13: Displaying Level Results

NOTE:

Press the **ESC** key to go back to the previous window or close the application.

7. If you leave the game after achieving a high score, type your name in the window that opens and press **Enter** to display the high score listings. In the list, you can view the level you reached and the time taken to reach that level. Press **ESC** to return to the main menu.



Figure 5.14: High Score Windows

If you do not like the pre-defined arrangement of the bubbles, you can create your own arrangement by selecting **Level editor** from the main menu.

5.2.2 Playing PlanetPenguin Racer

PlanetPenguin Racer, also called ppracer, is a simple racing game featuring Tux, the Linux mascot. This game is based on the popular Linux game Tux Racer. The goal of the game is to slide down a snow and ice covered mountain as quickly as possible, avoiding the trees and rocks that will slow you down.

1. Install the **planetpenguin-racer** package from the Universe repository.
2. On the **Applications** menu, point to **Games** and click **Planet Penguin Racer** to launch the game.



Figure 5.15: Launching PlanetPenguin Racer

3. Press any key on the keyboard to proceed to the next window.

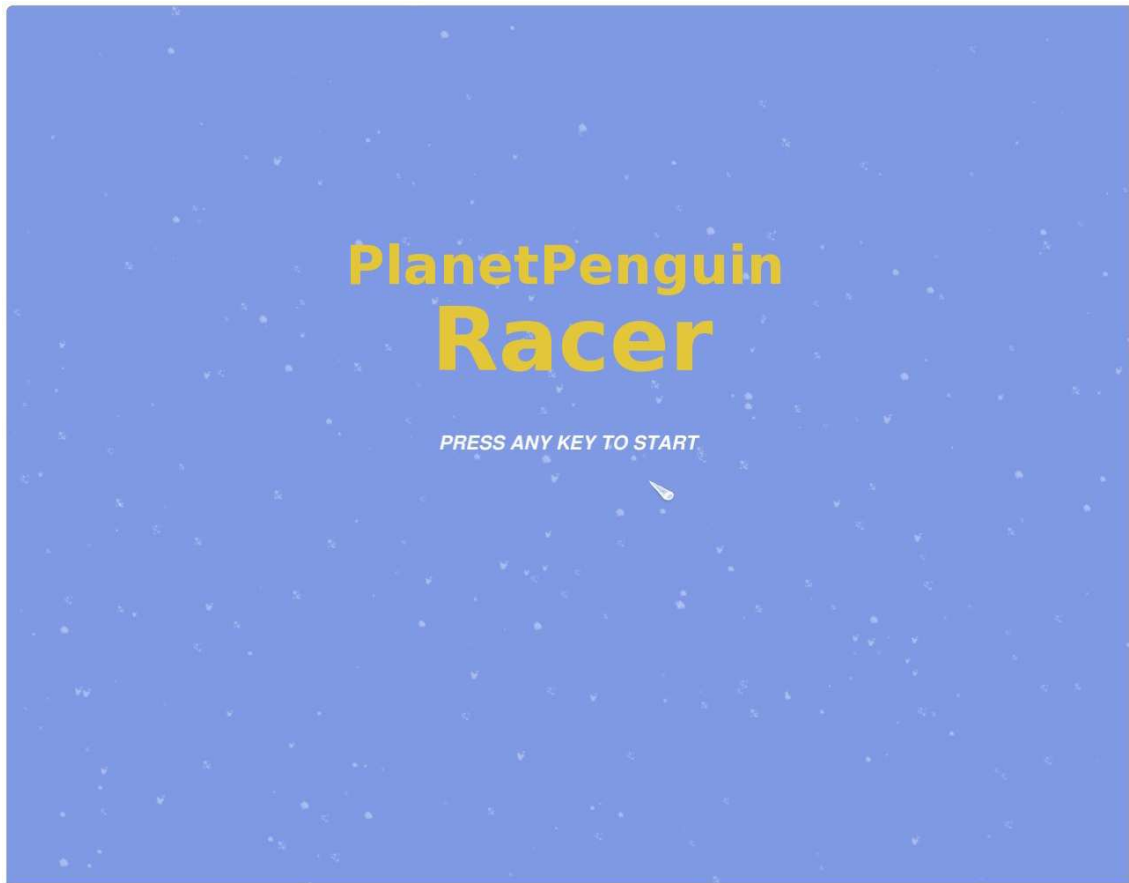


Figure 5.16: Starting Window

4. The next window displays the main menu of the game. Click the options on this menu to take part in a racing event, practise before entering any event, configure the game settings, view credits and quit the game.



