KDE Plasma

Base KDE Plasma packages for the full Plasma experience. Bundle with other packages to prevent package conflicts providing the same functionality.

> **TIP:** Include any and all packages you want installed in a list to `pacman`. That way `pacman` will resolve package dependencies correctly and not install packages that would cause conflicts with other packages later on in the setup; e.g. the `plasma` group installs `pulseaudio` as a dependency of `plasma-pa`, but `pulseaudio` and `pipewire` (see below) are conflicting packages, meaning they can't both be installed at the same time prompting you to remove one or the other. Explicitly selected packages take precedence over packages auto-selected via dependencies.

```
pacman -S plasma plasma-wayland-session kde-applications
```

Setting up the display manager

The `plasma` package group includes the Simple Desktop Display Manager (SDDM) for signing into KDE Plasma sessions and others.

Enable SSDM to start on boot and present a graphical login interface:

```
systemctl enable sddm
```

SDDM uses the X11 keymap to determine the input method for the keyboard. Change the default keymap with `localectl`:

> **NOTE:** Executing this command while `chroot`ed into an installation will produce an error that the locale could not be found. Set after rebooting the system, press `CTRL + ALT + F3` when SDDM shows up (or any F-key between 2 and 7) to switch tty, log in via the command line and execute the command as `root`.

```
localectl set-x11-keymap de
```

KDE Wallet

KDE Wallet is the integrated password manager and secret store of KDE Plasma. It stores passwords to websites, WiFi networks, network shares, SSH keys and more.

Unlock Wallet automatically on login

To automatically unlock your wallet on login, the `kwallet-pam` package provides the necessary PAM modules (already part of the `plasma` package group).

There are several caveats to consider:

- Only `blowfish` encryption is supported
- Wallet can only be unlocked if the autologin method saves the password, e.g. when using `pam_autologin`
- Wallet cannot be unlocked when logging in with a fingerprint
- Wallet must be named `kdewallet` (default name)
- Disabling automatic closing of Wallet may be desired to keep it from asking for the password after every use
- When choosing to secure Wallet with a password it must match the user account password

Automatic unlocking can also be achieved by setting no password. Do keep in mind, however, that this could lead to potentially undesired read/write access to your secrets. Enabling *Prompt when an application accesses a wallet* under *Access Control* is highly recommended.

When setting up with SDDM as display manager (default for Plasma) no further PAM configuration is necessary, as the config comes with SDDM.

Storing SSH key passphrases in Wallet

KDE Wallet can be used to store passphrases for SSH keys and have a KDE prompt appear asking for the password.

To also automatically unlock the SSH keys a SSH agent needs to be set up and running.

The `openssh` package (since version 9.4p1-3) comes with a systemd **user unit** to start the SSH agent on login regardless of a graphical session running:

> **NOTE:** This needs to be run as the user you set up earlier, without `sudo`.

```
systemd enable --user ssh-agent
```

The user unit creates a Unix socket for other applications to communicate with the agent. For these applications to know this socket, the `SSH_AUTH_SOCK` environment variable needs to be set. This can be achieved via user-specific systemd environment variables.

On login, systemd parses `*.conf` files in `~/.config/environment.d/` and sets environment variables from these. Environment variables are set in a `KEY=VALUE` fashion.

Create a new file `~/.config/environment.d/ssh_agent.conf`:

```
SSH_AUTH_SOCK=$XDG_RUNTIME_DIR/ssh-agent.socket
```

Additionally, to have a KDE dialog box appear in case the passphrase is not stored in your Wallet, point the `SSH_ASKPASS` environment variable to the `ksshaskpass` application (also included in the `plasma` package group):

```
SSH_ASKPASS=/usr/bin/ksshaskpass
SSH_ASKPASS_REQUIRE=prefer
```

Chromium-based browsers

To make Chromium-based browsers (Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Brave, Opera, etc.) use Wallet as a password store launch it with `--password-store=kwallet5` or `--password-store=detect`.

To make this launch argument persistent, add it to the "flags" file for the Chromium-based browser you want to use:

Browser	Path
Chromium	`~/.config/chromium-flags.conf`
Google Chrome	`~/.config/chrome-flags.conf`
Google Chrome DEV	`~/.config/chrome-dev-flags.conf`
Vivaldi	`~/.config/vivaldi-stable.conf`

> **See also:** Making flags persistent on Arch Wiki

Misc additional packages

Additional packages you might want:

Name	Description
freerdp	Support for the Remote Desktop Protocol used for remote login to MS Windows machines
kimageformats	Support for additional image formats in Dolphin and Gwenview
flatpak	Support for installing applications as Flatpak packages from Flathub through Discover
fwupd	Firmware update manager; allows UEFI capsule updates in Discover if supported by firmware
packagekit-qt6	Manage Arch packages in Discover

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