

Fedora Core 6

User Guide



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Edition 2.0

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Preface

1. Document Conventions

This manual uses several conventions to highlight certain words and phrases and draw attention to specific pieces of information.

In PDF and paper editions, this manual uses typefaces drawn from the *Liberation Fonts*¹ set. The Liberation Fonts set is also used in HTML editions if the set is installed on your system. If not, alternative but equivalent typefaces are displayed. Note: Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5 and later includes the Liberation Fonts set by default.

1.1. Typographic Conventions

Four typographic conventions are used to call attention to specific words and phrases. These conventions, and the circumstances they apply to, are as follows.

Mono-spaced Bold

Used to highlight system input, including shell commands, file names and paths. Also used to highlight keycaps and key combinations. For example:

To see the contents of the file **my_next_bestselling_novel** in your current working directory, enter the **cat my_next_bestselling_novel** command at the shell prompt and press **Enter** to execute the command.

The above includes a file name, a shell command and a keycap, all presented in mono-spaced bold and all distinguishable thanks to context.

Key combinations can be distinguished from keycaps by the hyphen connecting each part of a key combination. For example:

Press **Enter** to execute the command.

Press **Ctrl+Alt+F1** to switch to the first virtual terminal. Press **Ctrl+Alt+F7** to return to your X-Windows session.

The first paragraph highlights the particular keycap to press. The second highlights two key combinations (each a set of three keycaps with each set pressed simultaneously).

If source code is discussed, class names, methods, functions, variable names and returned values mentioned within a paragraph will be presented as above, in **mono-spaced bold**. For example:

File-related classes include **filesystem** for file systems, **file** for files, and **dir** for directories. Each class has its own associated set of permissions.

Proportional Bold

This denotes words or phrases encountered on a system, including application names; dialog box text; labeled buttons; check-box and radio button labels; menu titles and sub-menu titles. For example:

¹ <https://fedorahosted.org/liberation-fonts/>

Choose **System** → **Preferences** → **Mouse** from the main menu bar to launch **Mouse Preferences**. In the **Buttons** tab, click the **Left-handed mouse** check box and click **Close** to switch the primary mouse button from the left to the right (making the mouse suitable for use in the left hand).

To insert a special character into a **gedit** file, choose **Applications** → **Accessories** → **Character Map** from the main menu bar. Next, choose **Search** → **Find...** from the **Character Map** menu bar, type the name of the character in the **Search** field and click **Next**. The character you sought will be highlighted in the **Character Table**. Double-click this highlighted character to place it in the **Text to copy** field and then click the **Copy** button. Now switch back to your document and choose **Edit** → **Paste** from the **gedit** menu bar.

The above text includes application names; system-wide menu names and items; application-specific menu names; and buttons and text found within a GUI interface, all presented in proportional bold and all distinguishable by context.

Mono-spaced Bold Italic or ***Proportional Bold Italic***

Whether mono-spaced bold or proportional bold, the addition of italics indicates replaceable or variable text. Italics denotes text you do not input literally or displayed text that changes depending on circumstance. For example:

To connect to a remote machine using ssh, type **ssh *username@domain.name*** at a shell prompt. If the remote machine is **example.com** and your username on that machine is john, type **ssh *john@example.com***.

The **mount -o *remount file-system*** command remounts the named file system. For example, to remount the **/home** file system, the command is **mount -o *remount /home***.

To see the version of a currently installed package, use the **rpm -q *package*** command. It will return a result as follows: ***package-version-release***.

Note the words in bold italics above — *username*, *domain.name*, *file-system*, *package*, *version* and *release*. Each word is a placeholder, either for text you enter when issuing a command or for text displayed by the system.

Aside from standard usage for presenting the title of a work, italics denotes the first use of a new and important term. For example:

Publican is a *DocBook* publishing system.

1.2. Pull-quote Conventions

Terminal output and source code listings are set off visually from the surrounding text.

Output sent to a terminal is set in **mono-spaced roman** and presented thus:

```
books      Desktop  documentation  drafts  mss    photos  stuff  svn
books_tests Desktop1  downloads      images  notes  scripts svgs
```

Source-code listings are also set in **mono-spaced roman** but add syntax highlighting as follows:

```
package org.jboss.book.jca.ex1;

import javax.naming.InitialContext;

public class ExClient
{
    public static void main(String args[])
        throws Exception
    {
        InitialContext iniCtx = new InitialContext();
        Object          ref    = iniCtx.lookup("EchoBean");
        EchoHome        home   = (EchoHome) ref;
        Echo             echo   = home.create();

        System.out.println("Created Echo");

        System.out.println("Echo.echo('Hello') = " + echo.echo("Hello"));
    }
}
```

1.3. Notes and Warnings

Finally, we use three visual styles to draw attention to information that might otherwise be overlooked.



Note

Notes are tips, shortcuts or alternative approaches to the task at hand. Ignoring a note should have no negative consequences, but you might miss out on a trick that makes your life easier.



Important

Important boxes detail things that are easily missed: configuration changes that only apply to the current session, or services that need restarting before an update will apply. Ignoring a box labeled 'Important' won't cause data loss but may cause irritation and frustration.



Warning

Warnings should not be ignored. Ignoring warnings will most likely cause data loss.

2. We Need Feedback!

If you find a typographical error in this manual, or if you have thought of a way to make this manual better, we would love to hear from you! Please submit a report in Bugzilla: <http://bugzilla.redhat.com/bugzilla/> against the product **Fedora Documentation**.

When submitting a bug report, be sure to mention the manual's identifier: *user-guide*

If you have a suggestion for improving the documentation, try to be as specific as possible when describing it. If you have found an error, please include the section number and some of the surrounding text so we can find it easily.

Introduction

Welcome to the Fedora Core 6 Desktop User Guide! This guide is intended for users, with a working Fedora Core 6 system, who are able to use a mouse and keyboard. This guide shows:

- How to login to your computer
- The layout of the default Fedora desktop
- How to use Nautilus, a file and system navigator
- How to use Evolution, an e-mail client
- How to use Gaim, an instant messenger client
- How to use Firefox, a web-browser
- How to use OpenOffice, an office suite
- How to customize your new Fedora desktop

1.1. About this Document

Volunteer contributors from the Fedora Documentation Project created this guide, and many others, for each release of Fedora. If you have questions or suggestions about Fedora documentation, or if you would like to help document Fedora, please visit the Fedora Documentation Project web site:

<http://fedoraproject.org/wiki/DocsProject>

For assistance installing Fedora Core 6, please read the Fedora Core Installation Guide:

<http://fedora.redhat.com/docs/install-guide/fc6/>

Thank you for choosing Fedora.

Logging into the Desktop

This section of the Fedora Desktop User Guide explains how to login to your system. The *user account* and the password created during the installation process is necessary to complete this step. If you have forgotten your user account, your password, or both, read [Section 2.2, “I Cannot Login: HELP!”](#). For additional information about the login process, read [Section 2.1, “Logging In: An Explanation”](#). This first section covers the login process.

Any user can now login when the display looks similar to the picture below:

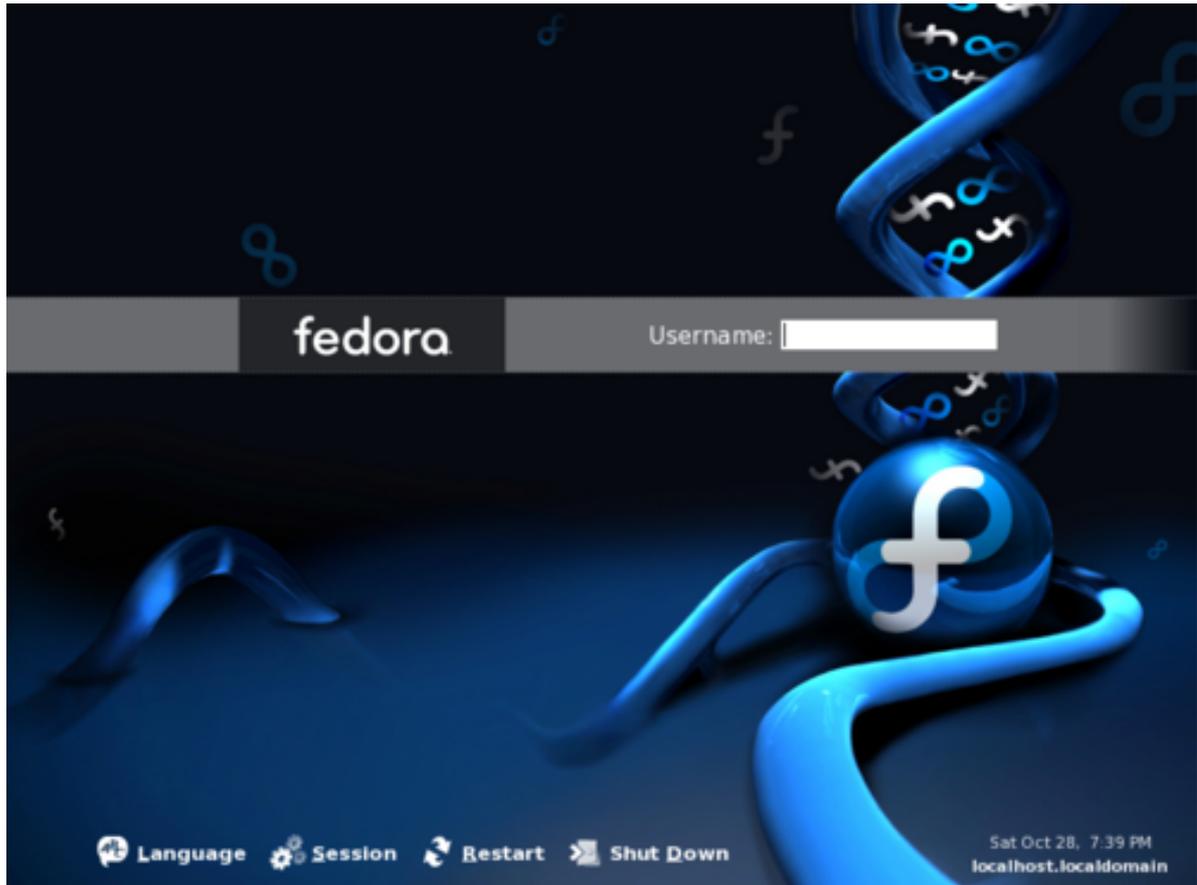


Figure 2.1. Login Screen

To login, type your username into the horizontal field containing a blinking black bar (the *cursor*). Next, press the **[Enter]** key. Next, type your password into the same field you typed your username, then press the **[Enter]** key.



Password display

For security reasons, a dot is displayed for every character entered in the password field.



Keep your password private

As with any password, your Fedora account password should be kept private and not shared with anyone or written down in plain view.

Each computer user should be assigned a unique username and password. With unique user accounts, the system is more secure, and Fedora automatically stores files and other sensitive information separately from other users.



Your username and password are case-sensitive.

A correct username and password is required to login to the system. Common errors include mis-typed fields or the **[Caps Lock]** feature is on. Remember, usernames and passwords are case-sensitive. This means that 'user' is not the same as 'USER' or 'uSeR'. If problems persist, read the section *Section 2.2, "I Cannot Login: HELP!"*

After a correct username and password are entered, the login screen will be replaced by the *splash screen*. After this, the splash screen should be replaced by the default Fedora 6 desktop. Congratulations! The computer is now ready for use.

2.1. Logging In: An Explanation

Fedora is a *multi-user* operating system. In short, this means multiple users can be logged into the computer at the same time. Three distinct groups, *normal user*, *system user* and administrative accounts exist on your Fedora system. By default, your account is created as a *normal user* account. Normal users have permission to run a desktop and related desktop applications. System users have permission to programs running in the background, often with elevated privileges, that help maintain your computer system. One example of a system account is the Xscreensaver program.



Modify Default Login Procedure with Xscreensaver.

The Fedora login process is regulated by a system user called **Xscreensaver**. Xscreensaver secures your desktop when it is unattended and can be configured by accessing the following menu options: *System > Preferences > Screensaver*.

Administrative accounts are accounts with elevated privileges, such as the *root* account, that enable the user to perform tasks to alter the behavior and ability of other users on the computer system. The *root* user is considered the "ultimate" administrative account as it has domain over the entire machine. For more information about these different levels, permissions, and user provisioning, please refer to the *Fedora Administration Guide*¹.



Day-to-day tasks do not require root level access.

Do not log into your desktop as root, as it is potentially dangerous. When the need arises to perform maintenance duties such as installing software, removing software, or updating the system, the tool can be run as the root user. This is done in this guide with the command form `su -c 'command-to-be-run-as-root'`. Programs that require root privileges will to prompt you for the root password before the program starts.

¹ <http://fedoraproject.org/wiki/Docs/Drafts/AdministrationGuide>

2.2. I Cannot Login: HELP!

Recovering or replacing a password for a user account is not hard, but it is beyond the scope of this guide. For an explanation and details on how to do this, please refer to the [Fedora Administration Guide](#)², which has a section on user accounts, and [password recovery](#)³.

