

How to set up Infocentral for use under Linux

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YOU USE THIS SOFTWARE AND HOW-TO ENTIRELY AT YOUR OWN RISK.

I MAKE NO WARRRRANTY THAT IT WILL WORK.

MAKE BACKUPS OF ALL YOUR DATA ON A REGULAR BASIS.

1. Introduction

I have been along time user of Infocentral running under Windows and never found anything to beat Infocentral! When I took the decision to move away from Windows to Linux it was with some regret because I could find no native Linux program which gave me the same functionality as Infocentral. I decided to bite the bullet and try to get Infocentral running under Linux using native Linux programs for documents, spreadsheets etc.

The good news is that I have succeeded with some tweaks. The majority of functions work to my satisfaction. There are, however there are some functions that do not work which are listed below..

2. Pre-requisites

If you are reading this, you are interested in making Infocentral run under Linux, so I assume that you have a Linux Distribution installed. I use Ubuntu on my main production machine running the Gnome desktop..

I have tried to make the scripts I supply as generic as possible; these scripts should work with the GNOME, KDE and XFCE desktops.

You will need to have OpenOffice installed. You probably already have, but if not, install it from your Linux distribution's repositories. I decided to use the OpenOffice suite because,

1. it comes with most Linux distributions
2. it is native Linux
3. it provides equivalent functionality as MSOffice
4. it can import MSOffice documents and can save them in MSOffice format or OpenOffice format

I know that many Infocentral users are Wordperfect users too. This is a product I have never used, so I don't know whether OpenOffice is equivalent to it or not. I do not think that OpenOffice will import Wordperfect documents.

Since Infocentral is a program written for Windows, you need some way to emulate a Windows environment under Linux. This is done by a Linux program called Wine which is not usually installed by default. Get Wine from your Linux repositories and install it. You can find more information about Wine from www.winehq.org.

You will need to be familiar with how to manage files under Linux either using Nautilus (under Ubuntu) or some other file manager. I personally use a file manager called Krusader which is available in most Linux repositories. Its advantage over nautilus is that it is a two pane file manager. This makes moving files from one place to another very easy.

You should also be familiar with the terminal and use of sudo to give yourself root access to system folders.

An archive manager is required to unzip the contents of the archive file. If you are using Ubuntu, ARK is already installed and is available from the menu Applications/Accessories.

Please ensure that your Linux system is up-to-date by starting your Update Manager and applying any pending changes.

I assume that you DO NOT have an existing Wine setup on your machine. If you do, you will need to back up your Wine registry files.

And lastly, I assume you know what Infocentral is how to use it!

3. Package contents

This HOWTO is part of a ZIP archive called IC_For_Linux.zip. Other files in this archive are,

1. LinuxProgramLinks.zip, which contains,
 1. ICWine a script to 'catch' Create Related File requests from with Infocentral
 2. ICnative a script to catch file opens in the registry
 3. ICopen a script to open the the desired applications
 4. xdg-open the real work-horse from freedesktop.org
 5. Six OpenOffice Templates for the six types of documents that can be created with openOffice
2. ModifiedICFiles.zip, which contains
 1. WPICRUN.INI this is a modified version of the standard Infocentral file containing templates for the initial creation of Related File Types.
3. Required Fonts.zip, which contains all the fonts required to run Infocentral. These are not normally installed as standard with Wine.
4. WineRegistryFiles.zip, which contains modified versions of the initial Wine registry files. If you have an existing Wine installation, you will either want to backup your existing registry files and replace them with the one provided here or, more likely, you will want to manually modify your existing registry files. See below for the keys to change.
5. WineScripts.zip, which contains,
 1. winenative required in order to call the correct Linux program for a particular file extension
 2. winepath required to transform the windows path name into a Linux path name.