Figure 5.17: Entering an Event

5. You can play this game by using a computer keyboard or a joystick. On the main menu, click **Configuration** and then click **Keyboard** or **Joystick** to know their default key settings. You can also change the key settings according to your preferences. Click **Back** to return to the main menu.



Figure 5.18: Configuration Options

6. On the main menu, click **Enter an Event**, select the event and the cup in which you want to participate and then click **Continue** to proceed.

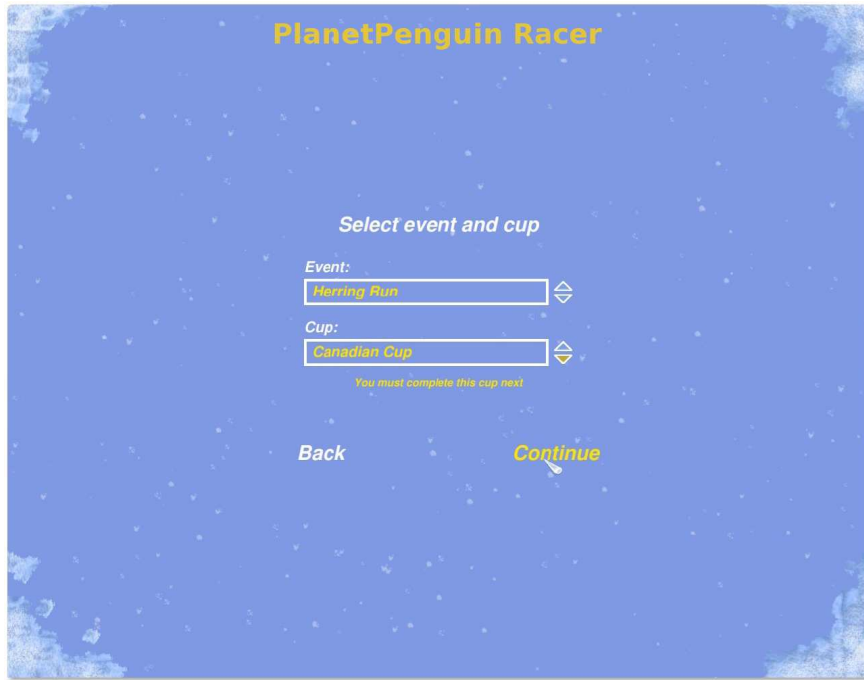


Figure 5.19: Selecting Event and Cup

7. The next window prompts you to select a race. As a beginner, you do not have any option but to continue with the default race. However, do read the **Needed to advance** information to know the minimum requirement to qualify for the next round in the cup.
8. Click **Race!** to start the race.