² <http://fedoraproject.org/wiki/Docs/Drafts/AdministrationGuide>

³ <http://fedoraproject.org/wiki/Docs/Drafts/AdministrationGuide/UserAccounts>

Tour of the Desktop

This chapter introduces the default desktop environment in Fedora. By providing a common terminology for the elements on the desktop, it is easier to explain how to use the desktop throughout this guide.

3.1. View of the Default Desktop

Upon the initial login into Fedora, you will see default desktop shown here:

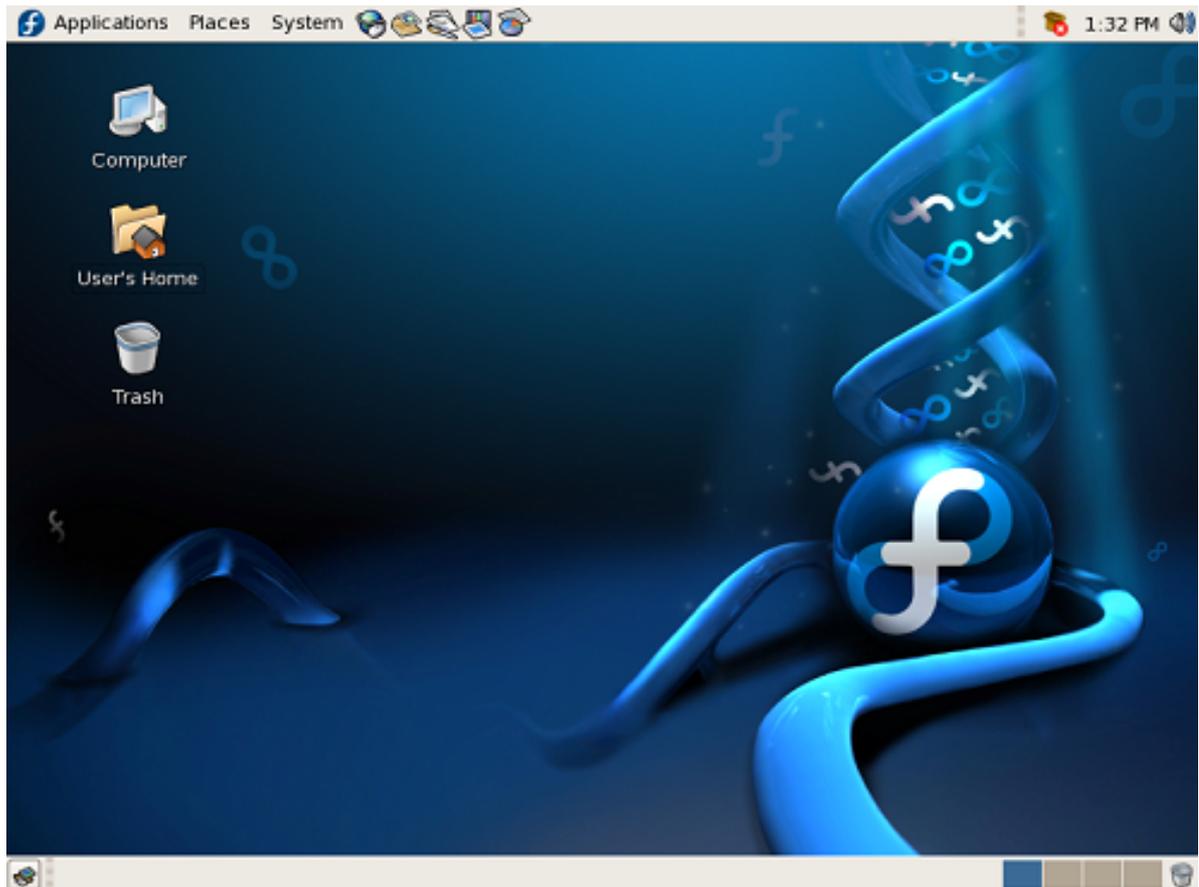


Figure 3.1. Default Fedora Desktop

The default desktop has three distinct areas. From top to bottom, the areas are:

- The *menu panel*
- The *desktop area*
- The *window list panel*

The layout location of these items can be customized, but the term used for each of them remains the same.

The menu panel stretches across the top of the screen. It contains three menus and a number of default icons that start software applications. It also provides a clock, volume control applet, and a notification area.

The desktop area is the screen space between the menu panel and the window list panel. The *Computer*, *Home Directory*, and *Trash* icons are located in the top left corner of this area. Those users more familiar with Microsoft Windows may equate these icons to the *My Computer*, *My Documents*, and *Recycle Bin*, respectively.

The window list panel is located at the bottom of the screen. It features the *Show Desktop* icon, running applications as icons, and it gives access to the workplace switcher and the trash.

The following sections discuss the menu panel, desktop area, and window list panel in further detail.

3.2. The Menu Panel



Figure 3.2. Gnome Menu Panel

- *Applications* - The *Applications* menu contains a variety of icons that start software applications. The icons are ordered by category. It is similar to the Microsoft Windows *Start* menu.
- *Places* - The *Places* menu contains a customizable list of directories, *mounted volumes*, recent documents, and a *Search* function. Volumes that are mounted may be external USB drives (flash, hard disk, CD, etc.), directories shared across a network, or other media devices such as a portable music player. Read more about this in [Chapter 4, Using Media](#).
- *System* - The *System* menu contains a variety of items. *Log Out*, *About*, and *Help* are self-explanatory. *Lock Screen* starts the screen saver or blanks the screen and prevents the desktop from being used until a password is entered. *Preferences* contains tools for configuring peripherals and the desktop. *System Settings* also contains configuration tools that are for administrative purposes and usually require root access; that is, when those applications are started, the root password must be entered to continue.

In addition to the menus, the menu panel contains a number of icons for common software.

	<p>Mozilla Firefox web browser.</p>
	<p>Evolution mail client and personal information manager.</p>
	<p>OpenOffice.org Writer is a word processing program.</p>
	<p>OpenOffice.org Impress is for creating and giving presentations.</p>

	OpenOffice.org Calc is a spreadsheet tool.
---	---

Table 3.1. Some Desktop Icons



Office and Productivity Tools

Writer, **Impress**, and **Calc** are displayed only if *Office and Productivity Tools* was selected during installation. The Add/Remove program application, **Pirut**, can be used to install these office tools at any time.

You can add program icons that start an application to the menu panel. These icons are called *launchers*. Right-click on the panel, and select *Add to Panel*.



Alternative

There is another way to add an application launcher to the menu panel if the application is already listed in the Applications menu. Navigate to the application in the Applications menu, right-click on the application, and select *Add this launcher to panel*.

The appearance of the panel can also be customized. Right-click on the panel and select *Properties*.

3.3. The Desktop Area

Before any additional icons are added to the desktop, the desktop area contains three icons by default:

1. *Computer* - This contains all volumes (or disks) mounted on the computer. These are also listed in the *Places* menu. *Computer* is equivalent to *My Computer* on Microsoft Windows.
2. *Home* - This is where the logged-in user stores all files by default, such as music, movies, and documents. There is a different home directory for each user, and by default users cannot access each others' home directories. *Home* is equivalent to *My Documents* on Microsoft Windows.
3. *Trash* - Deleted files are moved to *Trash*. Empty *Trash* by right-clicking the icon and clicking *Empty Trash*.



Permanently deleting files

To permanently delete a file and bypass the file's move to *Trash*, hold down the **[Shift]** key when deleting the file.

Right-clicking on the desktop presents a menu of actions related to the desktop area. For example, clicking on *Change Desktop Background* lets you choose a different image or photograph to display on the desktop. This is similar to changing the desktop *wallpaper* on a Microsoft Windows desktop. It is possible to choose not to have any desktop background.

3.4. The Window List Panel



Figure 3.3. Fedora Window List

The window list panel has three components:

- The Show Desktop button
- The Workspace Switcher
- The Trash icon

Clicking on the show desktop button hides all open windows and shows the desktop area. This is useful when the number of open applications windows becomes cluttered. The windows are minimized and can be displayed by clicking on the minimized window in the window list panel.

Open applications appear as button icons in the middle part of the window list panel; these are the *open windows* being listed.

The application window that has *focus* appears as a depressed button. Usually, this is the application whose window is on top of all the others on the screen. Switch from one running application to another by clicking on the desired application's button in the window list.



Use the key combination [Alt]+[Tab] to switch between open windows.

Holding down the [Alt] key while you tap the [Tab] key allows you to cycle through all open applications.

The workspace switcher is situated on the far right. Workspaces have long been a feature of UNIX and Linux desktop environments. Each workspace provides a separate desktop where applications can be organized. The workspace switcher allows you to switch from one workspace to another. Each workspace has separate desktop areas with a matching window list panel. However, the menu panel and background image is the same on all desktops.

The *Trash* icon on the right end of the window list panel works the same as the *Trash* icon in the desktop area.

Using Media

This chapter covers how to use media such as hard drives, DVDs, CDs, and flash drives in Fedora. When these media are mounted, they are called *volumes*.

4.1. Understanding

When you insert media into your computer, Fedora automatically detects the volume. An icon is placed both on your desktop and in the *Places* menu.



System hard disk is already mounted

The hard disk drive that Fedora is installed on is mounted during system boot and cannot be removed or ejected the way other media can. Access this drive through the *Computer* icon on the desktop or through *Places > Computer*.

When you are finished using your media, alert Fedora that you would like to remove this volume. To do this, right-click on the device's icon and then select *Unmount Volume* or *Eject*, depending on what type of media you are using.

4.2. Exploring Media

To view the contents of a volume, double-click on the icon on the desktop, or choose the volume name from the *Places* menu.

All of the contents of your volume are displayed in the window.

4.3. Writing CDs or DVDs

Fedora includes support for writing to CDs and DVDs. To write to a CD or DVD:

1. Open a **Nautilus** window, such as *Home* or *Computer*. **Nautilus** is the graphical file manager.
2. Select *Places > CD/DVD Creator*.
3. Drag and drop the files you wish to burn into this new empty window.
4. Click *Write to Disc*.
5. In the dialog box, you can change the name of the disc and the write speed if they are incorrect.
6. Click *Write*.

4.4. Using a USB Drive

When you plug in a USB drive, Fedora automatically detects this and puts an icon on your desktop. You may then use your USB drive as you would any other volume.

Accessing the Web

Fedora uses **Mozilla Firefox** by default to access the World Wide Web (*Web*). **Firefox** is a multi platform, standards-compliant Web browser.

Features of **Mozilla Firefox** include:

- **Tabbed Browsing:** Separate tabs for each Webpage are provided, all within one **Firefox** window.
- **Extensions and Plugins:** Various extensions and plugins are available that support new features, such as search fields directly in the toolbar.
- **Small and Fast:** By focusing on providing an extendable Web browser, **Firefox** is smaller and faster than other browsers

5.1. Starting Firefox

You can start **Firefox** by selecting *Applications > Internet > Firefox Web Browser* or by using the menu panel icon:



Figure 5.1. Browser Icon

5.2. Going Further

Firefox has support for different plugins that extend its capabilities. This framework allows anyone to create extensions and plugins.

You can find more information on Firefox at:

<http://www.mozilla.org/support/firefox/>

Communications (Email, IM)

Fedora can be used to send electronic mail and communicate in real time with people around the world. By default, **Evolution** is used to send electronic mail (*email*), and **Gaim** is used to send instant messages (*IM*).

Evolution is more than an email program. It is also a *personal information manager*. You can maintain a calendar, manage a list of tasks, and keep an address book of contacts.

Gaim is an instant messaging program (*client*) that can access MSN, AOL, Yahoo!, Jabber, and other IM and chat networks.



Accounts must already exist

Gaim requires an existing account on each of the IM networks, created via the normal account creation process. For example, **Gaim** cannot be used to create a **Yahoo Instant Messenger** account. Instead, visit <http://messenger.yahoo.com> to set up the account, then access it using **Gaim**.

6.1. Setting Up Your Email

This information is specific to using **Evolution** on Fedora. Additional documentation for **Evolution** is available at:

<http://www.gnome.org/projects/evolution/documentation.shtml>

To start **Evolution**, select *Applications > Internet > Email* from the menu panel, or use the *application launcher* icon from the menu panel:



Figure 6.1. E-mail Icon

Running the software for the first time displays the *Evolution Setup Assistant* wizard, which is used to configure an initial email account. The first screen displays a welcome message. Click *Forward* to bring up the next screen, titled *Identity*.

Identity is for configuring the initial values relating to personal email accounts. The screen contains fields for required information, including *Full Name* and *Email Address*. Beneath this is *Optional Information*, which has a *Reply to* value, should the reply address be different to that entered in the *Email Address*. This area also allows the user to add an *Organization* name. Once completed, clicking *Forward* continues to the next screen.