4. Installing

1. You have already installed a Linux distribution, OpenOffice and Wine.

2. You have not installed any other windows programs using Wine. This means that the registry is vanilla.
3. Install SetupIC.exe by double clicking on it and accept the defaults.. The Infocentral installer should start and Infocentral install should complete correctly. You can download SetupIC.exe from <http://www.macros.koenecke.us/InfoCentral/SetupIC.exe> Mike Koenecke's excellent site devoted to Infocentral topics. His website is at, <http://www.macros.koenecke.us/InfoCentral/index.html>, go there for all the extras and the Infocentral manual.
4. At this point you could start Infocentral if you wish, but you will a lot of error messages about missing fonts. These are warnings only; clicking through them will start Infocentral eventually. But read on...
5. You can find the windows installation by going to your home directory, enabling 'show hidden files' and opening the .wine directory. In here you should find three directories and the registry files. The directories are,
 1. dosdevices which contains the c:, d; etc directories familiar to Windows users but in Linux form.
 2. drive_c – classic Windows C:\ Drive. Open this to find Program Files and Windows directories. Under Program Files you will the Infocentral installation.
 3. drive_d, classic Windows D:\ drive.
 4. The registry files are those with the .reg extension.
6. Installing the Modified IC Files.
 1. Make a backup of ~/.wine/dosdevices/c:/Program Files/ICWin7/WPICRUN.INI or rename it to something else, eg WPICRUN.BAK for example.
 2. Unzip ModifiedICFiles.zip to a temporary directory in your home path
 3. Move the unzipped WPICRUN.INI to ~/.wine/dosdevices/c:/Program Files/ICWin7
7. Installing LinuxProgramLinks
 1. Create a directory called LinuxProgramLinks in ~/.wine/dosdevices/c:/Program Files/ICWin7
 2. Unzip LinuxProgramLinks.zip to this directory.
8. Installing the Required Fonts
 1. Unzip RequiredFonts.zip to ~/.wine/dosdevices/c:/windows/Fonts
9. Installing the new registry files.
 1. Rename the files,
 1. ~/.wine/system.reg to ~/.wine/system.bak
 2. ~/.wine/userdef.reg to ~/.wine/userdef.bak
 3. ~/.wine/user.reg to ~/.wine/user.bak
 2. Unzip WineRegistryFiles.zip to ~/.wine
10. Installing the wine scripts.

1. Unzip WineScripts.zip to a temporary directory in your home path.
2. Open a terminal
3. Copy the scripts from the temporary directory to /usr/bin, ie

```
sudo cp ~/temporary directory/winenative /usr/bin
```

```
sudo cp ~/temporary directory/winepath /usr/bin
```
11. Clean up by removing the temporary directories you created during this process.
12. Restart your system.
13. Test Infocentral.

1. Open Infocentral through the wine menu into a test ibase.
2. Create an object.
3. Add a related file to it and create the file type from the drop down menu. Check the Type Setup options.

You can use windows long file names if required.

Check that the defaults in the 'advanced' section are correct, in particular the command to be run. For all types it should be,

C:\Program Files\ICWin7\LinuxProgramLinks\ICWine

and the extension should be appropriate for the document you are creating. OpenOffice extensions are,

ODB = database

ODT = document

ODG = drawing or graphic

ODF = formula

ODP = presentation

ODS = spreadsheet

The extension is VERY important. It is the extension that determines which program within OpenOffice will be run.

4. Create your document. It should now be attached to the object.
 5. Open the document to check it works.
5. Import your existing ibase and related documents.

Make sure you put the related files into the same directory as they were in under Windows, otherwise all the links will be broken.
 6. Limitations – functions that do not work
 1. You cannot use the Infocentral 'prototype' function within the advanced File Type options. I can find no way of accessing this information from the script ICWine. The prototype file name is not passed as a parameter to the script. If you have a solution for this, please let me know.
 2. Infocentral Preferences/Date & Time no dialog appears.

3. Infocentral Preference/Internet dialog appears but does not work
4. Infocentral Preference/Modem/Dialing no dialog appears
5. Help shows a dialog telling you that the help file cannot be found even though it exists in the ICWin7 directory.

There may be other things – I haven't tried all the menu options. Let me know of any you find things that don't work.

7. Changed / New registry keys.

If you need to manually added the changed / added keys to the registry, open a terminal and run REGEDIT.

All keys changed / added are under,

```
HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\.doc      data=linuxnative
HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\.jpeg     data=linuxnative
HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\.jpg      data=linuxnative
HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\.odb      data=linuxnative
HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\.odt      data=linuxnative
HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\.odg      data=linuxnative
HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\.odf      data=linuxnative
HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\.odp      data=linuxnative
HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\.ods      data=linuxnative
HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\.ppt      data=linuxnative
HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\.xls      data=linuxnative
HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\.zip      data=linuxnative
HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\linuxnative\Shell\Open\command
C:\Program Files\ICWin7\LinuxProgramLinks\ICnative "%1"
```

If you have other files with extensions that are not listed here, you can add them to the registry in the same manner as above. Just add the .extension key with data=linuxnative.

8. Questions

Please send questions to Hilary.BH.Wright at gmail dot com. I will do my utmost to help, but I do not guarantee a reply or any help.