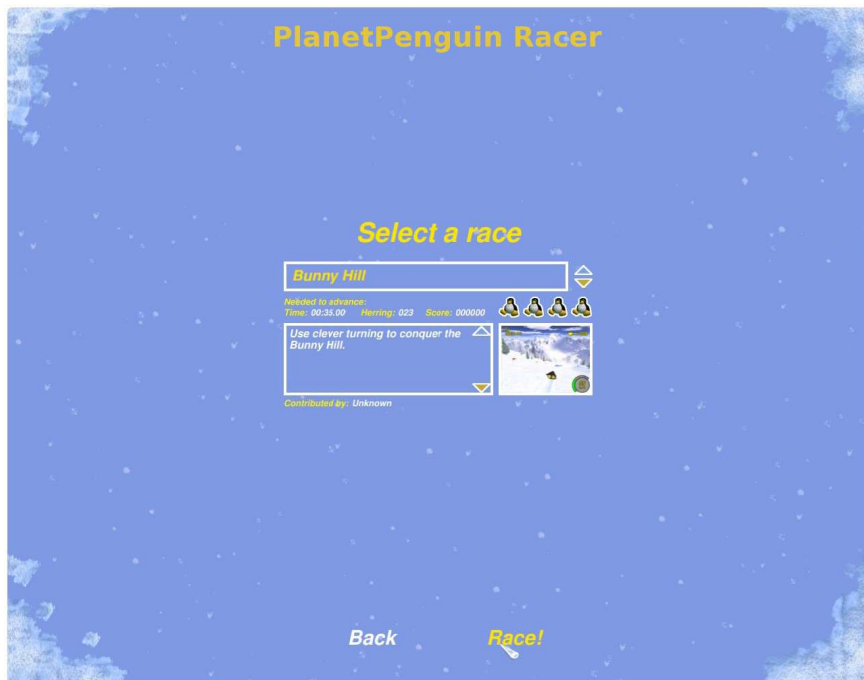


Figure 5.20: Selecting a Race

- The next window starts the race. The intent of the game is to make Tux reach the **Finish** line, collecting herrings on the way. If you succeed in reaching the **Finish** line within the parameters mentioned in **Needed to advance**, you proceed to the next round; otherwise, you have to play the round again. There are four attempts or lives that you get to compete in an event. If you fail to satisfy the wining criteria, one life is deducted.



Figure 5.21: Playing PlanetPenguin Racer

You can win the cups only by practising and focusing on improving your performance.

5.3 Playing Other Popular Games

In addition to all the games available in Ubuntu, you can play games created for Microsoft Windows. However, to do so, you need the ability to run Windows applications in Ubuntu. One of the programmes that provides this ability is named Wine.

5.3.1 Installing Wine

- Install the **wine** and **wine-dev** packages from **Synaptic Package Manager**.
- The configuration of wine can be altered through **Applications, Wine, Configure Wine**.
- This window allows you to customise a variety of settings for Wine, such as the Microsoft Windows version that is being simulated, drive mappings, as well as application-specific settings. Click **OK** to close the window.

Install the **wine** and **wine-dev** packages from **Synaptic Package Manager**.

Wine is configured on your computer with an artificial C: drive. You can now access many Microsoft Windows application on Ubuntu.

5.3.2 Playing a Microsoft Windows Game on Ubuntu

A Microsoft Windows executable file can be started with Wine through **right-click, Open with "Wine Windows Emulator"**.

If you install a Microsoft Windows application with Wine, an icon may be found in **Applications, Other**.

5.4 Lesson Summary

In this lesson, you learned that:

- You can install and play many games available by default on Ubuntu and in repositories.
- You can install games by using the Add/Remove Applications or Synaptic Package Manager.
- You can play Microsoft Windows games on Ubuntu by installing a programme that provides a Microsoft Windows environment, such as Wine.

5.5 Review Exercise

Intentionally left blank.

5.6 Lab Exercise

Exercise 1: Installing a game on Ubuntu During a recent get together with your friends, you heard a lot of good things about a game that they play on their Linux operating system. You wish to play the same game, but you cannot find that game in the games package that got installed with Ubuntu. What do you need to do in order to play this game on your computer?

1. On the **System** menu, point to **Administration** and click **Software Sources** to display the **Software Sources** dialogue box.
2. On the **Software Sources** dialogue box, select the check boxes next to main and universe options. Retain the **Main server** option in the **Download from** category and clear the **CDrom** check box.
3. Click **Close** to display a prompt and then click **Reload** on the prompt to update the list of applications available.
4. To install the game, select **Add/Remove** on the **Applications** menu to display the **Add/Remove Applications** window.
5. Select **Games** in the left pane of the window, change the Show list option to **All Open Source Applications**, type the name of the game in the **Search** box and press Enter.
6. Select the check box next to the game to mark it for installation and click **Apply Changes**.
7. On the confirmation dialogue box, click **Apply** to proceed.
8. After the installation of the game is complete, a dialogue box confirms the installation and provides the option to launch the installed game. Double-click the name of the game to launch it. Alternatively, you can close this dialogue box and launch the game by using the **Applications** menu on the desktop.

Exercise 2: Installing Wine and playing a Microsoft Windows game on Ubuntu You were browsing the Web one day and came across an interesting game. You downloaded it and every thing seemed fine until you realise that the game could be played only on Microsoft Windows, which is not installed on your computer. You really liked the game, how do you play this on Ubuntu?

1. Install **wine** and **wine-dev** packages from **Synaptic Package Manager**.
 2. Open the games setup tool with Wine.
 3. Start the games from the Applications menu.
-