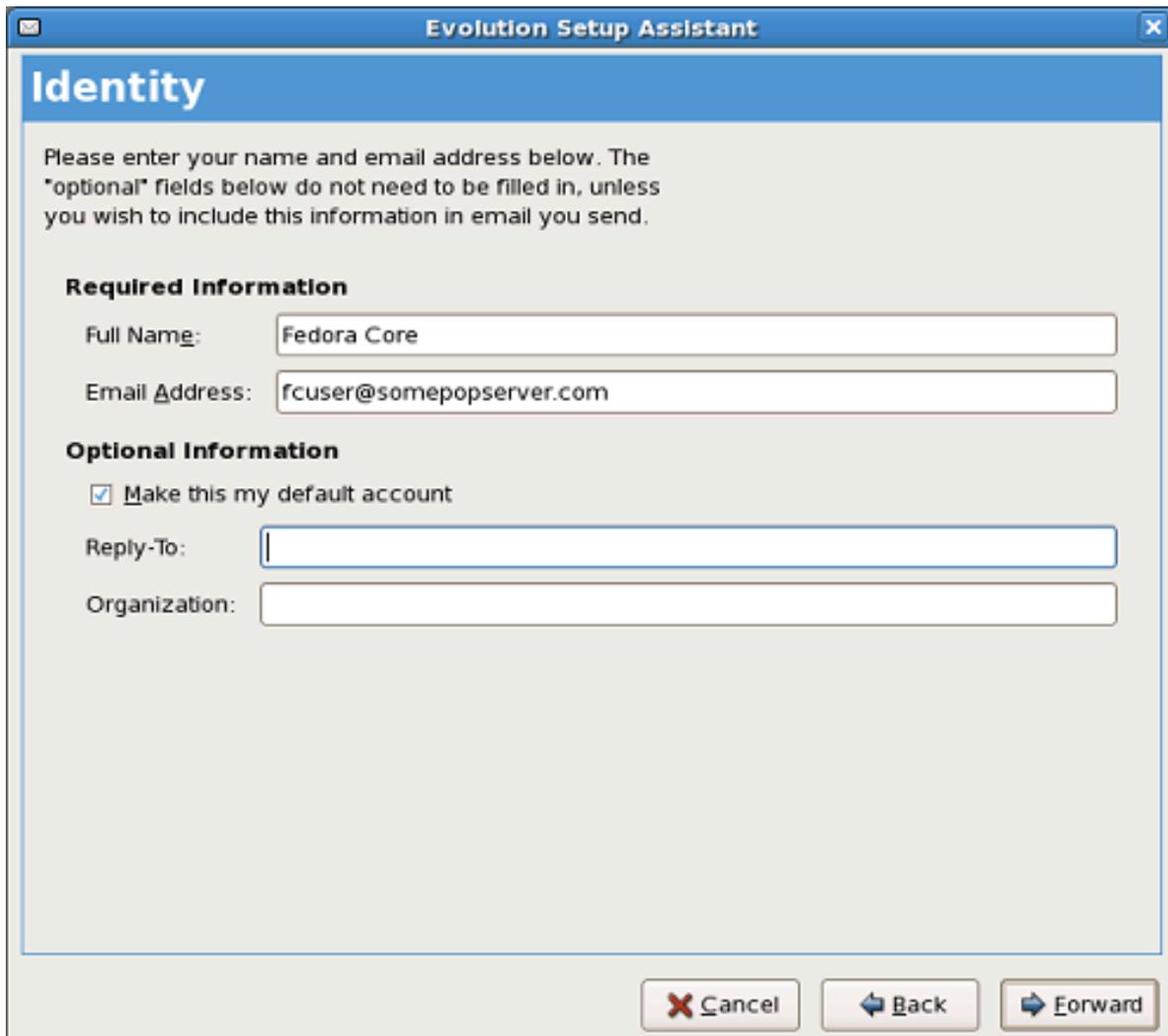


Figure 6.2. Identity screen

The next screen is *Receiving Email*, which is for configuring the retrieval settings for the initial email account. The user must choose the type of server from a drop down menu. This information is supplied by your internet service provider (*ISP*) or email administrator. By default, **Evolution** allows the following to be configured: *None, Hula, IMAP, Novell GroupWise, POP, UseNet, Local Delivery, MH-format, Maildir-format, and mbox spools.*



Most popular formats
The most popular mail formats are POP and IMAP.

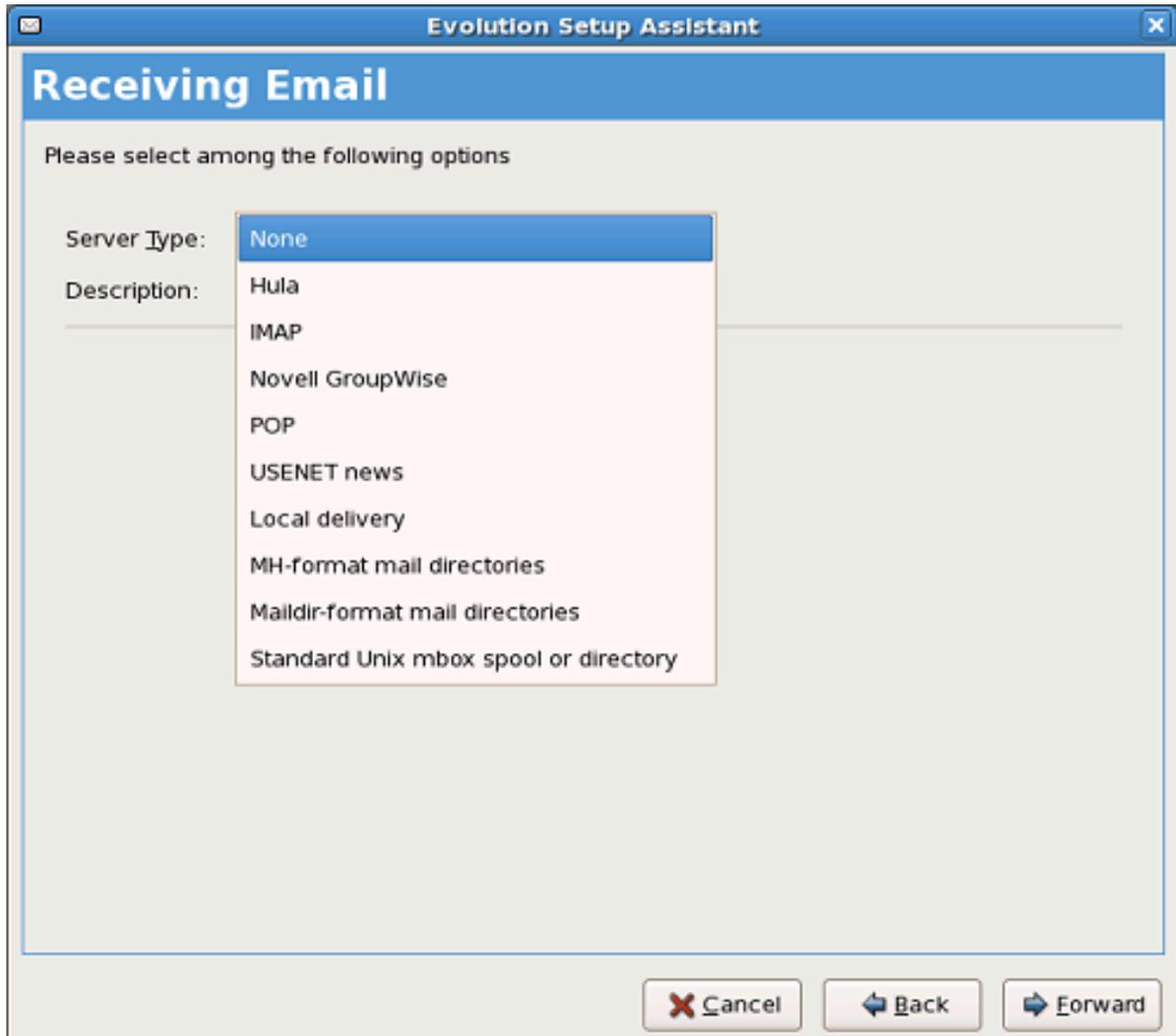


Figure 6.3. Server type selection

Once an option is selected, other fields become active that need to be considered. Most users require either the POP or IMAP server type to be selected. Selecting one of them brings up fields for *Server* and *Username*, as well as security settings. This information is available from the ISP or administrator for the email account.

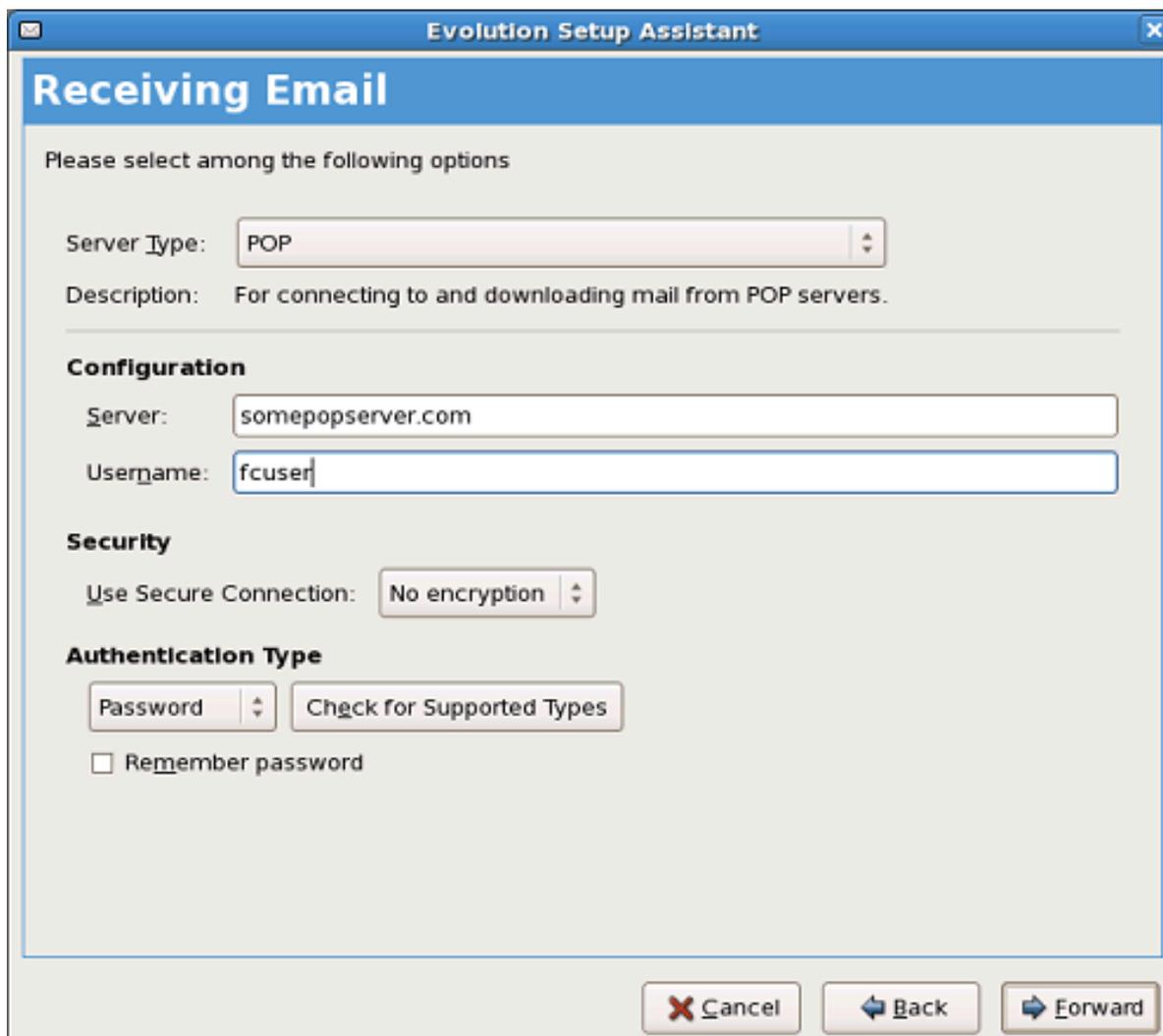


Figure 6.4. Receiving Email Screen

The next screen, *Receiving Options*, allows further configuration for incoming email. *Automatically check for new mail every X minutes* polls the server at set intervals. *Leave messages on server* prevents the mail client from downloading messages and removing them from the server. *Disable support for all POP3 extensions* is only needed in a small number of cases.

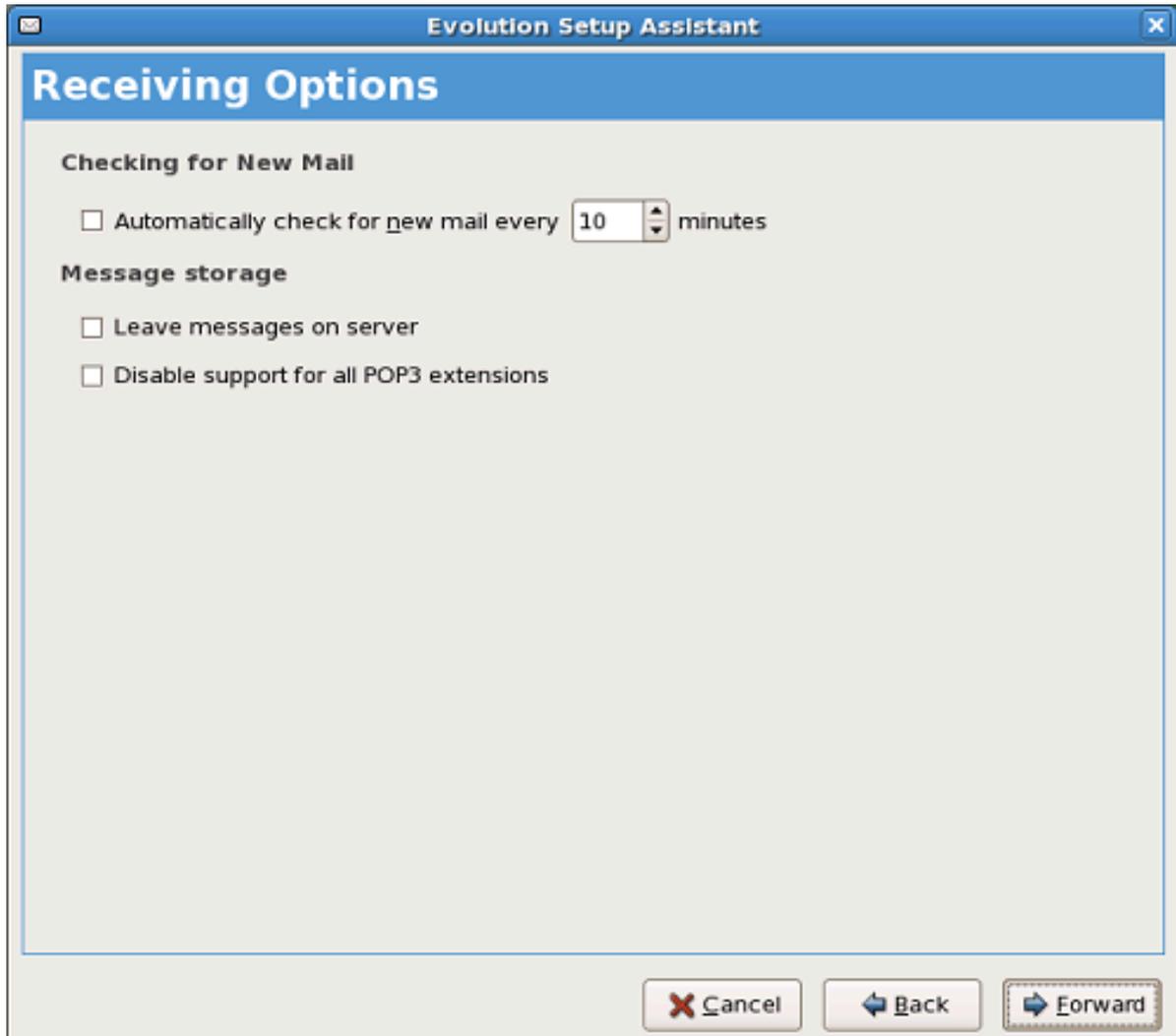


Figure 6.5. Receiving Options Screen

The *Sending Email* screen is for configuring servers and settings for outgoing messages. The user may select *SMTP* or *Sendmail*; *SMTP*, or *simple mail transport protocol*, is most common. *Server Configuration* requires a hostname under *Server* and is where potential authentication settings are entered. These settings, when used, are provided by the ISP or administrator for the email account.

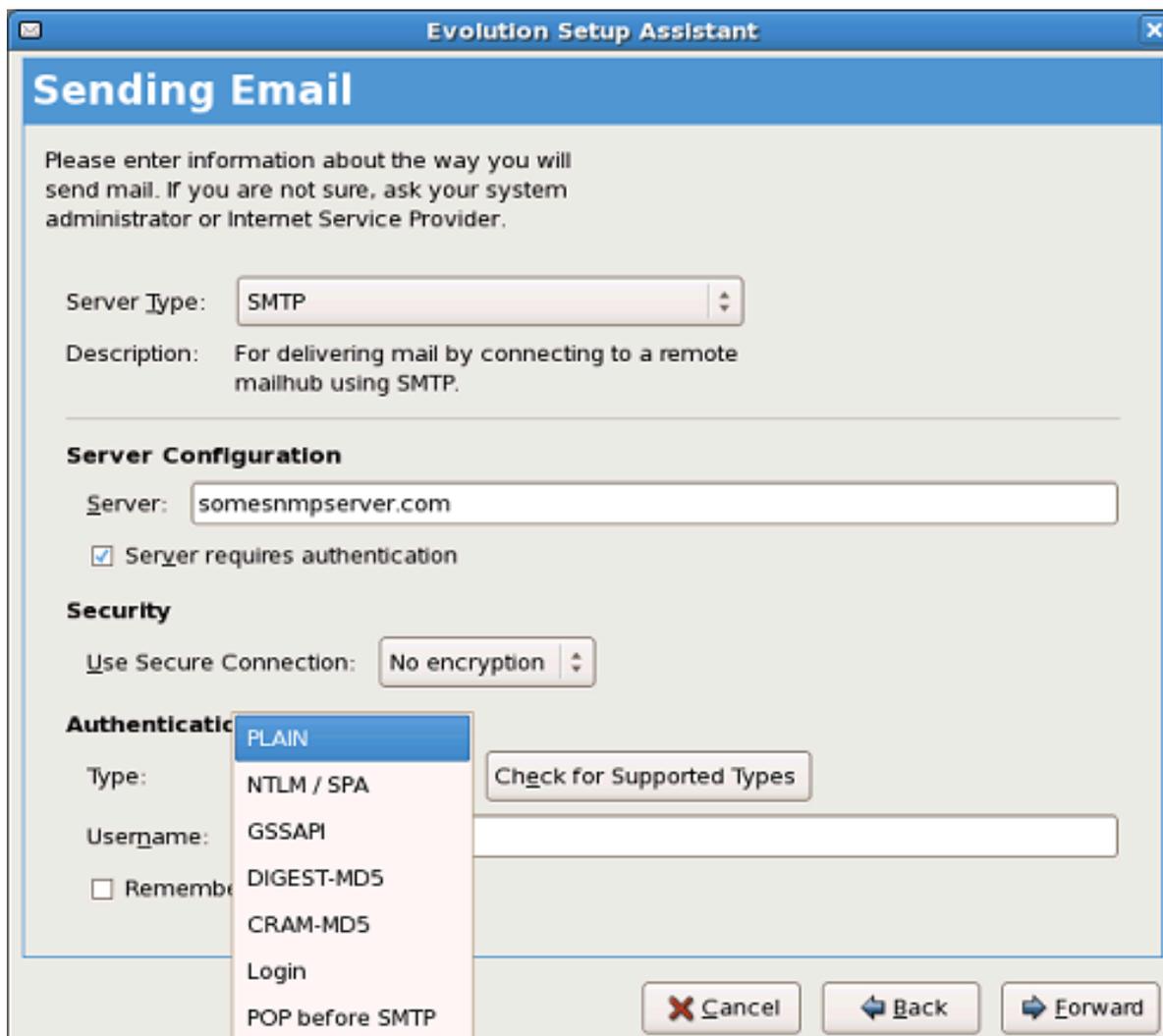
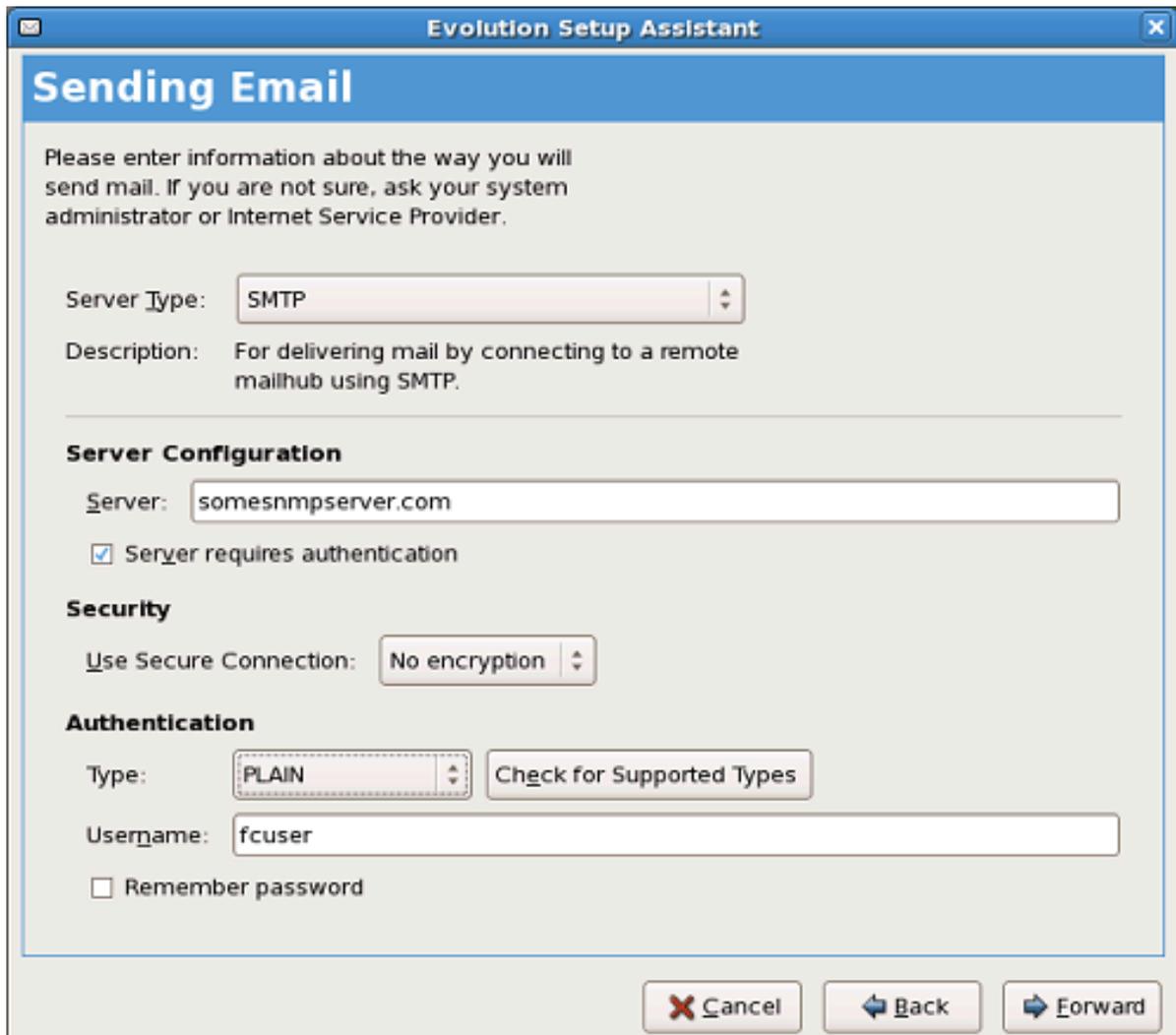


Figure 6.6. Sending Email Screen

In this example, the server type is SMTP and the authentication method is PLAIN. The username *fcuser* is used for server authentication.



The screenshot shows the 'Evolution Setup Assistant' window with the 'Sending Email' tab selected. The window title is 'Evolution Setup Assistant' and the tab title is 'Sending Email'. The main content area has a blue header with the text 'Sending Email'. Below the header, there is a paragraph of instructions: 'Please enter information about the way you will send mail. If you are not sure, ask your system administrator or Internet Service Provider.' The form contains several sections: 'Server Type' with a dropdown menu set to 'SMTP'; 'Description' with the text 'For delivering mail by connecting to a remote mailhub using SMTP.'; 'Server Configuration' with a text field for 'Server' containing 'somesnmpserver.com' and a checked checkbox 'Server requires authentication'; 'Security' with a dropdown menu for 'Use Secure Connection' set to 'No encryption'; 'Authentication' with a dropdown menu for 'Type' set to 'PLAIN', a 'Check for Supported Types' button, a text field for 'Username' containing 'fcuser', and an unchecked checkbox 'Remember password'. At the bottom right, there are three buttons: 'Cancel', 'Back', and 'Forward'.

Figure 6.7. Sending Email Screen

Account Management contains a single field for the user to name the account for easy identification. Often this is a simple description of the email account, such as *Work Email*.

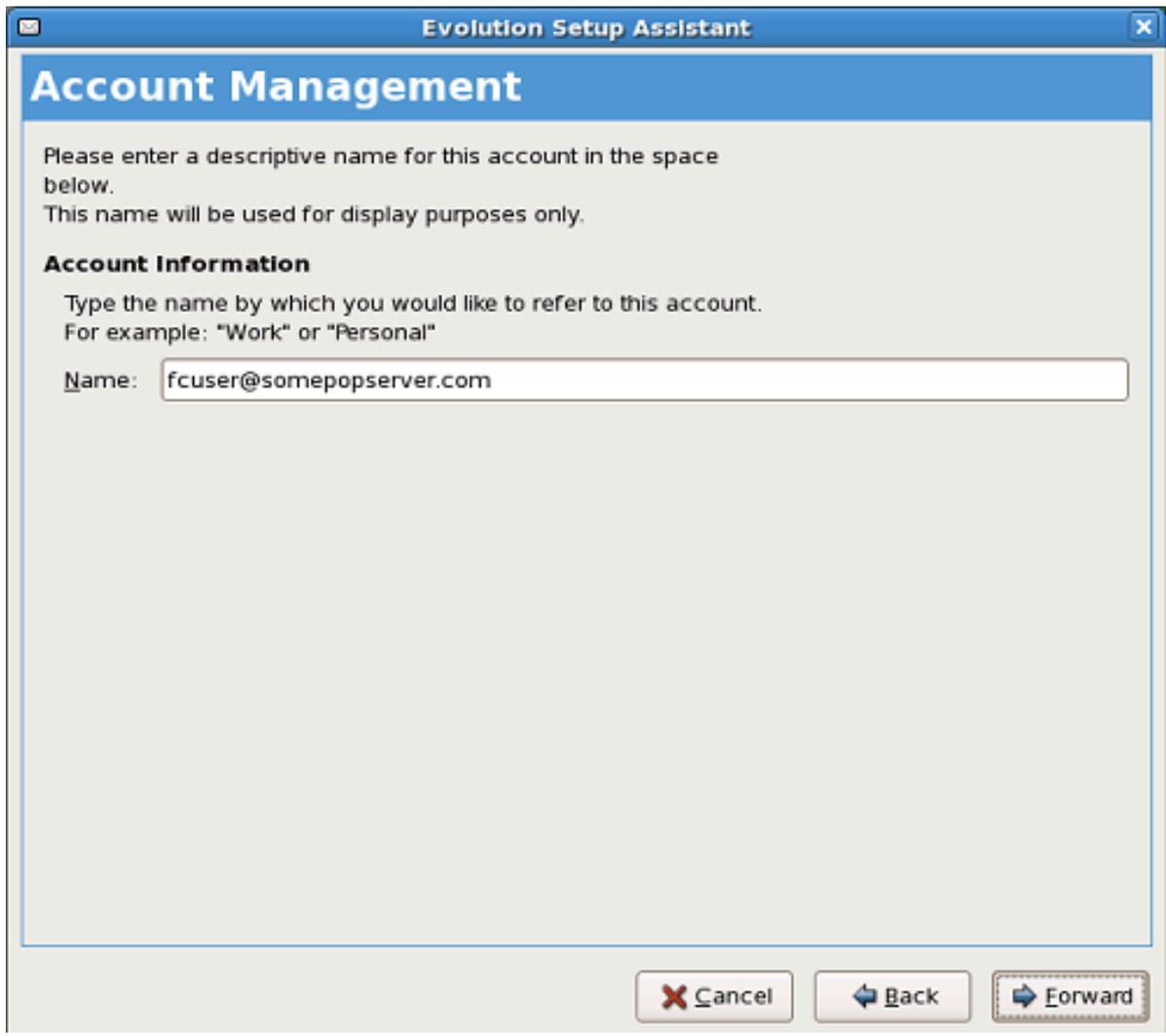


Figure 6.8. Account Management Screen

Select a timezone in the *Timezone* screen.



Figure 6.9. Timezone Screen

The final screen, *Done*, indicates that the account setup is complete. Clicking on the **[Apply]** button completes the setup process.

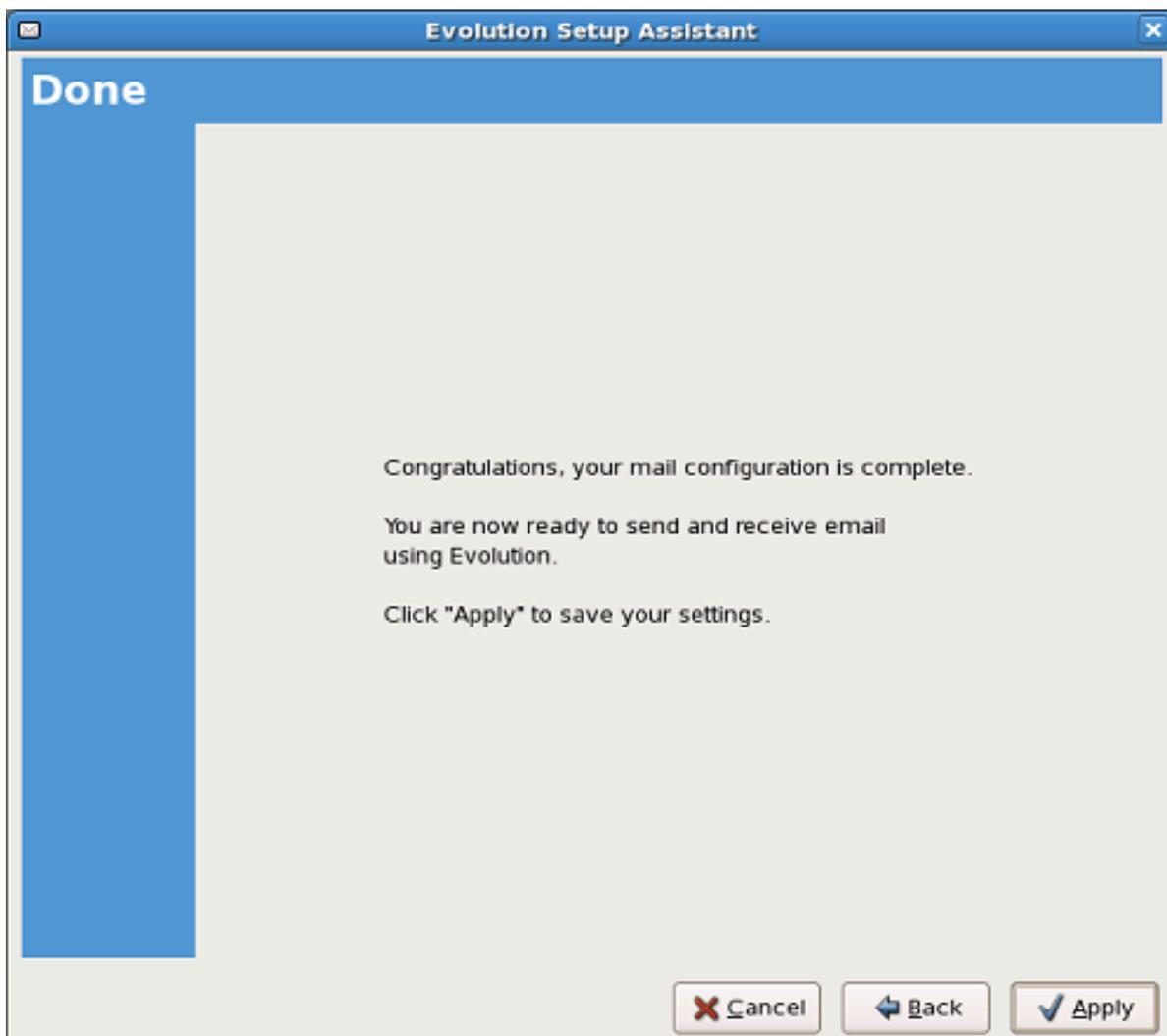


Figure 6.10. Finished Screen

This completes the initial setup and enters the user into the main **Evolution** mail client.

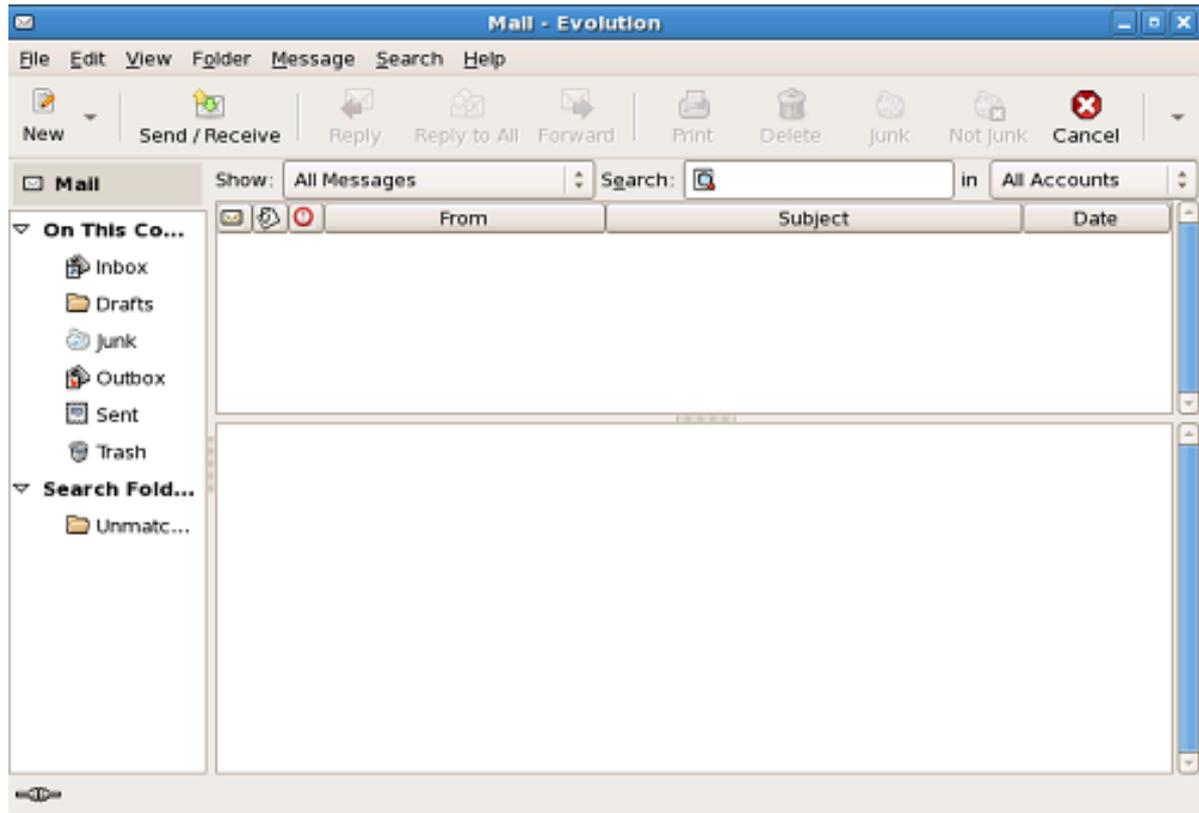


Figure 6.11. Evolution Main Screen

6.2. Setting up Instant Messaging

This section is specific for **Gaim** in Fedora. For further information and documentation on **Gaim**, refer to:

<http://gaim.sourceforge.net/documentation.php>

To start and configure **Gaim**, select *Applications > Internet > Internet Messenger* from the menu panel. Starting **Gaim** for the first time goes directly into the *Accounts* configuration:

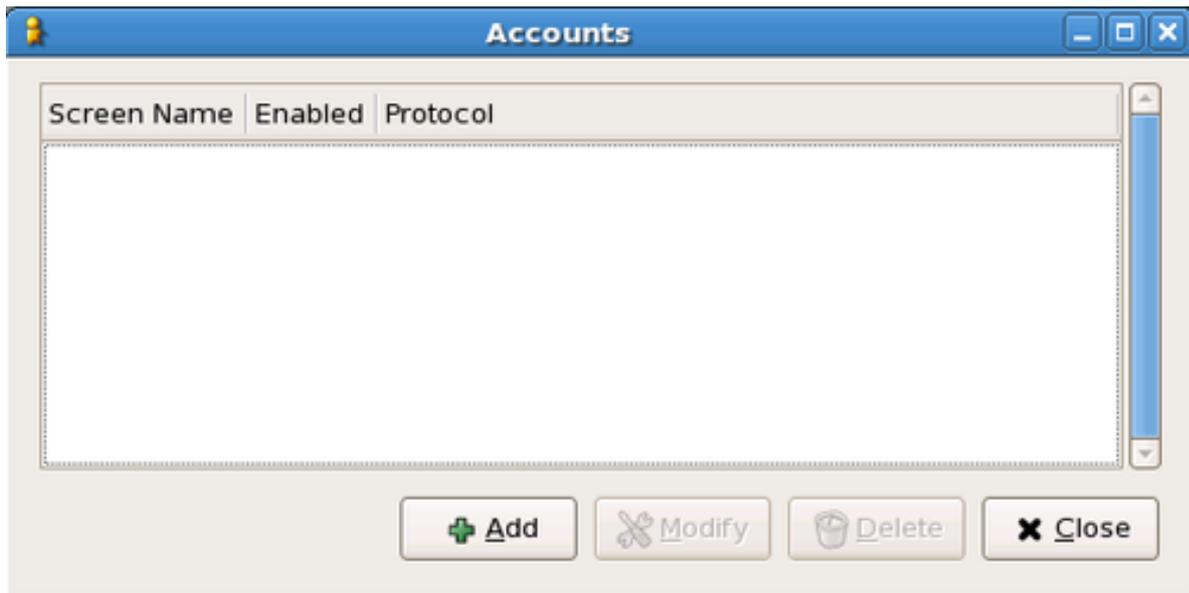


Figure 6.12. Gaim Accounts Screen

Click on the **[Add]** button to bring up the *Add Account* window:

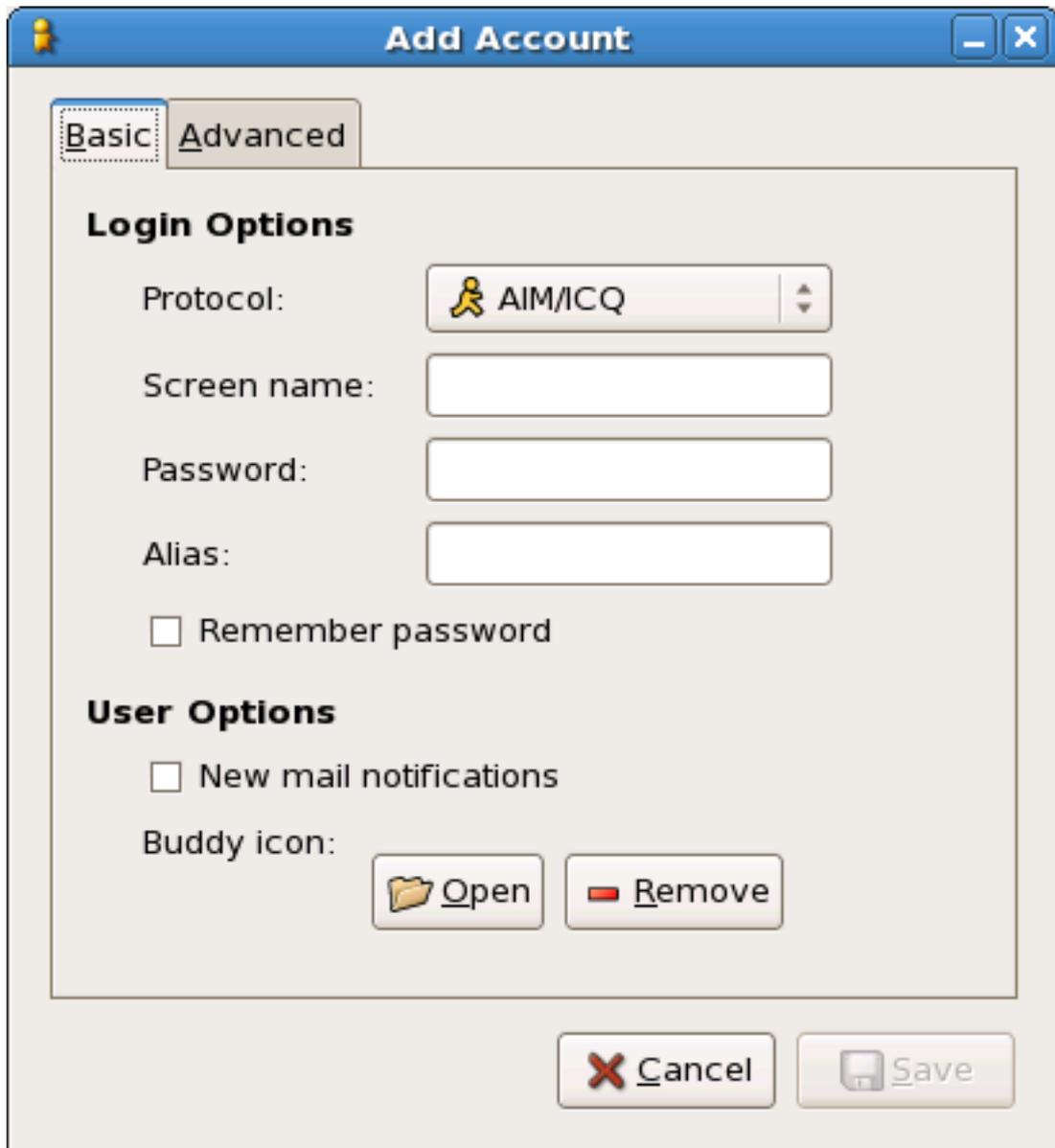


Figure 6.13. Gaim Add Account Screen

In the *Add Account* window, under **Login Options**, click on the right side of the *Protocol* dropdown menu to show the available protocols. In this example, *AIM/ICQ* is selected.

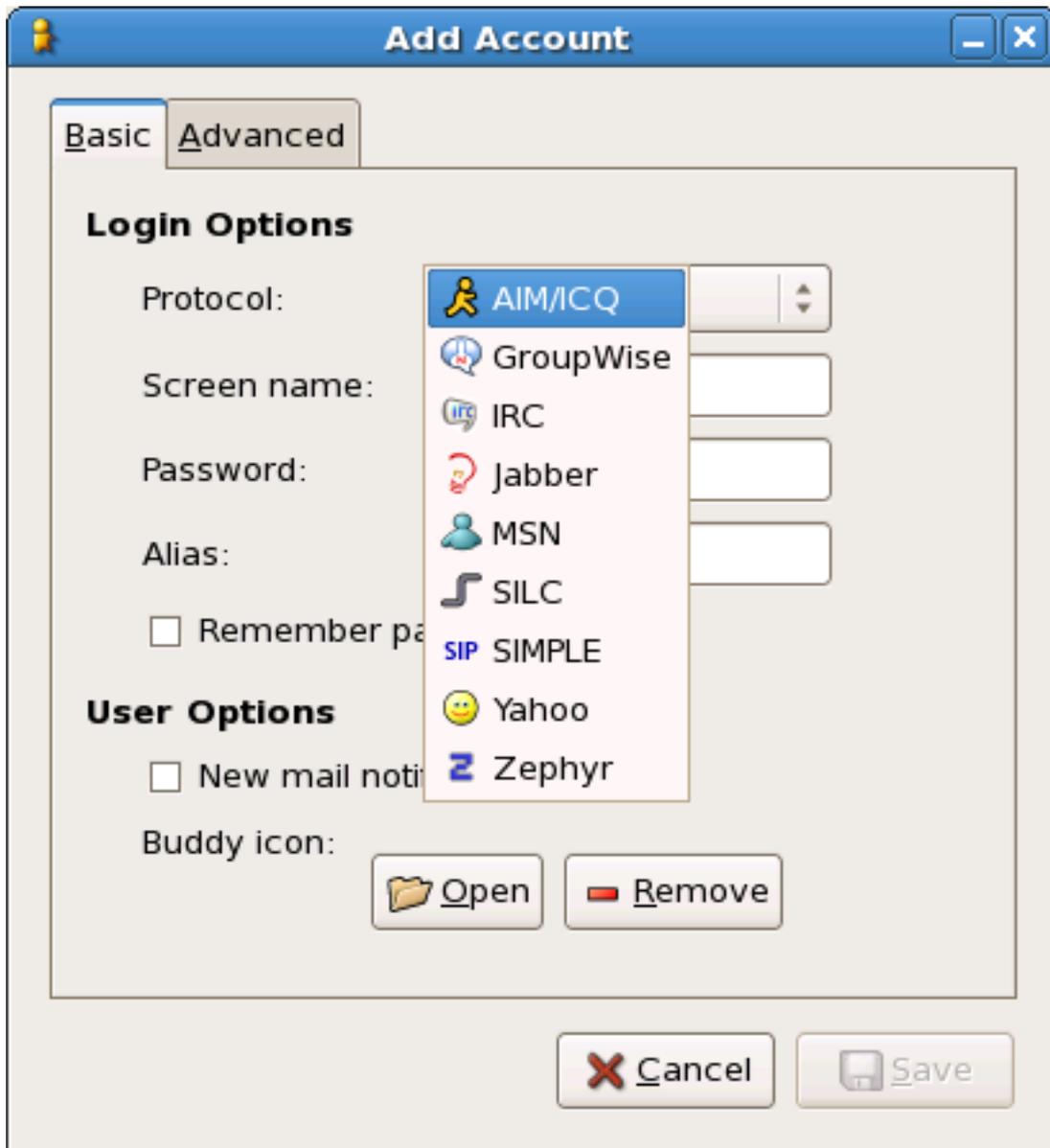


Figure 6.14. Gaim Add Account Screen

Enter details for the selected account, including *Screen name*, *Password*, and *Alias*. Select *Remember password* if desired. Click on the **[Save]** button to add the account to the account list.

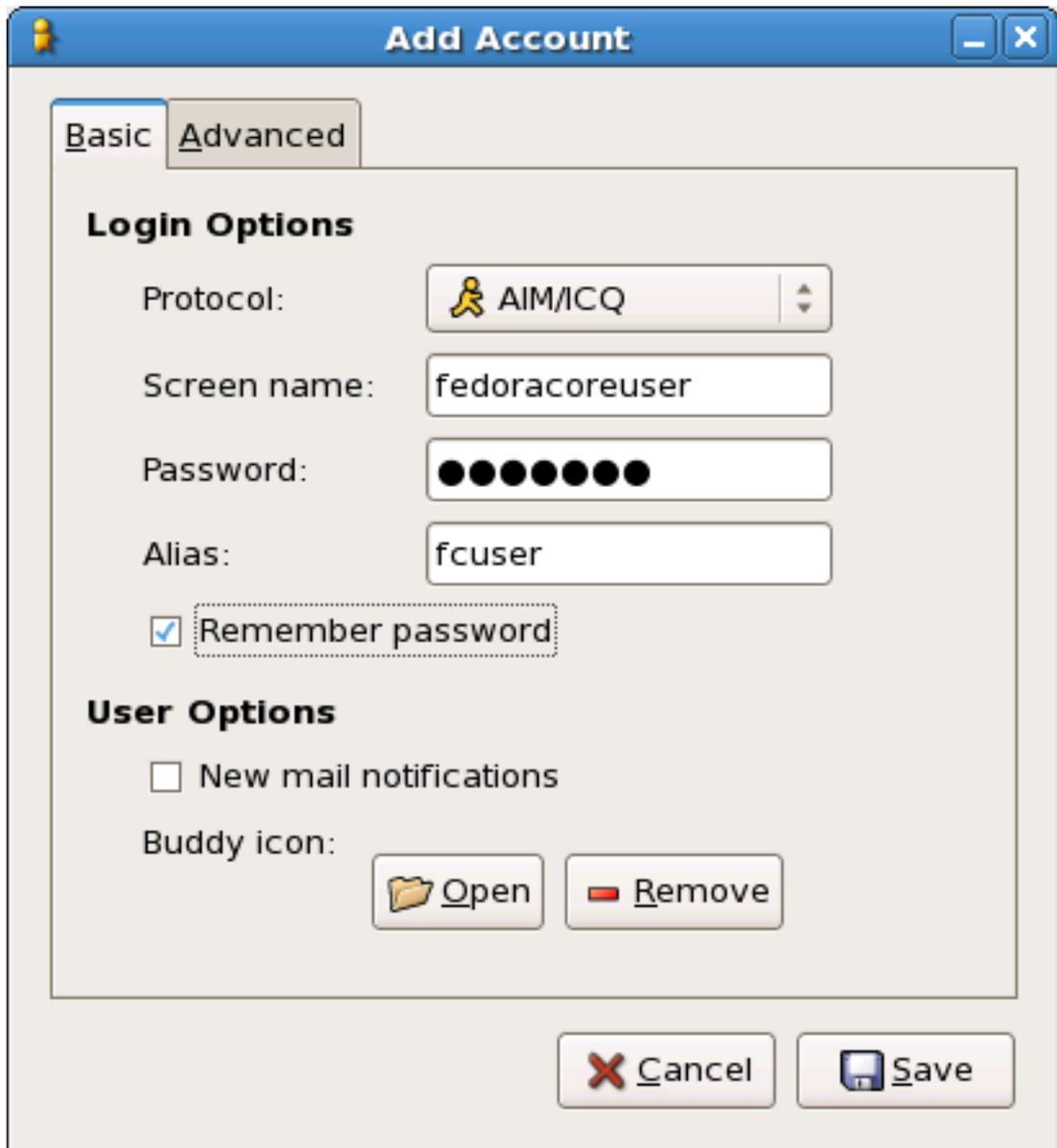


Figure 6.15. Gaim Add Account Screen

Once the account is added, the *Accounts* window displays the new account:

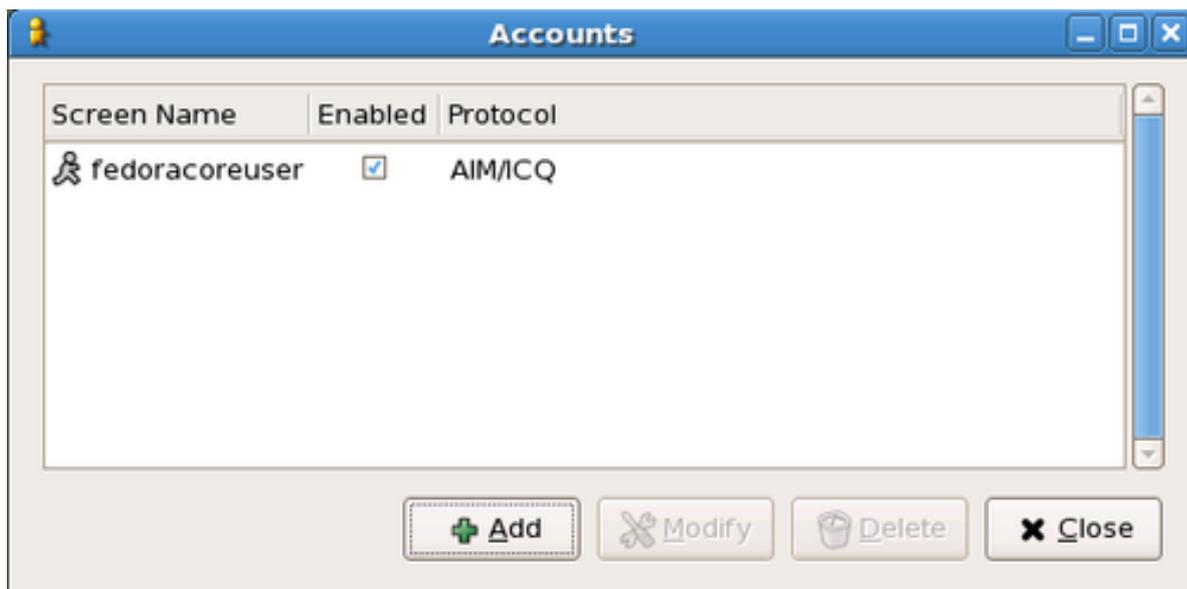


Figure 6.16. Gaim Accounts List

The *Accounts* windows also displays the next time **Gaim** is launched. Repeat this procedure for each account to be added.

6.3. Using Gaim

Select one of the enabled accounts to see the *Buddy List* window. In this window, menus allow the user to add additional IM contacts.

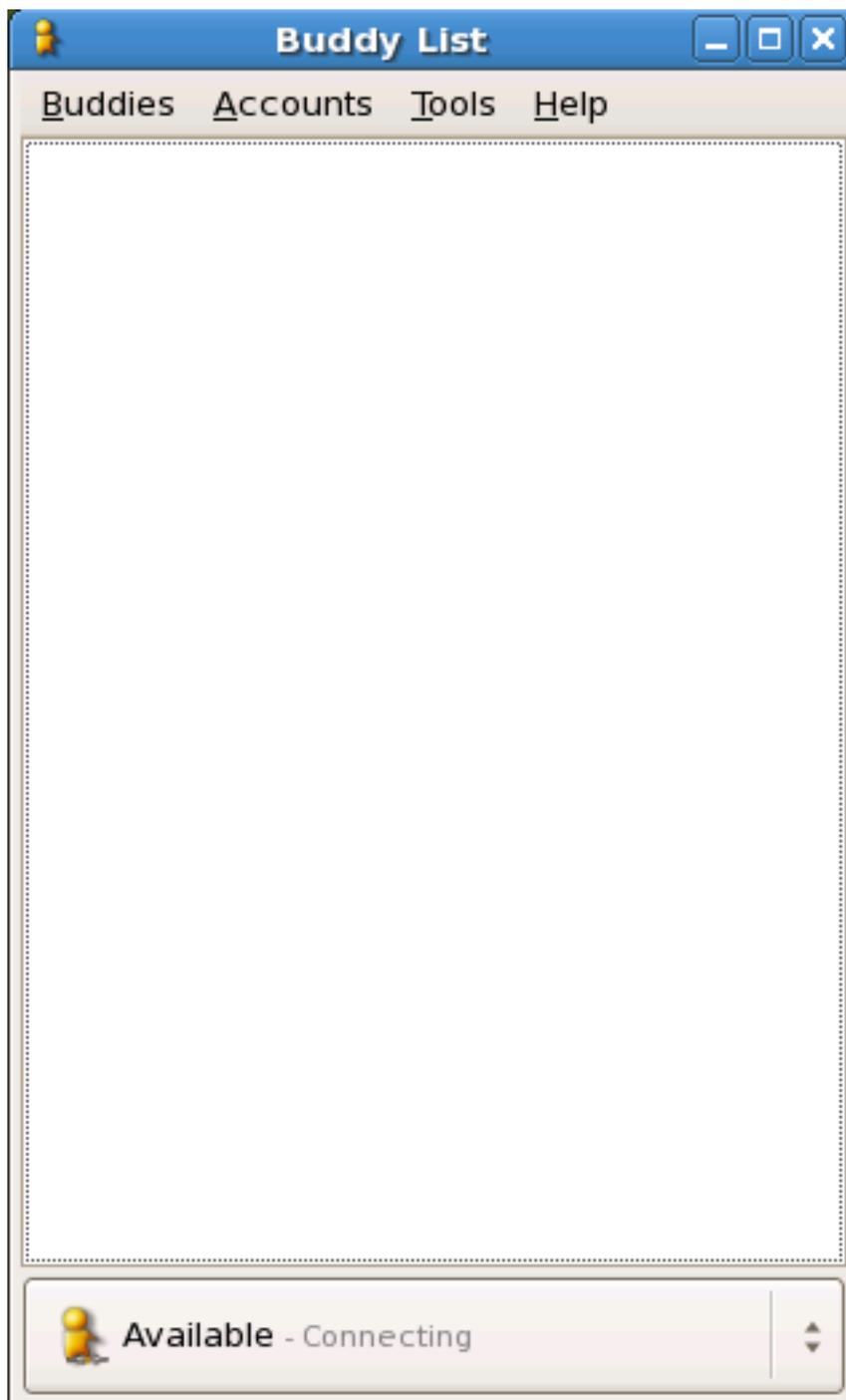


Figure 6.17. Gaim Buddylist

All 9 supported protocols are available at the same time within **Gaim**.



Not all features supported

Gaim does not support features of all included protocols. **Gaim** is useful for chatting via text across 9 different IM protocols, but not all the features in each IM system are supported. For example, video is not fully supported at this time.

Office Tools

Office productivity tools are available in the base Fedora installation. This group of office tools include presentation, spreadsheet, and word processing applications. These tools are available through *Applications > Office* or as icons on the menu bar.

The office tools available are:

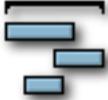
	<i>Calendar</i> , a component of the Evolution application suite.
	<i>Presentation</i> is the OpenOffice.org Impress application, for creating and performing presentations.
	<i>Project Management</i> is the Planner application, a powerful project planning tool.
	<i>Spreadsheet</i> is the OpenOffice.org Calc application, a spreadsheet program.
	<i>Tasks</i> , a component of the Evolution application suite.
	<i>Word Processor</i> is the OpenOffice.org Writer application, a word processing program.

Table 7.1. Available Office Tools



Evolution applications require initial setup

The **Evolution** suite of applications, which includes **Calendar** and **Tasks**, requires an initial setup. See *Section 6.1, "Setting Up Your Email"* for detailed directions.

7.1. OpenOffice.org Applications

With **OpenOffice.org**, you can create documents in formats based on open standards, such as OpenDocument, Rich Text Format, and HTML. If necessary, you can also read, edit, and write documents in Microsoft Office formats, such as Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, with a high degree of compatibility. You can also export files in PDF format without the need of additional software.



OpenOffice.org is available for many computer platforms

The **OpenOffice.org** suite is also available without cost for other Linux distributions, Sun Solaris, FreeBSD, Microsoft Windows and Mac OS X under X11. This makes it possible to publish documents which are compatible across many different computer platforms.

7.2. For Further Information

For more information on using **OpenOffice.org**, refer to the following documentation and support pages:

- <http://documentation.openoffice.org/>
- <http://support.openoffice.org/index.html>
- <http://user-faq.openoffice.org/>

For more information on using **Planner**, refer to the following official project documentation and support site:

<http://live.gnome.org/Planner>

For more information on using **Evolution**, refer to the following official project documentation and support site:

<http://www.gnome.org/projects/evolution/>

Playing Multimedia (Music & Video)

Fedora includes several tools for viewing video and listening to audio. Access sound and video applications through the *Applications > Sound & Video* menu.

By default, Fedora provides four applications for audio and video:

	<p>The CD Player application is for listening to audio CDs.</p>
	<p>Sound Juicer is an application for converting CDs to music files.</p>
	<p>Rhythmbox is a music player with tools for organizing music, CDs, Internet radio stations, and more.</p>
	<p>Totem Movie Player is for viewing videos.</p>

Table 8.1. Multimedia applications



Media formats not included by default in Fedora

Because of licensing and patent encumbrance, Fedora cannot ship with certain audio and video playing capabilities, known as *codecs*. An example is the *MP3* codec. Refer to *Section 8.6, "MP3, DVD, and Other Excluded Multimedia"* for more information.

8.1. Playing Audio CDs

CD Player is the default application for playing CDs. Audio CDs begin playing automatically when the disk is inserted into the CD-ROM drive.

This program can be started independently through the menu *Applications > Sound & Video > CD Player*.

8.2. Converting Audio CDs to Music Files

Sound Juicer is the application that *rips* the CD into audio files on your hard disk. *Ripping* is the word for converting audio files from CD to file, with each music track on the CD saved as a single file. The default file format is *Ogg Vorbis*, a free and open alternative to the *MP3* format. *Vorbis*¹ offers better performance in a smaller file than *MP3*. When a ripping from a commercially produced CD, **Sound**

¹ <http://www.vorbis.com/>

Juicer displays the music track names, downloading the information from a free database on the Internet.



Vorbis is a lossy format

Similar to *MP3*, *Vorbis* compresses the music track to a smaller file with very little loss of musical range or quality. Files can also be saved in the lossless *WAV* or *FLAC* formats. However, the resulting files are much larger.

The *Sound Juicer Manual* is available in the application, by going through *Help > Contents*.

8.3. Organizing your Multimedia Files

One can organize multimedia files using **Rhythmbox**. Access this through *Applications > Sound & Video > Rhythmbox Music Player*. **Rhythmbox** provides a front-end for music services, Internet radio stations, podcasts, and your own library of multimedia.

To learn more about using *Rhythmbox*, you can access the *Rhythmbox Music Player Manual* through the *Help > Contents* menu.

8.4. Playing Videos

The **Totem Movie Player** can play a variety of videos. Found at *Applications > Sound & Video > Movie Player*, **Totem** plays any format that can be legally supplied with Fedora. For usage help, the *Totem Movie Player Manual* is accessed through the *Help > Contents* menu.

8.5. Fedora Project's Approach to Multimedia Support

The Fedora Project encourages the use of open formats in place of restricted ones.

Fedora includes complete support for many freely-distributable formats. These are the Ogg media format, Vorbis audio, Theora video, Speex audio, and FLAC audio formats. These freely-distributable formats are not encumbered by patent or license restrictions. They provide powerful and flexible alternatives to more popular, restricted formats such as MP3.

8.6. MP3, DVD, and Other Excluded Multimedia

Fedora cannot include support for MP3 or DVD video playback or recording. MP3 formats are patented, and the patent holders have not provided the necessary licenses. DVD video formats are also patented and equipped with an encryption scheme. Again, the patent holders have not provided the necessary licenses, and the code needed to decrypt CSS-encrypted discs may violate the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, a copyright law of the United States. Fedora also excludes other multimedia software due to patent, copyright, or license restrictions, such as **Adobe Flash Player** and **RealNetworks RealPlayer**.

While other MP3 options may be available for Fedora, Fluendo now offers an MP3 plugin that is properly licensed for end users. This plugin enables MP3 support in applications that use the GStreamer framework as a backend. Fedora does not include this plugin for licensing reasons, but Fluendo offers one solution to playing MP3 in Fedora.

8.7. For Further Information

For additional information about multimedia in Fedora, refer to the Multimedia section of the Fedora Project website:

<http://fedoraproject.org/wiki/Multimedia>

For more information on freely-distributable formats and how to use them, refer to the Xiph.Org Foundation's web site at:

<http://www.xiph.org/>

For more on licensed and copyrighted formats, please refer to:

<http://fedoraproject.org/wiki/ForbiddenItems>

For more information on Fluendo, visit Fluendo's website at

<http://www.fluendo.com>

Playing Games

By default, Fedora comes with a selection of 15 games. There are additional game packages that can be selected during installation. In addition, the Fedora Extras project has packages for many more games. You can install additional games after installation by using the Add/Remove program application, **Pirut**, and the Fedora Extras software repository. More information about this games repository can be found on the Fedora Extras Games Wiki:

<http://fedoraproject.org/wiki/Games>

9.1. Brief Description of Each Game

<i>AisleRiot Solitaire</i>	A collection of dozens of solitaire games
<i>Ataxx</i>	A disk-flipping game
<i>Blackjack</i>	The classic casino card game
<i>Five or More</i>	A version of the popular Color Lines game
<i>Four-in-a-Row</i>	A four-in-a-row game played against the computer or another human opponent
<i>FreeCell Solitaire</i>	Another huge collection of solitaire games
<i>Iagno</i>	A Reversi-like disk flipping game
<i>Klotski</i>	A group of sliding block puzzles
<i>Mahjongg</i>	A tile-matching game with many variations
<i>Mines</i>	A clone of a popular puzzle game
<i>Nibbles</i>	A worm or snake game
<i>Robots</i>	The classic game of robots out of control
<i>Same GNOME</i>	A puzzle game involving the strategic removal of groups of marbles
<i>Tali</i>	A poker game played with dice
<i>Tetravex</i>	A simple tile-matching game

Table 9.1. Games on Fedora

For information about using these games, refer to the individual *Help > Contents* menu within each game.

Managing Photos

Most USB-compatible cameras will work automatically with Fedora and require very little configuration. If your digital camera offers a choice of USB connection types, set the camera's USB setting to *PTP*, or *point-to-point* mode, before continuing with this tutorial. Consult your camera's user manual to determine if this option is available and how to choose it. If it is not available, the default settings should be sufficient.

10.1. Connecting Your Camera

To properly connect the camera to your Fedora system:

1. Make sure your camera is powered off.
2. Connect a USB cable from the camera to your computer.
3. If your camera requires you to select a knob or dial setting before connecting it to a computer, make that selection now.
4. Power the camera on.

After your camera powers on, an informational window should appear on your desktop. If you would like to continue to import photos from the camera, select the *Import Photos* button. If you decide you do not want to import photos, select the *Ignore* button. If you do not want to see this dialog each time you connect a camera, you can select the *Always perform this action* option in conjunction with the *Import Photos* or *Ignore* button to make one of the choices permanent.

10.2. Organizing and Importing Photos

After you make your selection, Fedora loads *thumbnails*, or previews, of the photos from your camera into a new window. From this new window, you can tell Fedora the destination of the imported images and how you want your images organized as it loads them from your camera. In this dialog, you can select and/or deselect photo(s) to import by clicking on the corresponding thumbnail. To select all photos, click any photo and then press the key combination **[Ctrl]+[A]**. To deselect all photos, press **[Ctrl]+[Shift]+[A]**. Once all desired photos for import are selected, click the *Import* button. To cancel the entire import process, click the *Cancel* button. For a more detailed explanation of the options available when importing images, see the information below.



What to do if you accidentally disconnect your camera.

The camera button allows you to reload the thumbnails in case your camera is accidentally disconnected from the computer. If that happens, Fedora may display an additional dialog returning you to the previous step. It is safe to select *Ignore* in that dialog, return to this one, and click the camera button again.

10.2.1. Selecting a Filing Method

Use *Destination* to select a folder in which to keep your photo images. Within a destination folder, you can further organize your photos by date and time, or by any other method you wish. If you enter text into the *Film* box, Fedora uses this text to label and organize the photos you import.

If you want Fedora to delete the images from your camera after it imports them, select *Delete imported images from the camera*. If you want it to use the filenames from the camera, select *Keep original filenames*. If you do not select this box, Fedora automatically numbers your images using the order it imports them, starting with "00001."

10.2.2. Categorizing Your Photos

The *Categories* box shows any special category labels you select to mark the photos you import. If you want to select any categories for your photos, click the ... button, which makes the category selection dialog appear.

To label your images with a category, click the checkbox next to the category name. Select as many as you wish. If you do not see a category name you like, select the *New* button and enter a new category name to add to the list. If you want to remove a category name permanently from the list, select the category by clicking on its name and then select *Delete*.

As you select categories, they appear in the *Selected categories* box. When you are finished, select *OK* to save the category names, or *Cancel* to forget any category selection(s).



Selecting a category using a checkbox protects filing choices.

It is easy to accidentally misfile images due to a typing mistake. By using checkbox selection, images are correctly categorized every time.

Sharing Your Desktop



Use this capability carefully

Remote desktop sharing can be a serious security risk. It should be turned on only when needed and not left active.

Fedora provides a means to share a user's desktop remotely across the network. This is useful for receiving technical support from a remote location or for demonstrating a desktop feature to another user. You may also find it a useful way to remotely access the files on your desktop from another computer.

To activate desktop sharing, select *System > Preferences > Remote Desktop* from the user menu. This opens the *Remote Desktop Preferences* window:

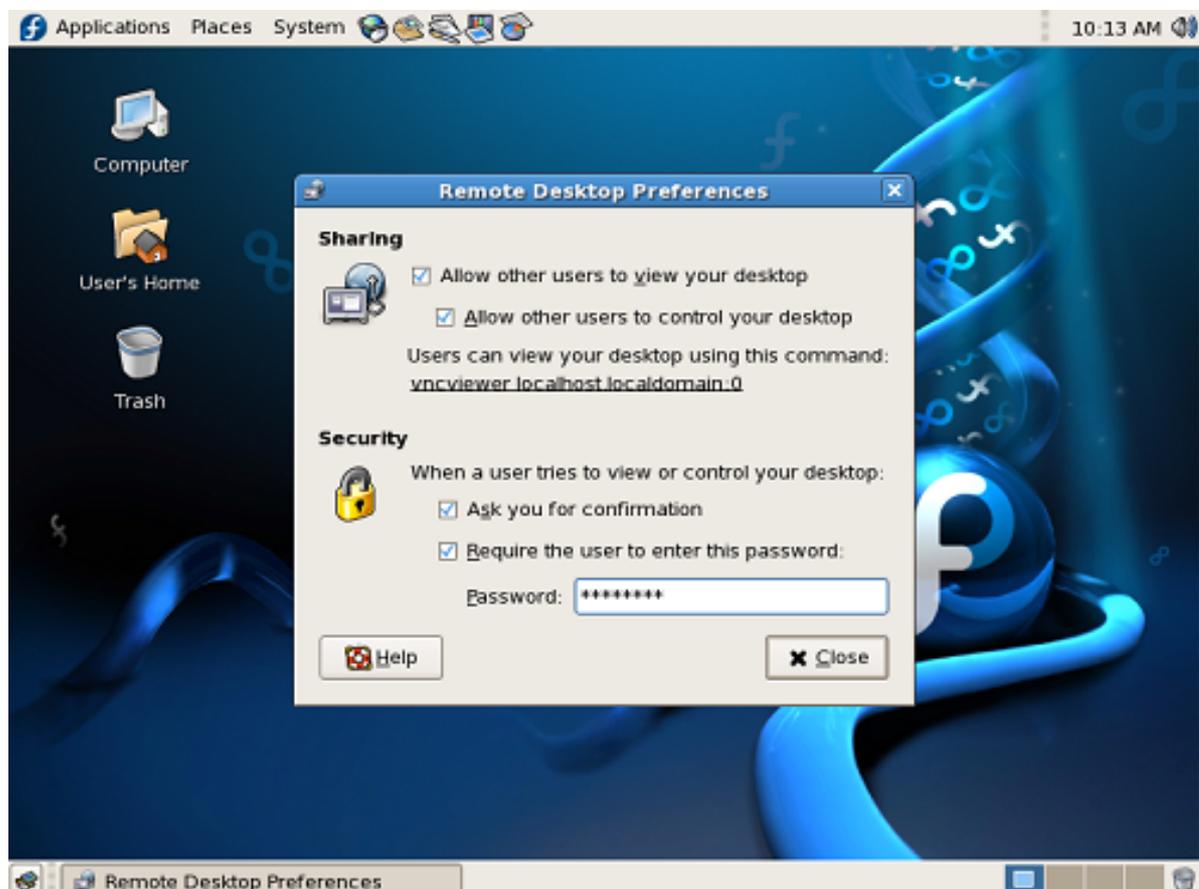


Figure 11.1. Remote Desktop Preferences

This procedure describes the most secure method to share a desktop.

1. Under *Sharing*, check the box *Allow other users to view your desktop*.
2. Next, check *Allow other users to control your desktop*.
3. Make a note of the command listed under *Users can view your desktop using this command*:

4. Under *Security*, check the box *Ask you for confirmation*.
5. Next, check *Require the user to enter this password* and enter a password.
6. Finally, click on the *Close* button.

Be sure to inform the person performing remote technical support/viewing the command from step three, as well as the assigned password. When the person connects to your desktop, click on the *Yes* button when asked for confirmation.

Once the remote viewing feature is no longer needed, turn off desktop sharing:

1. Select *System > Preferences > Remote Desktop*
2. Uncheck the *Allow other users to view your desktop* box
3. Click on the *Close* button.

This turns off the remote desktop sharing feature.

Customizing the Desktop

It is possible to customize the *look and feel* of your desktop in several ways. All of the graphical elements of a desktop - window borders, buttons, scrolling sliders, and other control elements - can be adjusted, modified, or replaced. A *theme* is a collection of such graphical elements, designed to give a common look and to fit together, and bundled for the desktop.

12.1. Changing the Theme

Themes are a way to change your desktop to suit your personal preferences.

The default theme is Clearlooks. Fedora Core 6 comes with many other themes.

To change the desktop theme, choose *System > Preferences > Theme*. The *Theme Preferences* window appears:

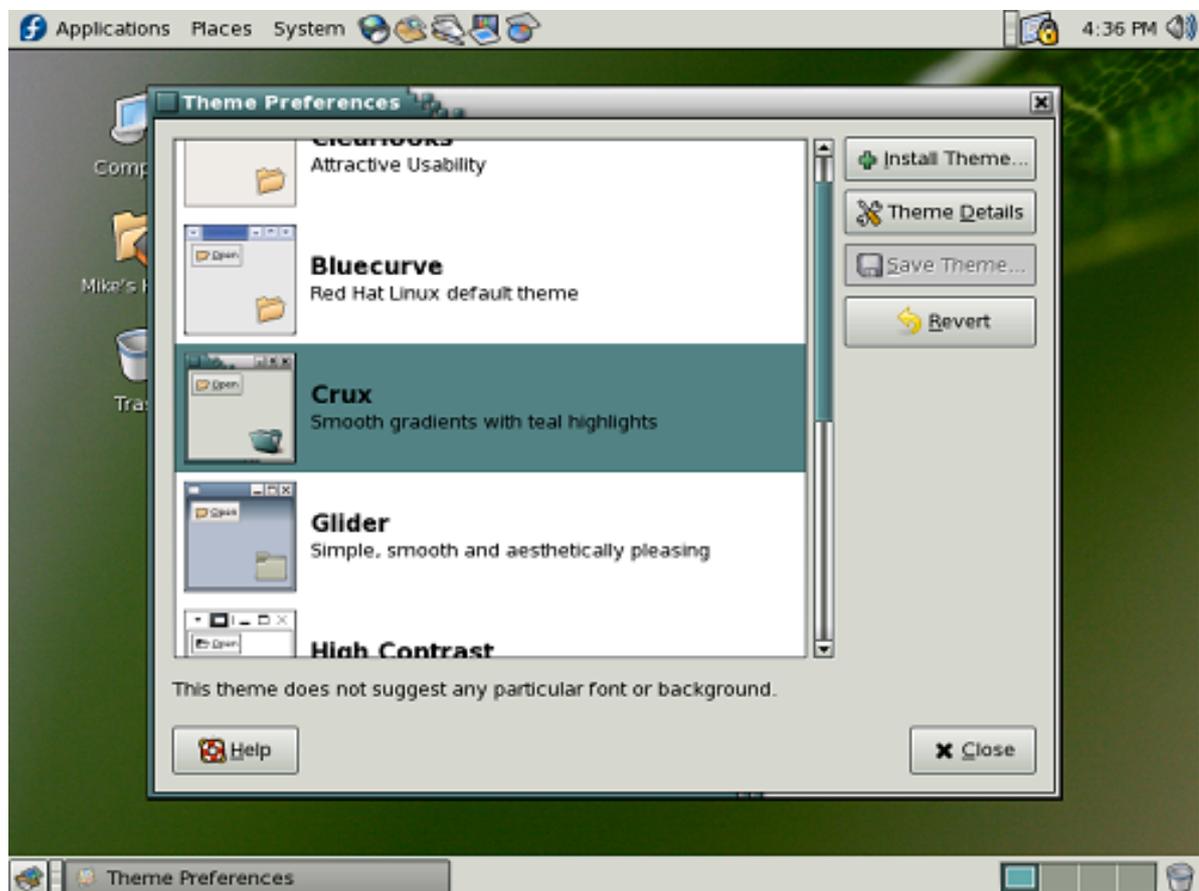


Figure 12.1. Change the Desktop Theme

12.2. Changing the Background

To change the background image on your desktop, right-click on an empty area of the desktop, and select the *Change Desktop Background* option. The *Desktop Background Preferences* window appears. To change your desktop background, choose a new image from the list. You can add your own images by clicking *Add Wallpaper*.

To set a color or gradient, select *No Wallpaper*. Then change the color under *Desktop Colors*.



Alternative

Another way to change the desktop background is to choose *System > Preferences > Desktop Background* from the menu panel.

12.3. Customizing File Browsing Behavior

By default, Fedora uses the **Nautilus** file manager, which opens a new window each time you open a folder. You can change this behavior to use one window with *Forward* and *Back* buttons.

To change this, double-click on *Computer* on the desktop, click *Edit* and then *Preferences*. You can also select *Places > Computer > Edit > Preferences* from the menu panel. Click the *Behavior* tab and click on the box next to the text *Always open in browser windows*.